



**Lowell Joint
School District**



A Tradition of Excellence Since 1906

"Home of Scholars and Champions"

LETTER OF ATTESTATION
November 2, 2020

The Lowell Joint School District (LJSD) is blessed to have a very strong collaborative working relationship with our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Lowell Joint Teachers Association (LJEA) and the Lowell Joint Classified Association (CSEA Chapter 294). The culture of LJSD is one of continual open communication throughout each school year and our current situation of COVID-19 has only strengthened this process.

Once the COVID-19 crisis began, LJSD immediately formed a Strategic Planning Team/Task Force to help provide input and recommendations as we carefully navigated these unprecedented challenges. The Team continues to meet currently and will continue to meet throughout the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. As you can see the Team includes multiple representatives for both labor associations, all site principals, and additional key leaders within the district. In fact, this list includes all district level leaders. The Strategic Planning Team designed and continues to update our ["Return to School Adaptable Plan Continuum"](#) that is available on our website (www.ljسد.org).

The Board of Trustees are updated and continue to provide vision and approval throughout each phase of our planning and implementation. The ["Return to School Adaptable Plan Continuum"](#), [Distance Learning Plan](#), and [Re-opening/Hybrid Model](#) have all been developed with the input of the Strategic Planning Team and then adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees.

In order to support the on-going open communication, we have also hosted multiple informational question-and-answer meetings with both labor association's Executive Boards and will continue to do so as needed:

Lowell Joint - CSEA Chapter 294 Classified Association Executive Board Q&A
July 14
Oct. 9

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Lowell Joint Educational Teacher's Association Executive Board Q&A
June 19
July 13
Sept. 1

Strategic Planning Team/Task Force					
Jun. 2	Jul. 14	Sept. 24	Nov. 12		
Jun. 4	Aug. 19	Oct. 5	Dec. 2		
Jun. 9	Sept. 2	Oct. 27	Dec. 16		
Members of the Team:				total	20
Principal from each school					6
Teacher Association President					1
Teacher Assoc. E.-Board member					1
Classified Assoc. President					1
Asst. Supt. of Facilities					1
Asst. Supt. of Business Services					1
Asst. Supt. of Ed Services					1
Additional Teacher Representatives					3
Director of Ed. Services					1
Director of Special Education					1
Classified Assoc. Rep. - Office Manager					1
District Nurse					1
Superintendent of Schools					1

Superintendent of Schools: Jim Coombs

Board of Trustees: Fred W. Schambeck, William A. Hinz, Melissa A. Salinas, Anastasia M. Shackelford, Karen L. Shaw

We also hosted multiple negotiation sessions as we worked collaboratively to draft COVID-19 Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with each association:

Lowell Joint - CSEA Chapter 294 Classified Association Negotiations			
	Aug. 14	Sept. 16	
	Aug. 17		

Lowell Joint Educational Association (LJEA) Teacher's Association Negotiations				
	Jul. 22	Oct. 14	Nov. 10	
	Aug. 3	Oct. 21		

We are currently operating under the completed and signed MOU's for both labor associations. Final work is being completed on the second and final Hybrid/MOU for the LJEA teacher's association.

As we have shared, we have been blessed to work collaboratively with our Parent Teachers Association (PTA) and host bi-monthly informational meetings where we are able to provide extensive information, gather input, and provide question-and-answer sessions that last 2-3 hours each meeting. Each school brings multiple representatives as well as our regional PTA Council members are included.

Parent Teacher Association Representative Council for all LJSJ Schools			
Jun. 18	Aug. 6	Sept. 24	Nov. 12
July 9	Aug. 27	Oct. 8	Dec. 3
July 23	Sept. 10	Oct. 22	Dec. 17

In order to assure that all Lowell Joint Families and Staff are kept up-to-date and provide them the opportunity to share their input, we have sent out regular Healthy Family Newsletters that are similar, yet customized for the LJSJ Families and LJSJ Staff.

Healthy Family Newsletter to all Families				
Mar. 5	Apr. 2	June 22	Sept. 4	Dec. 4
Mar. 12	Apr. 10	July 15	Sept. 18	Dec. 18
Mar. 13	Apr. 17	July 23	Oct. 9	Jan. 8
Mar. 18	May 1	Aug. 7	Oct. 23	Jan. 22
Mar. 31	June 11	Aug. 21	Nov. 13	Feb. 5

Healthy Family Newsletter to all Staff				
Mar. 5	Apr. 2	June 22	Sept. 4	Dec. 4
Mar. 12	Apr. 10	July 15	Sept. 18	Dec. 18
Mar. 13	Apr. 17	July 23	Oct. 9	Jan. 8
Mar. 18	May 1	Aug. 7	Oct. 23	Jan. 22
Mar. 31	June 11	Aug. 21	Nov. 13	Feb. 5

These are also available on our LJSJ website – ([Healthy Family Newsletters](#)).

The Lowell Joint Team continues to work diligently to assure all stakeholders are both informed and engaged as we walk together through this journey. We are confident that LJSJ will not just survive or succeed through these unprecedented challenges, but **exceed** in spite of them.

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A historical timeline leading up to the start of the 2020-2021 school year is attached as a reference.

Historical Summary:

Coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a respiratory illness that was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in 2019 caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020. On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a "state of emergency" to help prepare for the spread of the virus. Timeline of events for Lowell Joint School District:

- March 4, 2020 – Public health emergency declared in Los Angeles County.
- March 6, 2020 – Los Angeles County Dept. of Education holds first teleconference with all county superintendents.
- March 9, 2020 – First Healthy Families Update published and distributed.
- March 12, 2020 – Board of Trustees authorized the closing of schools and transition to distance-learning.
- March 12, 2020 – Emergency meeting to discuss closure of schools: Instructional Cabinet, LJEA President, CSEA President.
- March 13, 2020 – LACOE Superintendent issues a recommendation for closure of all schools.
- March 13, 2020 – Public announcement that LJSD would transition to distance learning until at least March 27, 2020 with school resuming March 30, 2020.
- March 18, 2020 – Staff began providing distance-learning for all students.
- March 19, 2020 – Governor Newsom issues stay-at-home order for State of California.
- March 19, 2020 – Board of Trustees authorized the extension of school closures in compliance with Governor's Executive Order.
- March 20, 2020 – Public announcement that in compliance with the Governor's executive order, LJSD closure of schools and continued distance-learning would be extended through the close of the 2019/2020 school year.
- April 6, 2020 – Board of Trustees formal action (ratification) for closure of school due to COVID-19 and in compliance with Governor's Executive Order. Authorization for superintendent to take all necessary actions on behalf of the Board.
- April 27, 2020 – Initial meeting for the re-opening of Schools for 2020/2021 (Instructional Leadership Team). Additional meetings: May 4, May 11, May 18, May 26.
- April 29, 2020 – LACOE forms Task Force for re-opening of Schools for 2020/2021. LJSD served as a member.

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Board of Trustees: Fred W. Schambeck, William A. Hinz, Melissa A. Salinas, Anastasia M. Shackelford, Karen L. Shaw

- May 27, 2020 – LACOE Task Force publishes version #1 of LACOE Planning Framework for 2020/2021 School Year re-opening.
- June 2, 2020 – Initial meeting of the Strategic Planning Team for the re-opening of schools and development of the 2020/2021 Return to Schools Adaptable Continuum. (LJEA President, CSEA President, all Principals, and Instructional Cabinet). Additional meetings: June 4, June 9, July 14 & 15, August 19, September 2.
- June 4, 2020 – Open of School Stakeholder Surveys. Parent versions and staff versions.
- June 22, 2020 – Board of Trustees approves 2020/2021 Return to School Adaptable Continuum.
- July 13, 2020 – Governor Newsom returns California to Phase 2; thereby, closing schools in 31 counties for the start of the 2020/2021 school year.
- July 17, 2020 – Public announcement that LJSD would begin the 2020/2021 in full-distance learning in compliance with July 13th Governor’s Executive order.
- July 20, 2020 – LJSD Town Hall Zoom meeting.
- August 10, 2020 – Board of Trustees approves and ratifies revised 2020/2021 Return to School Adaptable Continuum and 2020/21 Distance-Learning Plan (TK-6 and 7-8).
- August 27, 2020 – Governor Newsom introduces a new State COVID-19 re-opening Color Coded System/Structure, which extends the closure of schools in counties that are under monitor.
- PTA Rep Council - individual Zoom Bi-Weekly zoom meetings starting June 11, 2020.
- LJEA Association Exec. Board - individual Zoom meetings: June 19, July 13, Sept. 1.
- CSEA Association Exec. Board – individual in-person meeting July 14.