



September  
2021

# ATF Action Agenda

## Who Gets a Say In Your Working Conditions? YOU DO!

### APS Board of Education Election

You are in control of your own work conditions and the future of this district. Why? Because we live in a democracy. Who is on the Board of Education and how they spend our money affects our working conditions. ATF Unified COPE endorsed candidates for the 2021 BOE elections. Read "ATF BOE Endorsements: Volunteer Now!" at [atfunion.org](http://atfunion.org).

It is imperative that we support candidates who believe in our public schools and in the rights and dignity of the workers who make them great. Get involved. [Volunteer to make phone calls and/or knock doors at atfunion.org!](http://atfunion.org)

### Bond/Mill Levy Election

There is also an APS School Mill Levy & Bond issue on the ballot for November 2nd, All registered voters living within APS boundaries are eligible to vote in this election. The two questions will continue the current Public School Capital Improvements Tax. They will help APS improve school facilities and upgrade school equipment and technology from 2022 through 2027, providing a projected \$200 Million for these improvements and equipment over six years.

Neither of the two questions on the ballot raise your property taxes. A "Yes" vote means that you agree to release tax money that is already being collected so that APS can complete overdue repairs and improvements to our schools. It is imperative that we pass the Bond & Mill Levy questions to assure we provide the learning environments and safety our students need and deserve.

Educate your friends, families, and colleagues on this issue and GET THEM OUT TO VOTE!

### Election Timeline

Bernalillo County Voting Timeline:

- October 5, 2021 - County clerks begin mailing [Absentee Ballots](#)
- October 16-30, 2021 - [Early Voting](#) and [Same Day Registration](#)
- October 28, 2021 - Deadline for Absentee Applications to be received
- October 29, 2021 - Last day county clerks can mail absentee ballots
- November 2, 2021 - [Election Day](#) 7am-7pm

[Read about your COPE committee's efforts and get involved!](#)

## Join the Working Conditions Are Learning Conditions Campaign!

APS will receive \$230M from the American Rescue Plan. They asked for community input on how to spend it. They have a proposal plan that calls for spending tens of millions to combat "unfinished learning" which is a new term for "learning loss". Their Listening Tour is called "Change Into What?" ATF says: "Change into a district where students & educators work & learn in WELCOMING, HEALTHY & SAFE conditions!" Build a solid foundation to meet basic needs. Maslow's hierarchy of needs [is often represented as a pyramid](#). Houses and pyramids need strong foundations.

APS heating & cooling systems are old and fail every year. We need to meet the basic needs of our schools with this one-time injection of funds. That's why we started the Working Conditions Are Learning Conditions Campaign.

Get involved in the campaign:

- **Action 1:** [Sign the ATF Working Conditions Petition](#) for immediate relief for those educators and students whose HVAC system is failing.
- **Action 2:** Make sure that every APS employee at your site signs this petition.
- **Action 3:** Fill out the survey: [ATF's Employee Priorities Survey](#). Add your thoughts so we can call for change with a collective voice.
- **Action 4:** Register for the "Change Into What?" [Sign up for the webinar at aps.edu and tell your truth to power!](#)
- **Action 5:** We will take our survey data and petition to the Listening Tour on September 7<sup>th</sup> and present it to the APS Board of Education at their meeting.
- **Action 6:** Vote early FOR the APS Mill Levy & Bond Questions in the November 2<sup>nd</sup> election.

Stay tuned for more details on how we can work in solidarity. Together, we can truly move mountains.

**Dial-a-Teacher**  
begins after Labor Day!

Students and parents can call  
**(505)344-3571**  
Monday-Thursday 5:30-8:00pm

**ATF – Your Professional, Progressive  
Union**

[Join your Union Today!!](#)

Ask your Fed Rep or go to <https://atfunion.org/join/>

## Student Loan Debt Survey Results (so far)

ATF proposes that APS spend some of the American Rescue Plan money on student loan debt relief. We are fighting for this because we know it will attract new educators to our district and help us retain educators. That's why we are conducting the Student Loan Debt Survey.

Here's some of the results we will be sharing with the Board soon:

- Our data so far shows the average individual debt is \$48,000!
- 874 educators owe over \$42 million collectively!
- Together, they make almost \$1/4 million in payments each month!
- The average monthly payment is \$315!

### Here's what educators had to say:

- "I am almost done paying off my debt, but if I didn't have it, I could have put a nice down payment on a home years ago, or traveled."
- "My wife and I live paycheck to paycheck. Aside from our mortgage payment, the second highest expense we have in each paycheck is our student loan debt. We are both on Income Driven Repayment. We forego any extra expenses beyond our basic needs."
- "I have to take on side jobs to afford normal expenses. This takes focus and energy away from my career and family. I am not able to volunteer or take on extra duties at school that I would like too."
- "I give plasma to pay my student loan payment."

**We need to hear your story! [THE SURVEY IS STILL OPEN HERE!](#)**

### A Professional Workday Pilot Meeting

Are you ready to be paid for professional duties you usually perform off the clock?

- Collaborative Time
- Professional Learning and School Leadership Time
- Committee Time – Department Meetings, Instructional Council, SAT, other committees, etc....
- Planning and Preparing Time – self-directed and/or collaborative instructional planning and prep.
- Professional Duties Time

#### Mandatory meeting for sites that are interested :

- **When:** Tuesday, September 14th, 2021  
4:15-6:00 pm
- **Where:** @ Berna Facio PD Building
- **Who:** All certified educators, but your school's Principal, IC Chair and Fed Rep(s) must attend

### Sick Leave Bank (SLB) Open Enrollment

SLB is a union-designed and employee-owned program to provide additional sick leave to employees who exhaust their sick leave due to extended illness/injury. This program has saved families from dire financial consequences.

- Payroll deductions are only \$5.75 per pay period.
- Open enrollment is from August 1, 2021 – October 31, 2021.
- SLB Guidelines can be downloaded from the [APS website at www.aps.edu](http://www.aps.edu).
- You can [download the enrollment here atfunion.org](http://atfunion.org).
- Call a Sick Leave Bank Specialist, at 889-4858, for more information.

### Evaluation Information

Last school year, NM PED billed their evaluation system as a "test drive". This year, there will be summative evaluations. Here are some resources we have been sent so far.

- [Elevate NM on Canvas Teacher Training-- Summer 2021](#) recorded "live" training session from June 2 hrs)
- [Elevate NM/Canavas Quick Start Guide \(atfunion.org\)](http://atfunion.org)
- [Canvas/Elevate NM Due Dates \(atfunion.org\)](http://atfunion.org)

You can contact [teacherevaluation@aps.edu](mailto:teacherevaluation@aps.edu) with questions and look to the [APS Educator Evaluation Resources](#) Google site (APS login required) for support information as well.

Stay tuned. We will share more information as we get it.

## Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME
9/6	Labor Day Picnic @ Balloon Fiesta Park	11am-2pm
9/7	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm
9/8	<a href="#">Dossier Overview</a>	4:30-7:00pm
9/11	<a href="#">Students in the Center Mini-Conference</a>	9am-12pm
9/14	<a href="#">Students in the Center</a>	4:30 pm-5:30pm
9/14	Professional Workday Pilot Meeting @ Berna Facio	4:15-6:00pm
9/16	<a href="#">ATF National Board Informational Meeting</a>	4:30pm-6:00pm
9/23	<a href="#">CPS Overview</a>	4:30pm-6:30pm
9/30	<a href="#">Students in the Center</a>	
10/2	<a href="#">National Board Foundations Class</a>	8:30am-12:00pm
10/5	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm

*\*\* All events and classes will be held at the ATF Office unless otherwise noted.*