



July 22, 2014

Katrina Abston
Head of Schools, California Virtual Academies
2360 Shasta Way, Unit A
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Dear Ms. Abston,

Last week, the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) made an official determination that the 750 teachers at California Virtual Academies (CAVA) demonstrated majority support for unionization. We welcome that news and ask you to abide by California law and respect our democratically made decision by recognizing our union.

We are committed to making CAVA better. While some of us are relatively new to CAVA, many of us have been here since the beginning. All of us are dedicated to our students and our profession. Over the years we have seen many changes at our schools as enrollment has grown and technology has transformed the way virtual education is conducted. Though some of those changes have been positive, we are concerned that many have had a negative impact on our students. Turnover for both teachers and students has increased. Less time is focused on instruction. Our students deserve more.

We believe the CAVA/K12 administration has an important opportunity to establish a collaborative relationship with front line educators here at our schools—a relationship where teachers and administration can work together to provide our students the best possible learning environment. Our intention in unionizing has always been to help our schools better serve California's kids. Now, as we begin the 2014/2015 school year, we ask you to take advantage of this opportunity and work with us.

We know you may be tempted to try to postpone certification of our union through legal delays. We understand that the law firm you hired has a long track record of utilizing such tactics. We ask that you avoid taking that expensive route and instead focus public resources where they belong—in our classrooms. Work with us, respect our democratic decision, and join us in making CAVA an even better place to teach and learn.

We look forward to cooperating with you to ensure CAVA's future success.

Sincerely,

CAVA Organizing Committee
California Virtual Educators United, CTA/NEA

Lourdes Almeida, High School Teacher
Amy Betten, K8 Teacher

Julianne Bran, K8 Teacher
Cara Bryant, High School Teacher

Kristin Bryant, High School Teacher
David Carrillo, High School Teacher
Linda Carson, High School Teacher
Mary Colleran, K8 Teacher
Maria Cottani, High School Teacher
Katelyn Cutchall, K8 Teacher
Stacey Millar de Barrios, High School Teacher
Kristi Dodson, High School Teacher
Erika Ebert, K8 Teacher
Melanie Encinas, High School Teacher
Cara Furman, High School Teacher
Cyndee Griffith, K8 Teacher
Jen Hobson, High School Teacher
Danielle Hodge, High School Teacher
Mark Holtebeck, High School Teacher
Katherine Hooper, K8 Teacher
Yvonne Huffaker, K8 Teacher
Jene James, High School Teacher
Victoria Jones, K8 Teacher
Brenda Katsandris, K8 Teacher
Julianne Knapp, K8 Teacher
John Lee, High School Teacher
Annabelle McBride, K8 Teacher
Margaret McBride, K8 Teacher
Terrasa McGuire, High School Teacher
Charlotte Mehl, K8 Teacher
DeAnn Meyers, High School Teacher
Jeannette Molina, High School Teacher
Jacklyn Powell, High School Teacher
Stacey Preach, High School Teacher
Maggie Pulley, K8 Teacher

Kristen Ross, High School Teacher
Debbie Scoltock, High School Teacher
Jodi Seyfarth, High School Teacher
James Sheldon, High School Teacher
Jennifer Shilen, High School Teacher
Jason Spadaro, High School Teacher
Janice Stark, High School Teacher
Shelby Sullivan, High School Teacher
Michelle Thornburg, High School Teacher
Susana Tolchard, High School Teacher
Sarah Vigrass, K8 Teacher
Kelly Walters, High School Teacher
Bonney Waters, High School Teacher
Michelle Whitney, High School Teacher
Raquel Wilkins, High School Teacher

Cc:

Nathaniel A. Davis, K12 CEO; Senator Darrell Steinberg, Senate President pro-Tem; Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins; Senator Ben Hueso, Chair of Senate Committee on Labor and Employment; Assembly Member Roger Hernandez, Chair of Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment; Assemblymember Das Williams; Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez; Assemblymember Phillip Ting; Assemblymember Susan Eggman, PhD.; Our CAVA Colleagues