NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Allison Steppes, Ed. D., UTP President
Phone: (626) 798 – 0928

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Teachers of Pasadena’s 900 members have participated in a special interest poll that asked the following question: **Do you agree with UTP’s Executive Board and Bargaining Team that Pasadena Unified School District should not physically reopen school campuses on August 17, 2020?** Ninety percent (90%) of our unit members agreed that it is not time to physically reopen schools.

Educators and children must teach and learn in conditions that are safe and healthy. The health and safety of our students and staff must take precedence when considering the physical reopening of school buildings. We know that students do their best when their health and safety are assured. Medical science and public health professionals must inform school districts on the conditions of health and safety necessary to reopen schools. Consequently, United Teachers of Pasadena believes that PUSD can best protect the health and safety of students and educators by not reopening schools to “in-person teaching” on August 17, 2020.

Our immediate focus must become to partner with Pasadena Unified School District to get ready for delivering the highest quality distance learning program that we can consistently provide to ensure learning and equity to meet all our students needs.

Most recently, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued Reopening Protocols for K – 12 Schools, that under particular conditions, could permit the reopening of schools to “in-person teaching”. However, the prevailing conditions speak to the current spike in Los Angeles County of COVID-19 cases, increased number of hospitalizations and increased number of deaths, thus making it too risky to endanger the lives of our students and employees by reopening schools. The Pasadena school community must regard students and the educators who work at our sites as human beings whose lives are valued.