



Volusia United Educators Bargaining Update 8/25/2026

Instructional Bargaining Session

Today marks the start of negotiations for the 2025-26 school year. The VUE bargaining team met with the district to negotiate salary increases and language items. This year is a “reopener” year so each team is allowed to propose changes to salaries and two language items. There was a change of venue by the district to a smaller conference room. The reason given for the change in venue was the training room was being utilized for training on Tuesday morning and could not be set up in time for that training at the conclusion of the bargaining meeting. There were not enough chairs for guests of our bargaining team. At the start of Bargaining we had 18 members in the hall with all seats filled inside of the meeting room. The bargaining team was supported by 63 members and friends at the mid-point of the meeting.

We were also informed that the district attorney is transitioning away from bargaining “in an effort to remove something from his plate”. Finally, our VCS financial records request, submitted by VUE on Aug. 8th, was finally provided TODAY at noon.

Today, your VUE team brought forward the following Articles based upon the data we received from the bargaining survey.

Article 22: Leave Provisions- Your union is proposing changes that include adding paid maternity/paternity leave, paid bereavement leave, and the ability to transfer accrued sick leave to employees in the same bargaining unit outside of the Sick Leave Bank. Additionally, we are proposing a reduction in the increments of sick leave that can be used in a pay period from the initial draw of one-hour, to thirty minutes.

The district team asked to caucus after we presented Article 22. When we asked if they had a proposal to pass, they advised us that they did not. This is perplexing as the emails sent at the beginning of the month indicated that the district was ready to negotiate. We were left wondering what happened.

After Caucus the district passed-

Article 9 was given with the only change to remove your protections of no mandatory meetings during blackout weeks in lieu of allowing 2 teacher duty days staff may work remotely if certain conditions are met. Surprisingly NONE of these conditions were stated in a document that is binding and negotiated..

They did not counter article 22 because they wanted to check into some financial data.

After we concluded and were looking to schedule dates for the future bargaining meetings, our Chief Financial Officer attempted to undermine our statements by suggesting that the TSIA

money has been sent by the Legislature and it should be enough to negotiate your raise. He then went on to expand that he has provided all related information legally required by statute and that is all that is necessary to move forward. The funds sent by the Legislature would equal about \$18 per paycheck BEFORE Charter schools get their cut and taxes are taken. This is not acceptable and we will not agree to just the TSIA.

The next bargaining session is scheduled for **Tuesday September 2nd at 4:30pm at the VUE office**. The link to the video of today's bargaining session is [YouTube LIVE Steam LINK:](#)

Bargaining sessions are public meetings. We encourage each of you to engage in the work of your union by attending a bargaining session. This is YOUR CONTRACT, you have a right to participate in the process.

Solidarity,

Elizabeth Albert