

The Voice

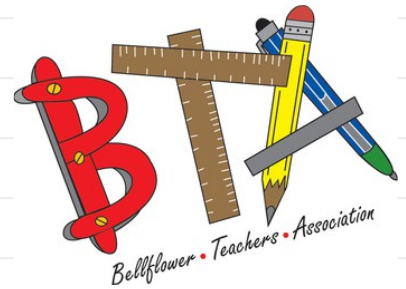
Bellflower Teachers Association

September 2024

From the President

Hello Members,

I hope the new school year is treating you well. A lot has been happening and more is on the way! I would like to say that I know those of you who attended any of the summer planning days or trainings did not get paid on either of the September paychecks. I spoke to the board, and the district and if you watched Thursday's board meeting, I addressed it there as well. The district has assured me that we will be paid on the October pay check.



Here are some of the things happening:

- BTA met with the deputy superintendent, Dr. Smith about **insurance**. While we know the cost is increasing the district has agreed to help offset the cost. Please see the Bargaining Update below.
- BTA is meeting on Friday, September 13 regarding **IEP meetings** and we hope to come to an agreement that includes following the contract language Article XIII, Section C. 1&2. If you have attended an IEP this school year outside of your work day, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/obQHDa81Z1r5RmwVA>
- BTA has two **bargaining** dates in September 16 & 17 and one on October 4.

The board meetings have been eventful as the board did not get enough votes to get a bond on the November 2024 ballot. The board meeting last Thursday was eye opening on the district's unaudited actuals for 2023-2024. Mayfair and Bellflower's student representatives were sworn in for the year.

I have been meeting with all of the site principals, I still have a few more sites to visit. I have been addressing any concerns that came up at rep council, making sure they have a copy of the contract, and sharing the No Meeting Calendar (attached below for your reference).

BTA wants your pictures! Please send pictures of your teachers on campus. I use them in the newsletter and now the board presentation. School Spirit wear, Dress Up days, Special events. Teachers only please. Email them or text them voiceofBTA@gmail.com or (562) 525-4557.

Stronger Together,
Kari M.
BTA President



Bargaining Update 8-28-24.pdf

[Download](#)
271.7 KB



**2023-2024 Unaudited Actuals Presentation_8896273ufculqm
yzu4pwbre1bxgd5y.pdf**

[Download](#)
289.2 KB



No meeting Calendar (24-25) .pdf

[Download](#)
53.9 KB



2024-2025 Attendance Calendar FINAL.pdf

[Download](#)
559.4 KB

School Board Endorsement Update

- Dan fong and a group of teachers met Saturday (8/24) at the Union office
- They interviewed the 3 people (Dan Buffington, Maurina Cintron, Gregory Johnson) running for school board from district 3
- After considerate thought BTA will be endorsing Maurina Cintron from district 3 due to her student focused agenda
- BTA will also endorse Myra Garza from district 4
- We will need everyone's help to get Maurina Cintron on the board with hours of canvassing. Please help and walk any hours you can on Oct 5, and Oct 12th. More info to follow.

District 3

Dan Buffington

Gregory Johnson

Maurina Cintron

While all candidates had their strengths, Maurina was the panel's unanimous choice to represent District 3 due to her emphasis on: student-based decision making, transparency, recruiting and hiring of quality personnel, stakeholder collaboration, and union support and involvement.

District 4

Mayra Garza

Mayra continues to: focus on and communicate with stakeholders, display knowledge of district operations, encourage district transparency and legal compliance, hold the district accountable for its actions or inaction, and listen to, speak out on, and address teacher concerns.

Did you know?

Schools First Summer Saver

Did you know that you can put up to \$2,000 a month in your summer saver? Schools First is currently offering 6.5% on their summer saver. The nice thing about it is that you can access the money if you need to at any time, but if you don't that interest can rack up!

Click the link below for more information

<https://www.schoolsfirstfcu.org/products/just-for-school-employees/savings/summer-saver/>

CTA Teacher Resources / Conferences

BTA Wants to Offer CTA PD

Please fill out this survey form if you are interested in attending a CTA Professional Development at the BTA office. We will work on planning them once we get enough interest. Use this link:

<https://forms.gle/XHYn3DQUBRj7UEff9>

CTA Conferences

- **CTA Conferences** - Please fill out a conference request if you are interested in attending any conferences. I will reach out with registration information. Please use this form:

<https://forms.gle/Zzbpswv193mZvK369>

First CTA Conference of the Year:

September 27-29, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove, CA. See the link below.



2024 Special Education Conference

The California Teachers Association (CTA) is committed to ensuring that all attendees of its conferences and meetings have equal access and opportunity to participate in these events. CTA recognizes that some attendees with disabilities may require the assistance of animals for various reasons.

cta.org

Classroom Resources

Inspiring our students and leading our profession. If you're looking for classroom resources for educators by educators, you came to the right place!

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/classroom-resources>

Member Benefits



MB-Poster-24-25.pdf

[Download](#)

3.8 MB

Thinking About Retirement?

BTA strongly encourages you to check your Cal STRS report each year for accuracy and contact the district office immediately if there are any discrepancies.

<https://www.calstrs.com/>

CTA Retirement Workshops

- It's always nice to find out how the system is working and to plan for our futures. Click on the flyer below to make an appointment and attend a retirement workshop.



_2024-25 Retirement Trainings Flyer.pdf

[Download](#)

213.1 KB

Below is the PDF explaining retirement benefits. Please note: for the insurance cash out option you must be enrolled in the district medical plan for at least your last year of teaching. If you are on the opt out plan you will continue to get what you are eligible for, but there is no cash out option.



Things to Note

New Laws for this School Year

- **RECESS LAW** -
 - Starting in the 2024-25 school year, recess provided by a public school must meet the following requirement under new Education Code section 49056:
 - Pupils cannot be denied recess, unless participating in recess poses an immediate threat to their own safety or the safety of peers. This new requirement is intended to ensure schools do not take away recess as a form of punishment or student discipline, which was previously allowed.
 - Recess must be held outdoors whenever weather and air quality permits.
 - **SAFETY LAW** - This law sounds like it will help to stop, or start in stopping, many of the issues we have been dealing with over the last couple of years. There are several parts that are very important. I encourage everyone to read the [actual Bill AB553 - HERE](#) or check out a more cliff notes version.
 - Some of the most important parts are:
 - Each district **MUST** create a safety team at the district level, they must also have a plan and a way to document all threats of violence -the law defines workplace violence as “any act of violence or threat of violence that occurs in the place of employment,” and includes a “threat or use of physical force against an employee that results in, or has the high likelihood of resulting in, injury, psychological trauma, or stress, regardless of whether the employee sustains an injury.”
 - SB553 specifically includes within its definition of workplace violence acts directed at employees by...those receiving services, such as customers, visitors, or students.
 - Your safety records on site must be done by a committee on site.
 - You must also be trained, review and change the site safety plans yearly. Everyone must know what is expected and what happens in case of any threat.
 - This new law dovetails with Education Code Section 32281 (A) which requires all TK through 12 grade schools...to develop and maintain a CSSP to address campus risks, prepare for emergencies, and create a safe, secure learning environment for students and school personnel. These annually revised plans must address the prevention and response to potential incidents, including acts of violence, bullying and cyberbullying, and related discipline, suspension and expulsion.

2024-2025 BTA Dues / Taxes Schedule

Please see the PDFs below for the dues and taxes information.



2024-25 dues schedule.pdf

[Download](#)

600.7 KB

Pay Scales

You can find the new pay scales on the Business Plus site and also on our website bellflowerteachers.com.

Know Your Executive Board



BTA Executive Board 2024-2025.docx-2.pdf

[Download](#)

619.7 KB

Know Your Teacher Rights

CTA members have the legal right to a safe and healthy workplace. A mini-guide to teacher's rights was placed in your teacher mailbox for your reference and review, but if you missed it or didn't get one, the link is below for you to visit and bookmark.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/your-rights>

Know Your Ed Code

When can you suspend a student? What are your rights as a teacher? Check out this PDF!

<https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-education-code/title-2-elementary-and-secondary-education/division-4-instruction-and-services/part-27-pupils/chapter-6-pupil-rights-and-responsibilities/article-1-suspension-or-expulsion/section-48910-suspension-of-pupil-from-class-by-teacher>

Contract Focus - Leave of Absence

If you have questions about Leave of Absence you can find - Article XI - Leaves of Absence on pages 33-44 of the contract.

Know Your Contract

www.bellflowerteachers.com has the most updated contract PDFs for your reference.

<https://bellflowerteachers.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2022-BTA-Contract-FINAL-for-printing.pdf>

Have you joined PTA?

Did you know that you can still join PTA and support your school? PTA does a lot of great things for our kids, and teachers too, so if you haven't joined, please do!

Get the Calm App for Free with CTA!

Free subscription to CTA members. To access your free subscription, you will need to log into the CTA Member Benefits site, <https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Life-Events/Calm>. This link will take you to our Calm site and you will follow the instructions on the page to create your Calm account. You will need your CTA member ID, if you do not know your member ID, you can call Member Benefits at (650) 552-5200. They can also help create your Calm account. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Email your Board Members

Please reach out to the board members and let them know your concerns, invite them to your classrooms, share the exciting things going on at your site.

Brad Carihfield (President) bradcarihfield@busd.k12.ca.us

Amie Stewart (Vice President) amiestewart@busd.k12.ca.us

Mayra Garza (Clerk) mayragarza@busd.k12.ca.us

Renita Armstrong (Member) renitaarmstrong@busd.k12.ca.us

Sue ElHessen (Member) Selhessen@busd.k12.ca.us

Event Information

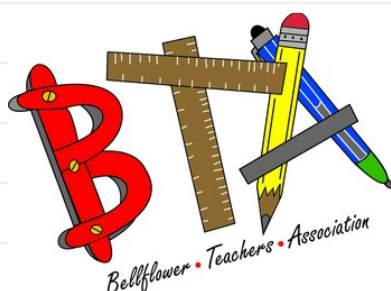
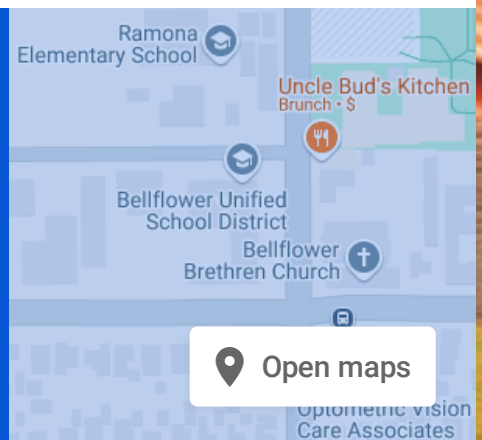
School Board Meeting

When?

Thursday, Sep 19, 2024, 06:00 PM

Where?

Bellflower Unified School District, Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA, USA



Bellflower Teachers Association

A CTA/ NEA Affiliate

Email: voiceofBTA@gmail.com

Website: www.bellflowerteachers.com

Location: [17434 Studebaker Road, Cerritos, CA, USA](https://www.google.com/maps/place/17434+Studebaker+Road,+Cerritos,+CA,+USA)

Phone: (562) 525-4557

Facebook: [Facebook.com/bellflowerteachers](https://www.facebook.com/bellflowerteachers)



Kari McDaniel

Kari is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

