

MOTION TO EXTEND REMOTE LEARNING UNTIL, AT LEAST, THE END OF THE FIRST SEMESTER OF SY 20-21

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WHEREAS, educators in the Albuquerque Teachers Federation (ATF) Bargaining Unit are aware that remote learning can never adequately replace the benefits of the in-person educational experience, but we find ourselves in an unprecedented pandemic;

WHEREAS, larger school districts such as Los Angeles Unified and San Diego Unified have already committed to online learning for the entirety of the first semester of the school year;

WHEREAS, funding from the 2020 New Mexico Special Legislative Session was not adequate to meet the demands of hybrid learning;

WHEREAS, educators are doubtful of the feasibility of hybrid learning as described in both the NM Public Education Department (PED) and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Reentry plans and we do not believe the district will be ready to safely open schools for in-person learning in September;

WHEREAS, our school grounds are not prepared to safely support a return to in-person learning (HVAC is lacking, proper ventilation with windows that open, etc.);

WHEREAS, electrical outlets to charge devices are not equally distributed throughout our classrooms;

WHEREAS, our schools do not have deep cleaning systems in place nor the personnel to conduct the deep cleaning due to a shortage of classified employees such as custodians, cafeteria workers, educational assistants, secretaries, clerks, and transportation workers;

WHEREAS, classrooms are not equipped with sanitizing stations and some schools do not have fully functioning restrooms with hot water;

WHEREAS, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has not arrived at school sites;

WHEREAS, all school staff need the stability of knowing that we can use remote learning all semester and have time to plan accordingly;

WHEREAS, our communities need the stability of knowing that we will be in remote learning all semester;

WHEREAS, Essential and Related Service Educators stand poised to integrate IEP services into general and special education virtual classrooms;

WHEREAS, childcare options for children of school staff are not set up to support hybrid learning;

WHEREAS, childcare options for children in our community are not set up to support hybrid learning;

WHEREAS, the continuous focus on the nuisances of the hybrid model is increasing anxiety levels of staff, students, and community;

WHEREAS, educators should not be forced to choose between our livelihood and our lives;

WHEREAS, incessant discussion of hybrid learning is distracting educators from planning for remote learning;

WHEREAS, the NM Department of Health (DOH) data and projections do not suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic will be under control by Labor Day, and the curve is projected to rise in the Fall;

WHEREAS, hundreds of APS educators have already applied for ADA accommodations and Remote Learning Accommodations for any prospective hybrid learning due to the prevalence of high risk factors among staff and high risk factors of individuals who live with APS staff;

WHEREAS, thousands of APS staff have filled out paperwork to Work from Home during remote learning due to health concerns and a lack of adequate childcare;

WHEREAS, 13% (over 1 out of 8) of APS certified educators are over the age of 60 and, thus, considered high risk;

WHEREAS, 96% of ATF members agreed that schools were not ready to open in a hybrid model until, at least, after Labor Day, and subsequent polling on educators' questions and concerns regarding the COVID-19 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING still bespeak of the grave misgivings about our district's readiness to move to hybrid learning in September;

WHEREAS, scientists are learning more everyday about the negative long-term effects of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, it is not worth the health and/or life of one student or one educator or their family members to rush a transition toward hybrid learning for the sake of easing political pressure to re-open;

WHEREAS, over 200 of our American Federation of Teachers union siblings have already died from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the trauma faced by students during the pandemic has exacerbated educators' need to focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL);

WHEREAS, our experience with online learning in March-May shined a light on the glaring inequities of access to the internet across our city, state, and nation;

WHEREAS, APS educators doubt that the district administration is aware of the grim realities facing our school staffs who will be plunged into a cauldron of contagion if we return to in-person learning before it is safe;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the leadership and membership of ATF will lobby the APS Board of Education to postpone reopening APS schools for in-person learning until at least January 1st and only then if the number of confirmed cases is under control as suggested by NM DOH and CDC data;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the leadership and membership of the ATF will work with the administration of APS to allow staff to work from home during the hybrid model and stay at their home schools and will assist the APS administration with creative solutions about how that might be accomplished;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATF will initiate ATF Project Equal Access to help families in need to obtain internet access, thereby pushing APS, the City of Albuquerque, and the State of New Mexico to ensure that all students have access to the internet as a basic utility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATF will continue our call that classified employees receive a living wage with starting pay of at least \$15/hour;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATF will recommit to standing with essential workers across Bernalillo County and New Mexico to fight for earned paid sick leave;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATF will lead the district in the implementation of Social Emotional Learning through our initiative, ATF: Students in the Center;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATF calls for establishment of a democratically elected Workers' Council, with representatives from each of the Bargaining Units in APS, who will share access to the Board of Education with APS Administration so that Board members may be informed of the realities faced by practitioners.