

# CAUSE ADVISORY

## District LAYOFFs – Cafeteria Lead Positions From ESSENTIAL to EXPENDABLE

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Now, a week later and without any formal announcement from District leadership, the Union is compelled to share the District's decision to initiate LAYOFFs in the CUSD.

Last Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, members of the CUSD School Board chose to **LAYOFF** several District Cafeteria Leads. If that position sounds familiar, it's because these are the very "Essential" foodservice workers that spearheaded the District's food-service response when COVID-19 closures were first announced. Just a few days ago, these cafeteria lead-workers were risking their personal health and the well-being of their families to provide "Essential Food Services" to the most food-deprived and vulnerable members of our community. But last Wednesday, after another unexamined decision by the CUSD School Board, the District's **LAYOFF** decisions are now official. Our ESSENTIAL food-service colleagues, now EXPENDABLE.

You may ask, "What does that mean for these food-service colleagues?"

It means that:

- \* their hours have been reduced (at best) or removed altogether
- \* their hourly wages have been reduced (at best) or removed altogether
- \* their access to a fully covered healthcare plan has been severely undermined in some cases, and removed altogether in another.

**And let's be even more clear, it means this in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

Although CAUSE was able to demand access to these LAYOFF conversations, it was only able to do so after the CUSD and CAUSE engaged in significant legal action. This legal action required the District to spend significant amounts of public money to defend an untenable position, which led to a settlement on CAUSE's terms and obligated the CUSD to, at least the optic of, greater collaboration. And that's where they stopped; the optic of greater collaboration.

By the time the District brought the Union into these recent LAYOFF decisions, the decision to pursue LAYOFFS seemed cast in stone. This was verified just moments AFTER the Union was permitted to provide employees insights at last Wednesday's Board meeting, when those same insights and experiences were commensurately ignored and the School Board rushed to provide its "rubber-stamp."

For those interested in hearing the Union's statement on these LAYOFFs, follow the School Board meeting link below:

( *see MINUTE \* 1:27:30* )

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st-bPEKvK3s&t=7040s>

In transparency,

~ CAUSE Leadership

**\* C.A.U.S.E. - Yes We Can \***

[ Please feel free to visit to CAUSE website: <http://cause2216.org/> ]