Dear Clovis Unified Community,

For over 60 years, Clovis Unified educators have dedicated themselves to providing our community’s students with a first-class education. Through our hard work and unwavering determination to do what is best for ALL children, we have sustained the high standards our district is known for and have succeeded in educating the whole child - in mind, body and spirit. We are the people who cultivate students who will one day connect to and invest in their community as our fellow citizens. As Clovis educators, we know that it truly is “people, not programs,” because our daily interactions with students matter immensely and ensure that every kid “gets a fair break.”

We also know that change and innovation are necessary for us to remain true to our district’s core values and to maintain the excellence for which we are known. Through careful analysis and deliberation, we have identified areas for growth and improvement in our district, including, but not limited to, educator representation and inclusion in decision making, district transparency and communication, diversity in our representation, both in culture and in subject area, and productive dialogue and collaboration. The continued success of Clovis Unified, its students, and its educators depends upon our addressing these needs immediately and effectively. In order to play an integral role in effecting the changes we wish to see, we are establishing ACE, Association of Clovis Educators, a recognized community of teachers, psychologists, itinerant specialists, school counselors and other educational professionals.

We acknowledge that educators in our district hold varying opinions regarding unionization. Some are concerned that a union will make it difficult to remove ineffective teachers, cause budget strains, and create an “us vs. them” mentality on school campuses; some worry that teachers will stop putting students first. These attributes are not reflected in the spirit or design of our union. The members of ACE do not aim to work against the values or standards of Clovis Unified, but rather, to better support them. In order to do our important work as educators, we need to stay true to the roots of our traditions, but not let habits and stale systems hamper our commitment to innovation and accountability.

We believe our work requires a culture and structure that gives our diverse voices equal footing and decision-making power in the collaborative conversations among district stakeholders about issues that impact our students and our district as a whole. With opportunities for genuine dialogue, transparency, and inclusivity, we can advocate meaningfully for decisions that respect the unique perspectives we gain from our day-to-day interactions with our students, their families, and our community. In a decision-making climate where advocacy is welcomed as a positive catalyst for improving students’ educational experiences, we aim to uphold the important values on which our district was founded.

We are not abandoning our strong relationships with our district’s stakeholders; instead, we are offering a new path to create a truly unified district. We are proud to be Clovis educators, and we have created ACE because we want to see our schools, students, teachers, staff, and administrators thrive. To this end we have been organizing for several months. During this time, the district has become fully aware of our efforts and in response has begun producing discussions around bonuses and other incentives. These, and other recent gestures, reveal that our efforts to organize are making a positive difference. Going forward, we ask Clovis Unified to respect our legally protected, collective decision to unionize and to not exercise influence, interference or intimidation around our efforts, but instead, to work with us to make our district the best place in our nation to teach and to learn.
Sincerely,
ACE Organizing Committee

Amy Kilburn, Reyburn Intermediate
Kristin Heimerdinger, Buchanan High School
Tamara Soemali, Clovis Unified Psychologist
Mike Khus, Clovis East High School
Laura Andrew, Alta Sierra Intermediate
Kaylee Laub, Alta Sierra Intermediate
Shauna Everson, Alta Sierra Intermediate
Jeannette Pires, Clovis High School
Dan Dritz, Mountain View Elementary
Kevin Slater, Mountain View Elementary SPED
Mark Mushegan, Mountain View Elementary
Scott Garvis, Reyburn Intermediate
Donna K. Lutjens, Buchanan High School
Melissa Ferdinandsen, Clovis North HS
Korine Minyard, Kastner Intermediate
Steve Elsberry, Granite Ridge Intermediate
Silvia Berst, Boris Elementary
Laura Riley Buchanan High School
Amanda Ramirez, Tarpey Elementary
Jason Roche, Clovis East High School
Rosario Sánchez Mayoral, Clovis East High School
Adrian Cárdenas, Miramonte Elementary
Aimee Blackstock, Jefferson Elementary
Aneitra Davis, Reyburn Intermediate
Haylie Weakley, Weldon Elementary School SPED
Jennifer Appleby, Clovis High School
Katie Green, Clovis High School
Emily Johnson, Elementary Music Clovis High Area
Moira Harada, CART
Susan Currier- CART
Amy Scott, Elementary Music Clovis High Area
Stacey Taniguchi, Sierra Vista Elementary
Sarah Perkovich, Clovis High School
Susan Arkelian, Cole Elementary
Michele Niehoff, Gateway High School
Elizabeth Henderson, Maple Creek

Lynn Paape, Buchanan High School

Amy Munkers, Buchanan High School

Joel C. Abels, Clovis North High School

Janet Ryska, Clovis Unified School Psychologist

Andy Kilburn, Reagan Elementary

Laurel Hager, Kastner Intermediate

Ken Canales, Kastner Intermediate

Jenna Arkelian-Brown, Reyburn Intermediate

Scotland McGregor-Moore, Boris Elementary

Nancy Welch, Adult Transition Program

Anna Caper, Clovis East High School Teacher

Melissa Saunders, School Psychologist|Mental Health Support Provider

Jason Hamel, TK Elementary

Crystal Logue, Student Services and School Attendance

Paula Prendergast, Young Elementary teacher

Laura West, REC teacher

Linda Garía, Virginia Boris Elementary

Sara Murray, Virginia R. Boris Elementary

Suja George, School Psychologist

Vu Wagenlitner, Reagan Elementary

Barbara Kilburn, Miramonte Elementary

Tyler Akers, Clovis East High School

Nathan Pantoja, Reyburn Intermediate

Debbie Hawk, Red Bank

Lisa Scott, Red Bank

Suzanne Ruiz, Freedom Elementary

Elvira Frantz, school psychologist

Robert Prado Granite Ridge Intermediate

Amy Grannis, Granite Ridge Intermediate

Doug Crompton-Murray Dry Creek Elementary

Michael Perales - Buchanan High School

Peter Tragitt, Clovis High School

Leahne Rios-Reagan Elementary

LaShaye Leopold, Clovis North High School

Erin Prieto, Temperance Kutner Elementary

Suzanne Streeter, Buchanan High School