

September 10, 2021

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Re: Board of Education Meeting September 14 and District Newsletter

Good morning LTUSD community,

We thank those of you who sent in emails in response to our last communication regarding the timeline for opening school. Please know that opening our school sites safely and getting back to routine and a sense of normalcy for all of our students and families is our highest priority.

The District continues to monitor the current fire and evacuation notices. With current Red Flag conditions, and the possibility of thunderstorms in our area, our thoughts and prayers remain with the firefighters and agencies working diligently to contain the fire. It is the hope that after this weekend that good news will come in the form of an evacuation downgrade in the remaining mandatory evacuation areas of Christmas Valley and North Upper Truckee.

Full containment is anticipated as September 27, 2021 at this time. With that timeframe, and with the continued evacuation status downgrades to "Warning" in many areas, the District is considering re-evaluation of its school opening criteria. Per our recent communication, we stated that we will not start school until three days after all evacuations have lifted. However, given the number of days we are seeing the city remain under "Warning" status, with no anticipation at this time of that being lifted entirely, we must assume that the "rolling" designation of "warning" will apply to the remaining neighborhoods once they are downgraded, while fire agencies work to clean up burn areas, watch for hotspots, and repair roads and utilities.

With the assistance of our partnering agencies, and primarily the fire incident command personnel, the District may be considering starting school and athletics activities even if we have areas of the District still under evacuation warning. **We would only consider this if we have assurances of safety for all of our students and staff.** Please know that no matter the decision, we will still provide time for families to travel home, settle, and get prepared for the first day of school.

This week the District's custodial, grounds maintenance, and transportation staff have begun the process of cleaning schools and replacing air filters in preparation of reoccupying school sites. We are contracting with professionals to test and ensure air quality and safety of all classrooms and work spaces. We are extremely appreciative of the hard work everyone is doing to get our children back to school and **we will provide an update to families on Monday, September 13.**

Here are links to fire updates and resources:

- El Dorado County Caldor Fire Information: <https://www.edcgov.us/Pages/Caldor-Fire.aspx>
- [El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Evacuation Map](#)

- Inciweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7801/
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/eldoradonf
- Twitter: twitter.com/EldoradoNF
- Wildfire Cameras: www.alertwildfire.org/tahoe/
- [Wildfire Situational Awareness Dashboard](#)

As evacuation areas continue to be lifted, we wish you a safe return to your homes,

Dr. Todd Cutler, Superintendent
Education Services Team

SCHOOL SITES REMAIN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING WARNING AND/OR MANDATORY EVACUATION STATUS. Until further notice, please conduct all communications with school site personnel via email and phone. Please be patient awaiting replies as several staff members have not yet returned to work or home. You can also direct questions and comments to info@ltusd.org.

Visit with the Superintendent is scheduled for September 13, 2021 and will be conducted virtually. Dr. Todd Cutler looks forward to answering any questions from families and students and provide an update on school opening. We hope you will calendar this regular event and join us whenever possible. Typically this visit is scheduled in person at the District Office but due to current evacuation orders this **meeting will be streamed here via Zoom for all participants** as well as viewable on the **District's YouTube channel "LTUSD Meetings."**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:

A Regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm Tuesday, September 14 (with Closed Session at 5:00pm) Here is a link to the full agenda. (Click on 9/14/21 in the right column.) The summary agenda is attached. The Boardroom is now able to accommodate up to 25 observers and is planned to be held in-person at this time. Should there be any **mandatory evacuation orders in effect** within district boundaries at the time of the meeting, the meeting will be canceled and rescheduled. The meeting can also be observed **via this YouTube link.** **Please note that pursuant to California Department of Public Health, masks are required by all individuals attending the School Board meeting in person. If you attend the meeting and plan to not wear a mask, we invite you to view the meeting via YouTube. If you are planning to attend and give public comment, and plan to not wear a mask, please send your comment in writing to info@ltusd.org before 4pm on the meeting date and your comment will be read into the record.**

EDUCATION BENEFIT FORM: Every student who is under a certain income, learning English, or in foster care generates 20% more funding for our schools. In LTUSD these dollars are given to each school to increase or improve services for these students. Completing the Education Benefit Form ensures your school receives all available funds. Please **fill out the form here** - it only takes a few minutes and ***everyone that fills out the application, whether you qualify or not, automatically receives 50%***

off their [Chromebook insurance](#)! Be sure to write or print your confirmation number to submit with your Chromebook insurance document.

LTUSD is HIRING! Speech Language Pathologist, Instructional Assistants, Custodians, Cafeteria Assistant, Substitute Teachers, Nordic and Girls' Basketball Coaches, and more! [Link to employment opportunities...](#)

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE - Parents or guardians can enroll in Student Insurance through LTUSD's affiliate provider, Special Markets Insurance Consultants, Inc. Available plans include School Time Accident Only; 24-Hour Accident Only; Interscholastic Sports; and 24-hour Dental. **Please see attached flyer for more information.**

VIRTUAL CALM ROOM: Lake Tahoe Unified School District wants to encourage students, families, and staff to engage in practices that promote emotional well-being, self care, and help-seeking behaviors. The [Virtual Calming Room](#) is a place to find tools and strategies for managing feelings and building resilience. There are also links for national, community, and school-based support and resources. Enjoy!

IN THE COMMUNITY

Free Farmers Market - Food Bank of El Dorado County - Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 from 10am - 11am. We are looking forward to seeing the community come together for our last Farmers Market of the Season. Join us! St. Theresa's/Bread and Broth, 1041 Lyons Avenue, South Lake Tahoe.

Update: Barton Reopens Emergency Services: Effective immediately, community members can receive treatment at Barton Emergency Department including advanced life support services for emergency needs. Emergency imaging and laboratory services are available. **See attached...**

Mobile Consulate of Mexico in South Lake Tahoe Sept. 25 at Bijou Community School from 8:30am - 2:00pm by Appointment only - (877) 639-4835. Assistance with passport, consular registration, voting registration.

GET VACCINATED - COVID-19 Vaccines are available for everyone 12 years of age and older. Vaccines are free regardless of your health insurance status. All currently authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and proven to reduce your risk of severe illness. Contact El Dorado County Public Health at (530) 295-4101 or go to www.myturn.ca.gov to schedule your vaccine appointment.

Updated Food Assistance Resources List in English & Spanish - This list contains local resources, addresses, and schedules for free food pick ups and delivery sites. Please share with anyone you know that is in need.

LTUSD's COVID-19 Resource pages - Includes links to information and resources for families and students; links to flyers regarding coronavirus and [what to do if your child has symptoms](#); and links to [LTUSD Community Resources Page](#) .

EDC Community Hubs, staffed with family engagement, literacy and health specialists, work to strengthen families and reduce isolation and stress. They can help with resource referrals and various social services applications as well. EDC Hub5 also maintains a Facebook group where it shares resources, information, parenting advice and activities: www.facebook.com/CommunityHub5/.

UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra **If your family, your neighbors, or anyone you know is in need of food, assistance is available!** Links to information about all Central Sierra food banks, WIC agencies, school meal sites, senior meals, how to **sign up for CalFresh/food stamps**, food safety, home cooking, home-based activities for families, and more are available on the following webpage, which will be regularly updated until the end of the crisis: **COVID-19 Community Resources**.
LOCAL AND REGIONAL EDUCATION NEWS:

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Delivers Donations and Meets with Educational Leaders Affected by the Caldor Fire – CDE Press Release - Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, joined El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ed Manansala while visiting several locations in El Dorado County to learn about the impacts of the Caldor Fire on schools...
“Superintendent Thurmond’s visit was significant and highlights the intense situations our leaders and educators are managing,” said Dr. Manansala. “We look forward to continuing to collaborate with him and the California Department of Education to support the schools and students of El Dorado County.”

“CA Kids Fire Relief” Launched to Support Rural Schools Devastated by Wildfires – Tahoe Daily Tribune Windfall Magazine (attached) - Wildfires are ravaging California’s rural communities, displacing countless families and affecting dozens of small schools and school districts. The fires have destroyed schools, forced campuses to close, and rendered many families homeless—just as students were returning for in-person learning.

Distinguished Alumni: Education leader Ed Manansala's passion for service was honed as a Hornet – CSUS Alumni Association - From the time Ed Manansala was young, his parents instilled in him and his sisters the importance of community service. His passion was to work with at-risk youth someday. After graduating from Sacramento State with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, Manansala moved to Oak Park, at the time often beset by gangs and drugs, to mentor young people and coach youth basketball.

El Dorado County fair canceled again – Mountain Democrat - The El Dorado County Fair, pushed from June to September by COVID-19 after being canceled last year by the bug, has this year been called off due to the Caldor Fire.

Links to your school sites and more local education news:

LTUSD Website

[South Tahoe High School](#)

[South Tahoe Middle School](#)

[Bijou Community School](#)

[Tahoe Valley Elementary](#)

[Sierra House Elementary](#)

[Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet](#)

[Elevated Digital Learning Academy](#)

[LOCAL EDUCATION NEWS](#)

[DISTRICT CALENDARS](#)

[DISTRICT NEWSLETTERS](#)

[COVID-19 FLYERS, SELF-SCREENING FORMS, HANDOUTS](#)

Grateful and hopeful!

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LTUSD'S VISION: Discover and foster the unique talents and potential of all students.