Dear Lompoc Community,

**The Modesto Bee: Turlock school employees call for pay increases to compensate for pandemic demands**

More than 120 school employees attended a Turlock Unified School District board meeting Tuesday evening, calling for higher wages to compensate for added demands since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. Teachers and classified school staff addressed the board as they submitted initial bargaining proposals for 2021–22 reopener negotiations. “We just want the board to keep in mind the extra cost that we’re going through, too,” said Cecilia Chaves, president of the Turlock Federation of Classified Employees. Classified positions include all education jobs that do not require a teaching credential.

In a statement provided to *The Bee*, TUSD spokeswoman Marie Russell said the district has been working closely with the Turlock Teachers Association through negotiations for several months. “Our goal is to maintain highly competitive salaries for our educators while acknowledging the need for fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars,” Russell said in the statement. “Throughout this process, TUSD has been negotiating with the best interest of students and all staff in mind, and we remain hopeful an agreement will be reached soon.”

**Contract Negotiations for 2022-2023 School Year**

The current CSEA contract ends at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. It is anticipated that openers for a new contract will be presented to the board on April 26 for approval. To prepare for the beginning of negotiations, CSEA and LUSD negotiating teams were provided Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB) training by Mediator/Conciliator Raphael Leib from the CA State Mediation and Conciliation Service. This is a free service that, according to Mr. Leib, is funded through the State of California. Mr. Leib’s IBB training reviewed the key principals of IBB, including activities and examples of the process. LUSD is excited to start the process, continued to build the relationship with CSEA, and improve the existing contract for the benefit of students and staff.

As a reminder, negotiations with LFT are on hold during the impasse procedures. Once the impasse process has concluded, LUSD will discuss with LFT facilitator options. When LUSD and LFT arrive at agreement on a facilitator, IBB training would be scheduled prior to the beginning of the negotiations cycle.

**English Learner Workforce Initiative & Teacher Residency Grants**

We met with consultants this week to begin work on various grant opportunities that are available to assist us with the transition to Universal Pre-School (UPK). In addition, we continue to work with UMass and WestEd on the Teacher Residency Grant so that we may grow our own teachers and create a pipeline.
Sanger Unified
We continue to collaborate with Sanger Unified around how to improve student success in LUSD. As you may know, Sanger has similar demographics as LUSD and was able to change the culture of their district from one of underperforming to high performing. Sanger transformed their district in a similar manner as LUSD. They identified standards and grouped all standards into three (3) categories: Enduring, Good to Know, Nice to Know. They then agreed upon the Enduring and that these would be non-negotiable and essential for all grade-levels. They are now working on developing common assessments based on these Enduring standards. They have an agreed upon assessment calendar and common assessments as well. You can see some examples below. To learn more, please visit their website: https://www.sangerlearns.com/.
Interviews & Recruiting
This week we held interviews for Elementary, Elementary Arts, Elementary Music, and Special Education. Additionally, we attended a CSU Northridge recruiting event.

Learning Walks
This week District administrators, site administrators, and an Orenda rep had the opportunity to visit classrooms. The goal of these learning walks are to calibrate our lenses for the Lompoc
Standards Alignment Project. During our classroom visits we saw: student engagement, students working together in small groups, direct instruction, routines and expectations, academic vocabulary, student-friendly standards, and an overall pride in their students’ learning. This process was geared for the principals as professional development. We all learned so much from having the opportunity to visit different schools and classrooms. The growth we saw from December to April is a testament to our teachers’ focus on prioritizing student achievement.

**Creating Safe Spaces**
On March 25 during our professional development day, sixty-eight (68) paraeducators participated in a workshop by BetterLessons about creating safe spaces. During this workshop paraeducators learned about trauma-informed practices that are essential to meet students' needs. They learned how to create a safe environment, stay aware of triggers, and tend to their own well-being. They were able to explore scenarios related to self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision-making. Paraeducators also had the opportunity to sign up for 1 to 1 coaching with a BetterLesson coach to continue their professional development.

**ELOP Spring Intersession**
The Lompoc YMCA has been collaborating weekly with Ed Services to ensure a fruitful Spring Intersession will be provided to students. Spring Intersession will take place all five days of Spring Break and include STEAM activities, art, reading, Sports for Learning, and FUN! This opportunity was offered first to students in ASES and then shared with all students through their school sites by referral for a total of 80 TK-6th graders. We hope to expand these programs in the future.

**Summer Learning**
Lompoc Unified School District is planning a robust summer learning experience for elementary and middle school students. Credit recovery is available to high school students. We have over 550 students enrolled in summer school at this time and are watching the numbers grow daily. If parents wish to have their students enrolled in a summer learning program, they have been advised to contact their school site. Summer learning will take place from June 21- July 22, Tuesday through Friday.

The YMCA is working closely with LUSD to provide a no-cost after-school summer camp for students who attend a summer learning program. Summer camp will be offered at no cost to families from 12:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

**ASES and SEL**
We would like to extend our gratitude to our SEL Counselors who have stepped up to support our ASES programs in the afternoon. Students who attend ASES are often there until 6:00 p.m. These students, like many others, need access to counseling, tools to self-regulate, and the need to self-advocate. With the addition of SEL counselors to the after-school programs, these students will have the extra hand they need to be successful. Thank you, counselors!

**M&O Update**
- The CHS Aquarium splash tank was installed by Kenji and is now completed. See photos
- The grass has been installed at Fillmore for our wire project. They crew will now move up to Buena Vista. See photo
• The ramps at Fillmore and La Canada have been repaired. See photos
• The Ed Center complex clean-up project is ongoing. There were two remaining boxes that were moved on Wednesday, April 7. See photo
• The LHS fencing project held a bid walk on Tuesday, April 5.
Your partner in education,

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools