



August 15, 2018

Alex Caputo-Pearl
President
United Teachers of Los Angeles
3303 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Dear Mr. Caputo-Pearl,

As I shared with you and Mr. Orozco today, we have the opportunity to better support the dedicated professionals of UTLA to help them provide every child in the District with a great public education. Our shared responsibility is to make sure all we do puts the interests of our students and their families first.


L.A. Unified has already reached agreements with SEIU Local 99, AALA and CSEA which together, represent more than 60 percent of the District's workforce. With raises totaling about six percent, these agreements demonstrate the District's commitment to our school leaders, teacher's assistants, bus drivers, custodians, food service employees and librarians who, alongside teachers, work tirelessly every day to make each of our schools places of great teaching and learning. L.A. Unified aims to reach a similar agreement with UTLA in this bargaining process.

The District remains committed to continue working with UTLA on a fair contract and will begin the mediation process with UTLA in the coming weeks to resolve all open contract issues. L.A. Unified's desire is to make sure all of our students have a great start to the school year in a safe, welcoming school environment to best support their learning. We want to minimize any disruption to students, their hard-working families and the communities we serve. We hope UTLA shares this goal. I am reminded of an old adage, "when elephants fight, the grass gets trampled." It is a responsibility we share, despite our differences, to make sure students are protected.

The work teachers do today, tomorrow, and throughout the school year can change the life of a child. We must do everything possible to keep our schools open so our students don't miss the opportunity to receive the best education possible. Working together, we can help our students do great things. I am available to meet with you at any time in advance of the mediation date if you feel we can chart a quicker path to an agreement. We found common ground today on a number of issues and we need to build on that. Our students, their families and the communities we serve are waiting for us to resolve this.

We have much work to do together to help every student in L.A. Unified reach their full potential. The sooner we can resolve this agreement, the sooner we can focus all of our efforts on improving our schools. We have lots of work to do and the kids are counting on us.

Sincerely,



Austin Beutner
Superintendent

c: Los Angeles Unified Board of Education