



CONTACT

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Bargaining Update 2021

The current Contract term is July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. The Association will open three articles: [Article VIII. Class Size](#) and [Article XII. Wages](#) and [Article XVII. Safety, Security, and General Working Conditions](#). The Board of Education has not yet revealed if the District will open articles.

A survey focusing on ALL open articles will be sent via email to members this spring prior to the beginning of bargaining. Bargaining Chairperson David Navar (WGE) will lead his team including: Paul Chavez (SHS), Lisa Quemada (MHS), Myra Pasquier (SUI), and Gabriela Orozco-Gonzalez (MGE). Executive Director Kathy Schlotz advises the team.

Covid-19 Related MOUs will also Be Negotiated

In addition to standard Contract negotiations, the Association will also negotiate Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on distance learning summer school. **A survey will be sent via email next week.**

The current distance learning MOU term is for second semester only. A first semester 2021-2022 MOU will be negotiated as more is known regarding COVID-19, State law, and safety restrictions. A survey will be available later in the spring including input on reopening school buildings for students and hybrid schedules. **NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET CONCERNING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.**

Electronic NEA RA Election Scheduled for March 9-16

The State and Local NEA RA delegate election will be held March 9-16. Montebello Teachers Association **votes electronically. The MTA Office must have your personal email in order for a ballot to be sent.** Email additions will be accepted through **Thursday, February 24.**

The Sample Ballot will be sent to the personal email you have registered with the MTA office **Monday, March 1. Contact the MTA Office immediately if you do not receive the sample ballot.** The official ballot will be sent via email **Tuesday, March 9** and must be **received no later than Tuesday, March 16 at 2 p.m.**

For concerns regarding elections contact Elections Chairperson Terry SalasOrtiz (CCE) at

Elections@MontebelloTeachers.org





February 16, 2021



Revenue & Expense

Report

The Revenue & Expense Committee was created in February 1995 to cooperatively examine the District's finances. The Committee is comprised of members each from MTA, CSEA, and MUSD.

MTA

- Alma Orta (SUE),
- David Navar (WGE)
- Richard Franco (MAI)
- Doug Patzkowski (MTA) alternate

Kathy Schlotz (ex-officio)

Topics of Interest this Quarter

Trial Balance by Fund

The Trial Balance by Fund code amounts that should closely be followed are the 4000-6000 line item amounts. The monthly phone system (\$5.9M) and electricity (\$961K) expenditures were questioned as being particularly high. Was the phone system charge due to the purchase of hot spots? Wouldn't less district personnel working on site decrease phone usage? Hasn't the installation of solar panels decreased electrical costs? The District will look into doing an analysis on the phone and electricity charges.

Facilities and Bond Update

Construction is underway at the MAI Head Start building and BGE two story building. Roofing projects continue at the MUSD Warehouse, D.O. and CCE. HVAC progress has been occurring at: CCE, FRE, WAE, JGE, VHS, MAI, BAE, WGE, MGE, and SHS. The District is reviewing air filtration systems at all locations. The expected completion of this review is June 2021. Facilities is considering HEPA Filters for all AC units. Where needed in-room air purifiers will also be used. Site visits will be performed. The District is expected to purchase more temperature kiosks, floor markings, PPE and they are looking into face scanning software for students that ride the school bus. Plexiglass installation status update is in the final phases. Our next phase focuses on barriers for classrooms. Most library barriers have been completed. MUSD is also meeting with vendors for a cloud-based wellness check software application for all students, personnel, and visitors. The expected completion date is April 2021.

Attendance and ADA Enrollment

MUSD PowerSchool Enrollment count as of February 5 is 23,489. Weekly attendance rate percentage for the first week of February has remained steady at 91.70%.

The district is still facing declining enrollment. There is a negative out-migration pattern as class cohorts graduate through the grades.

Technology

An update was given on the Dell Laptops. All DELL laptops have been sent to school sites for certificated personnel pick-up. District is working on desktop deployment to the school sites. Because the Chromebook supply was short in August 2020, a shipment of more Chromebooks should be arriving in the coming month as well.

Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) Fiscal Health Risk Analysis of the Montebello Unified School District

In November 2017, the California State Auditor issued a report. There were concerns with leadership and governance, financial practices and performance, failure to follow proper hiring procedures and other concerns. FCMAT, an external and independent agency of the State, provided proactive and preventive services to MUSD to evaluate the risk of insolvency. By September 2020, many issues are still unresolved. After a thorough evaluation, FCMAT team came to the conclusion that MUSD is at risk of insolvency. A score of 40% is already considered to be high risk. MUSD scored 48.7%. The latest investigation identified the following concerns in:

- leadership and stability
- declining enrollment
- deficit spending
- budget development
- monitoring position control
- internal controls and fraud prevention
- collective bargaining

The FCMAT intervention specialist specified that of particular concern are the lack of stability and ongoing vacancies in key positions, as well as frequent employee turnover which leads to lack of oversight and internal controls. In the last three years, enrollment has decreased by about 13% which will be fueled by a bigger acceleration by the opening of two charter schools. The unrestricted general fund balance is projected to decline from \$100 million in 2020-2021 to \$14.2 million by the end of 2022-2023 because of ongoing deficit spending.

WHY THE LCAP MATTERS

The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a three-year plan that provides input from stakeholders on MUSD's educational priorities and budgetary expenditures for student achievement. It provides flexibility on how to spend funds it receives from the state. It includes Supplemental and Concentration grants to invest in the education of ELL's, homeless and foster youth, and low-income students. The four MUSD Goals in the LCAP are: Basic Conditions, Student Achievement, Learning Environment, and Family and Community Engagement.

For 2020-2021, each district was required to adopt a Learning Continuity Plan explaining changes they made in response to school closures prompted by the Covid-19 emergency. These reports were to include a description of how schools and districts have been addressing: gaps in learning; the needs of unduplicated pupils: (students with unique needs, students experiencing homelessness); access to necessary devices, and connectivity for distance learning; the resources and supports to students and staff in mental health and social emotional well-being; and providing school meals for students.

LCAP efforts in the 2020-21 year will be focused on development of the next three-year LCAP (2021-2022 through 2023-24) to be approved in June 2021. It must include:

- Goals and Actions
- an Annual Update with instructions,
- an LCFF budget overview for parents (adopted in December 2020 with the First Interim Report)
- Plan Summary
- Stakeholder Engagement
- increased or improved services for Foster Youth, English Learners and Low-Income students,
- Expenditure Tables.

The LCAP Advisory Committee opened stakeholder engagement groups in late January for gathering input for the new three-year plan. The Committee is comprised of: administrators and managers, parents and parent liaisons, Montebello Teachers Association (MTA) representatives, California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 505 representatives and MUSD Police Officers Association (MPOA) representatives.

The success of the LCAP will be dependent on the right mix of flexibility, resources, and expectations for student achievement. It should be transformative, empowering, not scripted or rushed. Some questions to ponder are:

- Will the LCAP have specific descriptions on the supports our students of low income or with exceptional needs necessitate?
- Will the LCAP increase or improve services based on the enrollment of unduplicated student groups?
- Will the LCAP add specificity on increasing or improving services? How will data of the services be collected? What avenues will be taken if the services are rendered ineffective?

The MUSD three-year plan should be a carefully crafted, planned out and transparent narrative of increasing or improving services to our students. It should target key areas of growth/nongrowth, and include the data and metrics of our district goals and performance across ALL grade spans and demographics. The LCAP should have a description but also a demonstration of how the requirements will be met.

Students must be provided educational equity to achieve academic excellence. We hope the new LCAP captures the story we should and need to narrate for the benefit of our MUSD students and community.