

Carpinteria Association of United School Employees | CAUSE |

July 17, 2020 * Position on District REOPENING *

- 1.) Throughout the COVID closures and reopening conversations, the Union has promoted the development of a transparent, collaborative, and inclusive PROCESS for this critical conversation. We believe that the durability and efficacy of any reopening plan will be dependent on how well the reopening plans are (A) informed by the Health & Safety components that support them, and (B) have achieved the buy-in & the confidence of those required to support reopening. Thus far, such a process has not been initiated.
- 2.) The Union has established a **priority focus: the SAFETY & WELL BEING of students, employees, and their families.**

The Union believes that effective reopening conversations require a **priority focus**. We understand that focusing on any single priority may result in the sacrifice of other priorities and values routinely embraced under different circumstances. But we believe that focusing on a single priority will clarify the most pressing needs and decisions moving forward.

[Please know that CAUSE Leadership is not deluding itself; To provide context to the above, we acknowledge that establishing that **the SAFETY & WELL BEING of students, employees, and their families** is the priority, sacrifices will be made in areas of **academic growth, social development, and the ability of the District to provide comprehensive in-person day long care and learning for k-12 students.**]

- 3.) District employees are eager to return to in-person learning, but rightfully expect this to occur in an environment where both SAFETY conditions and THREATENING conditions have been thoroughly addressed.
- 4.) To demonstrate our commitment to this statement, the Union has developed & published (*to CUSD & the community*) a foundation of critical SAFETY measures required to support a safe return. These measures are based on expectations and mandates established by County Public Health departments, the CDC, and the CDE. (see attached)
- 5.) The lack of confidence in the District's reopening options is **not** based on the demonstrable (*known*) quality of CUSD's options. Rather, the lack of confidence in the District's options is based on **the inability to determine the quality of the options**. The District has not demonstrated, documented, or clarified the critical SAFETY conditions required to support its reopening options. As a result, it is impossible to determine the functionality and durability of these options when they are moved from paper to the implementation stage; where students, employees, and the virus all come together in-person and on CUSD's sites and facilities.

- 6.) Given the dangers that exist, District employees and Union leadership find it hard to understand, let alone believe, that **the SAFETY & WELL BEING of students, employees, and their families** will be, let alone can be, prioritized at a later time. It seems irresponsible to embrace an approach that dooms us to “fixing the plane, filled with our students and District employees, while it is flying.”?

In summary:

The CUSD’s options do not provide employees (*or community members for that matter*) sufficient information on the underlying foundation of SAFETY required to support said options. Therefore, it is not possible for employees (*or community members for that matter*), to provide an informed and intelligible response to the quality of the options themselves.

Regardless of whether the 2020-21 school year begins 100% remote, a hybrid-model, or 100% in-person, the District’s current options do not resolve the dangerous conditions they contain.

~ CAUSE Leadership