

LVEA TODAY



LVEA Contract Negotiations

LVEA and the District negotiate financial and a few other selected issues every year. This typically includes salaries, benefits, etc. Every three years, however, we open the whole contract and discuss all articles. With our current three year contract expiring this June, it's time to start that process. In a sense, our contract is a living document that changes to adapt to new situations and challenges; however, these changes must be agreed upon by the LVEA and LVUSD Negotiations Teams. Everything is on the table for this round!

LVEA begins this process by gathering input from you. Every three years, we send out a survey to collect valuable information from all members. During our site visits, we constantly hear suggestions for negotiations. Well, now is your chance to provide input!

Did you know that your contract is online? You can view it on the District's website at <http://www.lvusd.org/>. Simply select "LVEA Contract" from the Employees tab. You are encouraged to view the table of contents and read through the articles that interest you most. You should then respond to our Negotiations Survey when it comes out within the next week.

Please remember that we're a unified school district with students from preschool through high school. There are similarities and differences at the different grade levels. That's why we have a Negotiations Team that includes certificated employees from the different grade levels. Your team has the challenging task to develop contract language that meets the needs of everyone. Fortunately, we have a great team to meet this challenge:

- Joanne Kress (Bargaining/Negotiations Chair): White Oak Kindergarten
- Lisa Hatfield, AE Wright Social Studies
- Michael LaFrenz, Lindero Canyon Math
- Diane McEvoy, Calabasas HS Language Arts
- Darci Miller, AE Wright Social Studies
- Joan Woods, Round Meadow 3rd Grade
- Christing Zsaka, Bay Laurel & Agoura HS School Psychologist
- Jake Anderson, CTA

We need your input, so please complete the Negotiations survey invitation when it comes to your personal email address within the next week!

LVEA Executive Board

Craig Hochhaus, President
LasVirgenesEA@gmail.com
(805) 402-7347

Jeremy Janton, WES, Vice-President

Pat Brooks, AHS, Treasurer

Carrie McClellan, AHS, Corresponding Secretary

Diane McEvoy, CHS, Recording Secretary

Kathy Heukrodt, CHS, High School Liaison
LVEAhsvoice@gmail.com

Mike, LaFrenz, LCMS, Middle School Liaison
LVEAmsvoice@gmail.com

Vacant, Elementary Liaison
LVEAelemvoice@gmail.com

Joanne Kress, WOES, Bargaining Chair

Jake Anderson, CTA Staff
janderson@cta.org
(818) 309-7206

Las Virgenes Educators Association

100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, #124
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(P) (805) 497-8220
(F) (805) 497-1458
(W) www.lveateachers.com

LVEA Elections

Per the LVEA By-Laws, elections will be held this spring for the following Executive Board positions: President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Please contact LVEA at lasvirgenesea@gmail.com or your site rep if you are interested in one of these important positions.

Writer's Workshop/Lucy Calkins Update

LVEA recently conducted a survey regarding the effectiveness of the Writer's Workshop(WW)/Lucy Calkins materials. These results are still posted at <http://lveateachers.com/> - scroll down to the third article. The WW materials are a recommended resource, and you are not required to use them. The District considered bringing WW up for formal adoption for the 2015-16 school year, and we feel that the results of this survey have influenced the District to postpone this discussion - most likely until more information from the state on the new ELA standards is available next school year. This has led to some confusion regarding materials and assessments. While the WW materials are not required, the District writing assessments are...and you must use the WW rubric to grade these assessments. This dilemma has caused frustration for many members; however, the District reports that the WW rubric is much more aligned to Common Core than any other. During site visits, many teachers have reported to LVEA that the WW rubric is simply too big, cumbersome and confusing. The District has received this message but contends that that it cannot change/revise/tweak the rubric during this school year. LVEA has recommended that the District (with the assistance of teachers) condense and simplify this rubric for 2015-16, and the District seems receptive to this suggestion. As previously stated, LVEA takes no position in endorsing or discouraging specific curricular areas; however, we remain passionate that our teachers MUST take an active role in determining District curriculum. You are the classroom experts, and your contributions are pertinent, essential and extremely valuable for our students!

Confusion over Personal Necessity Leave

LVEA has received several questions recently regarding Personal Necessity (PN) Leave. Section 7.3 of our contract deals with these issues. As mentioned in the negotiations article above, the contract can be viewed on the District's website at <http://www.lvusd.org/>. Select "LVEA Contract" from the Employees tab. You must complete a Leave form, available from your office manager, and obtain prior approval; however, you do NOT have to specify the reason for the PN leave. You may take up to seven (7) PN days per year and up to ten (10) if approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel. That said, please note in section 7.3.2 that "Personal necessity shall be deemed to be an activity that cannot be conducted outside the normal working hours."

LVEA is pleased with the fact that certificated employees do not have to state a reason for PN leave. In negotiations several years back, your Negotiations Team convinced the District that our employees should be treated as professionals that would not abuse this privilege. We are pleased to report that no abuse has been reported since this agreement was reached.

We have also received a few questions regarding paternity leave. This issue is addressed in 7.3.4 that allows up to ten (10) paternity PN leave days.

- follow LVEA on twitter – twitter.com/LVEA
- like LVEA on facebook – facebook.com



- follow LVEA on twitter – twitter.com/LVEA
- like LVEA on facebook – facebook.com



