

## **ITA Newsletter, July 2020**

### **THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to all the Site Reps and members who have sent us questions, suggestions, and concerns about safety, the reopening of schools, and instructional models. We are using all of them in our communications with the district and the school board. Please know that the district is doing everything possible to ensure everyone's safety. The district is required by the state to plan for various situations, for example both online and in-person instruction. The guidelines from the state and the county must be met, and as they change, so must the district plans. No decisions have been made yet. Thank you for being patient while everyone works in this new environment to solve problems we've never before imagined. Undoubtedly, the situation will continue to change over the coming months, and all of us will need to assume best intentions and be as flexible as possible to help each other and our students be healthy physically, emotionally, and intellectually.

### **IUSD Task Force**

The Task Force is comprised of about 45 people representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders including parents with expertise in epidemiology, administrators, safety and maintenance personnel, principals, ITA members, and members of the Superintendent's Cabinet. We have met 3 times via Zoom. The Task Force is grouped with variety to give feedback, ask questions, provide suggestions and more as we examine ideas and plans from the State, the County, and the District. Two of the biggest take-aways from the last meeting are the desire of everyone to maintain safety for all and to preserve the sense of school community and identity, even while some staff members are temporarily assigned to the Virtual Academy. The Superintendent's Cabinet will gather input from the Task Force, medical advisors, legal authority, as well as input from staff and community to align the best way possible with the guidelines from the State and the County to make recommendations to the school board for action.

### **IUSD's Plans for the Fall**

There is much anxiety about the start of school this year. Everyone feels the worries and fears for ourselves, our families, our students. The district has not made any decision yet about how school will resume, but they must follow the directions provided by the California Department of Public Health and/or the OC Health Department which specify safety procedures and other precautions that schools must follow, including such things as canceling summer sports camps, wearing facial protection, providing online instruction, and more.

As the pandemic changes, these agencies will be observing the statistics and following the most recent medical research as they guide school districts. There are limits to what the district is allowed to do; violating guidelines of the state and/or the county jeopardizes state funding.

To be ready for all contingencies, the district has drawn up several models. The surveys were initiated to get a broad view of how many students and how many staff members would prefer each of the models suggested. As more information is known and more questions and ideas considered by the Task Force and others, plans become more focused.

The next meeting of the IUSD Board of Education will be July 14. You can submit statements to be read (max 3 minutes) at the meeting to express your opinions by emailing [RaiannaChavez@iusd.org](mailto:RaiannaChavez@iusd.org). The Board will be voting on plans for the fall semester, but if other directions come from the county or state, the district will revise those plans to meet new guidelines. Here are links to some of the guidelines.

[California Department of Public Health: Guidance for Schools](#)

[California Department of Education: Coronavirus Response and School Reopening Guidance](#)

[OC Health Officer's Orders & Recommendations](#)

[Contact Governor Newsom](#)

### **Classroom Safety**

If you have questions about what the district is doing now to prepare for classrooms to be safe in the fall, you can read more about the preparations and plans here: [IUSD addendum \(for Covid\): Employee Injury and Illness Prevention Program](#)

### **IUSD Staff FAQ**

Later this week, look for an email to your IUSD address with a link to a Staff FAQ page that the district is implementing for our reference. The Staff FAQ page will answer many of the questions we've been forwarding to the district about the fall semester. (If you are an Irvine parent, look for a Community FAQ page coming out next week, I believe.)

### **ITA Town Hall**

Mark your calendar! The Executive Board will be hosting a Reopening School Models Town Hall for members at 3:30 on Thursday, July 16. We will be sending a separate email with links for you to submit your questions before the meeting and to log in to the zoom meeting itself.

## **ITA Survey**

The ITA Executive Board will survey members to gather input. Please watch your personal email address for a survey to arrive in the next week or two. (We are still figuring out how to do more things like surveys and the Town Hall virtually; please be patient while we are learning.)

## **Bargaining Update**

Check your IUSD email for Joint Communique emails from the bargaining teams. Their next meetings are scheduled for July 22, August 5, and August 10. After the school board has voted on a particular set of plans, the bargaining team will continue to address the new working conditions of each implemented model. Please know that many concerns of members have already been addressed throughout this pandemic season. ITA leadership is in frequent contact with district leadership to ensure our point of view is being considered at all times.

## **Representative Council**

The Site Reps will have a special full group, then small group, Zoom meeting on Monday, August 3. If you are a 2019-20 Site Rep, please continue to serve until we can hold elections for 2020-21 Site Reps; this is what the Executive Board members are doing until we can hold elections. If you cannot attend, please ask someone to fill in for you. We will have some ITA business to attend to regarding the budget.

If your site would like to have a site ITA meeting, please invite me. I welcome the opportunity to see everyone virtually and to answer as many questions as I can. If I can't attend, I will ask another Exec Board member to fill in.

When we have more information about the staffing of the Virtual Academy, we expect to add one or more Site Reps from the VA to represent them as needed.

## **Excellence in Teaching Awards Rescheduled**

IUSD, the Exchange Club of Irvine, and ITA were informed that the Barclay is canceling all events for the remainder of 2020. We have tentatively rescheduled the EiT Awards 2020 for February 4, 2021. The 2021 Awards ceremony is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021.

## **Early Retirement Honorarium Deadline: Possible Extension**

If you are interested in learning more about the possible extension of the deadline to

notify IUSD of your intent to retire before the start of this year's fall semester, please email Teri at [president@IrvineTA.org](mailto:president@IrvineTA.org).

### **Disability Insurance with The Standard**

If you have questions about disability insurance, and you are a subscriber with The Standard, call their dedicated customer service at 800.522.0406 7am - 6 pm, M-F or email [ctaservice@standard.com](mailto:ctaservice@standard.com). A member can also schedule a personal 1:1 appointment by phone or Zoom with a Standard team member:

[The Standard Phone Link](#)

[The Standard Zoom Link](#)

[ITA's Covid FAQs for Members](#)

### **Prop 15**

With recent funding cuts to education, today it is more important than ever that members turn out to vote for Schools and Communities First, Proposition 15 in November. Please plan to help inform your family and friends about this proposition because the wealthy corporations will spend a lot of money misleading voters to avoid paying their fair share of property tax. No residences are affected by Prop 15! But it will bring millions of dollars to Orange County schools and community services.

### **Be safe!**

Please use this time as best you can to rest up and relax. Take care of yourself and your families. This is the time when we look out for each other because we are stronger together.

In solidarity,

Teri