

CAUSE ADVISORY

School Board Politicians Support Campaign of Misinformation Faculty & Support Staff Are Not Fooled By This WAIVER !

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District Faculty, Support Staff, Parents, & Stakeholders,

Based on the misinformation contained in Superintendent Rigby's announcement (*forwarded below*) and WAIVER application, CAUSE is compelled to clarify the following:

1.) In both the WAIVER and her celebratory email, Superintendent Rigby continuously states, "**We [sic. CUSD] met 10 days in the summer with the Union to discuss the reopening plan.**"

This is absolutely untrue.

In fact, as unpleasant as it sounds, "It is a lie, and District leadership knows it." It is a common propaganda technique, and one needs to use if Ms. Rigby is to successfully mislead the community and the County Health Department. This well known form of PROPAGANDA is referred to as, **THE BIG LIE** or **FIRE HOSING**. As journalist, Masha Gessen explains, "**FIRE HOSING, the telling and retelling of obvious LIES, isn't about persuasion, it is about POWER. When [sic. those in authority] use them, they are not just lying, they are asserting that they are not constrained by reality. That everything, even those things that are totally obvious to us, can be challenged. It is a very real demonstration or power.**"

2.). Here are **the facts:**

(A.) The Union did not and has not bargained ANY in-person reopening plans. We have yet to bargain either small cohorts, a hybrid model, or a return (*of any percentage of students/employees*) to in-person learning.

(B.) Thus far, CAUSE has ONLY bargained on the topic of REMOTE LEARNING.

(C.) If the District receives a WAIVER, the Union will IMPACT BARGAIN all associated details at that time. We have not forfeited any rights in this area.

3.) Last week, CAUSE & CUSD only consulted upon the District's desire to submit a WAIVER application. Beyond asking questions, the Union clarified that it considers the pursuit of a WAIVER reckless. We based our conclusion on the following:

* The CUSD is grossly unprepared to meet its HEALTH & SAFETY obligations associated with COVID-19.

* The CUSD alleges, in its WAIVER application, that it has resolved a variety of HEALTH & SAFETY conditions that District employees and administrators know not to be true. (Much like the Superintendent's statement above.)

* The pursuit of a WAIVER is predicted to bring increased disruption, instability, and uncertainty to the teaching and learning environment.

* Pursuing IN-PERSON instruction, while our small District is in and surrounded by counties designated "**Purple Tier**" = **Widespread Community Spread Transmission**, flies in the face of the science that underlies an effective pandemic response.

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Moving forward, CAUSE leadership remains focused on the HEALTH & SAFETY of District employees, students, and their families. We ask that our members openly communicate their concerns and experiences with colleagues,, District families, members of the community, and the media. It is time that ALL employees, be they elementary or secondary or certificated or classified, use their legally protected right to speak openly about the workplace environment and conditions .

Clearly, those tasked with maintaining the HEALTH & SAFETY of District students, employees, and their families will not.

In Transparency,

~ j. Hotchner * CAUSE President

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