

Dear PFT Members,

Happy Friday! Here is the latest news you can use from PFT. I apologize that it is lengthy, but I want you to have as much info as possible. Please see your PFT Site Rep if you have any questions.

In Unity,
Kelly

Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP)

The deadline to submit paperwork to PARS for the SRP is just two weeks away (Friday, Feb. 5). We need 105 members of the PFT unit to participate for the SRP to go through. We have requested updates on the number of people who have submitted their paperwork and will share them ASAP.

Vaccinations

PFT is working with the district to support the vaccination process for PUSD staff. We are discussing ways to work with the county to ensure:

- Educators have resources to learn about the vaccine
- Educators are notified when the vaccine is available
- Schedules are convenient, locations are accessible, appointments are easy to make, and time is provided
- The max number of people are reached within prioritized groups in a timely, efficient manner

PFT is engaged in advocacy with the County Board of Supervisors. We are asking for employees who work in special day classes to be eligible for vaccinations now, in tier 1A (they are frequently in very close contact with students, some of whom have medical mask exemptions). We are also making the case to the county that school employees need to be vaccinated first in tier 1B. A classroom is an indoor space, and educators have prolonged contact with numerous students daily. Lastly, we are advocating for staff who are working in person on our campuses across the county to be vaccinated prior to other educators, since they are in the field now.

The district has shared that vaccination will be optional, unless otherwise ordered by the county or state.

Reopening

New Guidance

- CA Dept Of Public Health Released New Document:

COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year, January 14, 2021

- State released *California's Safe Schools for All Plan*: Incentive program to reopen schools, citing research saying elementary schools can safely reopen if proper mitigation protocols are in place.

How does this new guidance impact full day preschools & ESS?

This guidance does not impact these programs. They reopened on January 19 because they are under childcare guidance.

How does this new guidance impact elementary schools?

K-6 schools that are open or have been open in purple are permitted to remain open, regardless of case rates. K-6 schools that have not reopened must wait until county case rates are at less than 25 per 100K. Currently SD county is at a 7-day average of 97.4 per 100K (unadjusted) & 60.6 per 100K (adjusted for number of tests).

The Board made the decision to reopen on February 1. Survey Results show elementary on campus teachers in PUSD are divided about returning. PFT represents and wants to support all Members, on both "sides" of this issue. If you are an elementary teacher that has individual concerns or questions about your options, please call PFT at 674-2800.

How does this new guidance impact middle & high schools?

Per the new CDPH guidance, "Schools may not reopen for grades 7-12 if the county is in Purple Tier..."

Secondary survey results showed more than 80% of teachers did not feel comfortable returning under current health conditions.

PFT legal counsel wrote an opinion that PUSD secondary schools were not considered open because only small cohorts had returned to campus. This was provided to the Cabinet just before the Board meeting & prior to the CDPH clarifying the definition of being "open."

New CDPH guidance more clearly defined the definition of a school or district being "open" or "reopened":

"...if only some students were being served in-person in a school in a county in the Red Tier or lower (e.g., only students with disabilities) and all students in at least one grade did not have the option to return in-person as described above, the school has not "opened" or "reopened."

The PUSD School Board included 6th grade in waiting for the county to be in the red tier to open since our middle schools are 6-8

Next Steps

PFT, PSEA, PUSD are working together to recommend changes to seminal documents based on the new CDPH Guidance.

- COVID-19 Positive Case Process: This process describes exactly what happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. The process has been in place since June. PFT asked the district to write it out to provide clarity to stakeholders. It was shared at our Dec. Rep Council by District Nurses and LSS. It has not been shared with all because it now must be revised based on the new CDPH Guidance.
- The PUSD Guidebook, the Health & Safety slide deck, and site safety plans will also need to be revisited.

State & PUSD Budget

The Governor's State Budget Proposal for 2021-22 came out Jan. 10. It will be debated in the legislature and revised in May. The legislature must pass a budget bill for the upcoming fiscal year by midnight on June 15. The PFT Team attended the School Services of CA State Budget Workshop, Friday, January 15. There is a LOT of info in the education budget this year!

Funding & Impact on PUSD Budget: The Proposed Budget includes a combined COLA of 3.84% (2.31% for 2020-21 plus 1.5% for 2021-22), which, if adopted, would generate about 12 million for PUSD. The 2.31% COLA for the current school year is not funded until next school year. Therefore, regularly occurring increased costs, such as teachers moving across or down on the salary schedule, must be absorbed by this year's budget. PUSD is projected to have a (\$21 million) deficit this school year. The combined COLA funding, if adopted by the legislature, will improve the bottom line for next year. Rather than another year with a (\$21 million) deficit, the projection improves to a (\$6 million) deficit. The district is still seeking cuts for the next two years (6 million dollars next year and an additional 6 million in 2021-22, down from 10 million and 9.5 million).

One-time money: One-time dollars are also included for things like PD, mental health, teacher effectiveness, the Classified School Employee Credentialing program, the Teacher Residency Program, expanded learning time and intervention and training on inclusive practices, trauma-informed practices, restorative practices, and implicit bias. From the federal stimulus package (not the state budget) PUSD will be getting about 7 million in one-time money for COVID-19 related purposes. This does not

help the structural deficit because it is revenue that comes in but also goes right back out, and it must be spent for specific purposes.

Reopening Incentive Grant & Testing Update: The Governor has included a Reopening Incentive Grant for schools who are already open or who are eligible and reopen. Unfortunately, the funding provided through this grant does not provide enough money to meet the testing frequency it requires. Providing testing remains optional for school districts who do not apply for the incentive grant. PUSD is partnering with the county & Palomar College to open a testing location (target of Feb. 1) at the RB Palomar College campus.

Negotiations: PFT is diving deeply into the PUSD budget to verify revenues and expenditures and to determine if cuts are truly needed at this time. This is a negotiated item we will continue to discuss it in IBPS. This year's student enrollment is down by about 1,000 students, which translates into lost revenue. Regaining more students than is currently projected in the budget would help the bottom line. There may also be additional federal money for schools through the Biden administration.

I hope you have a restful weekend.

In Unity,
Kelly

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