VESPA

Ventura Education Support Professionals Association

January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year! And happy second semester from the VESPA team. We hope everyone got some rest and recharge because the time ahead will be busy.

Classified employees were sent a letter from the school district with employment dates to indicate seniority. Certificated staff receive these letters annually. This year was the first year classified received them. VESPA believes this is to streamline the upcoming potential round of layoff notices. Last year, there were many discrepancies with the dates that added to the trauma of the reductions in staff. So please, review the dates and inform Human Resources of any discrepancies. Next, pay close attention to language coming from the district. Reduction Resolution = layoffs (reduction in force). The school district needs to reduce their budget deficit. They are operating at an $11 million deficit (over a span of years). If your position is paid through a site specific fund, expect a potential reduction notice.

What can we do? SHOW UP at school board meetings. Show your face. Remind school board members that actual humans educate students. SPEAK UP. Stress the importance of SAFETY in the work you do with students. The pillars of education that the district and the unions are highlighting are: Learning, Opportunity, Safety. We can't say enough about how important it is to be visible at school board meetings. Show up, be visible, wear RED, hold signs.

The next VUSD School Board meeting: Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 pm. Expect/plan for a 2 minute time frame for public comments.

Negotiations are underway with the VESPA team right now. The team is focusing on language (for lay offs) currently. On January 15th, VUEA will join the negotiations and focus on Total Compensation which includes health insurance. Wear red on negotiation days.

January 5th was an In Service Day. Classified staff was invited to participate and get paid. Fill out yellow time sheets for the trainings. The need for more Paraeducator meetings was reinforced. Look for announcements of those forthcoming meetings. Also, please review the updated Paraeducator II job description. It was recently updated. Reminder: ALL paras need NCPI training.

VESPA Directors have been updating school site bulletin boards to inform members.

Professional Development information is in Article 41 of the contract (p 80-84) spells out everything about professional growth/development. Submit certificates of completion with hours and dates immediately and no later than June 30th of the school year to the Professional Growth Committee. You must be on paid status (Not on leave) to be eligible.

Next VUSD School Board Meeting:	January 13 at 6:00 PM.
Next Personnel Commission Meeting:	January 21 at 4:30 PM at ESC.
The next VESPA meeting: Wednesday,	February 4 at 5:00 PM.

Check your personal email for Zoom link.

Ventura Educational Support Professionals Association

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