WEBVTT

1

00:00:01.290 --> 00:00:16.139

Joel Berger (he/him): So i'm here with Alex caputo pearl of united teachers Los Angeles, and I was hoping, you could start by just telling us a little bit about your early life kind of your formative experiences and influences where you grew up.

2

00:00:17.430 --> 00:00:19.200

Joel Berger (he/him): If you could start with a little bit about that.

3

00:00:20.430 --> 00:00:21.360

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah sure.

4

00:00:22.980 --> 00:00:23.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

5

00:00:24.090 --> 00:00:31.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I was born in Michigan but my family quickly moved to Prince george's county Maryland and.

6

00:00:32.820 --> 00:00:39.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So I went to public school in Prince george's county Maryland, which is the county right between Washington DC and baltimore.

7

00:00:41.640 --> 00:00:42.210

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think.

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00:00:43.440 --> 00:00:45.450

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know middle class parents and.

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00:00:48.150 --> 00:01:01.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think some of my formative what would eventually become political shaping experiences were had to do with the desegregation orders that were in place in Maryland.

10

00:01:02.070 --> 00:01:20.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: At the time, that I was going to school and my parents were while they were not political radicals at all in fact they didn't didn't consider themselves political they wanted to do the right thing and they wanted to support public schools and they wanted to support.

11

00:01:21.420 --> 00:01:22.860

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: civil rights and so.

12

00:01:24.270 --> 00:01:27.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There was a very controversial time where.

13

00:01:28.590 --> 00:01:35.730

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Some white students were being bused closer into Washington DC to schools that were you know 80 or 90%.

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00:01:36.630 --> 00:01:48.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: black and you know, of course, there were white folks who didn't support that and who went to private schools and then instead of having to be a part of that my parents supported that and.

15

00:01:50.250 --> 00:01:58.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And we were bused to schools closer to DC you know heavily black and had a great educational experience.

16

00:02:00.030 --> 00:02:04.770

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The schools weren't perfect for sure the schools were lacking a lot, but in terms of.

17

00:02:05.790 --> 00:02:11.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Just really being able to operate at a very young age in.

18

00:02:12.300 --> 00:02:18.570

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: multi-racial context was was really, really, really very important to me and my brother.

19

00:02:19.680 --> 00:02:24.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So I would say that that's one of the one of the biggest shaping things in my early life.

20

00:02:27.060 --> 00:02:28.470

Joel Berger (he/him): that's that's fascinating.

21

00:02:29.520 --> 00:02:30.330

Joel Berger (he/him): And so what.

22

00:02:31.560 --> 00:02:46.470

Joel Berger (he/him): You know what did you go to college, for I saw you have you know, a BA in political science and then you went into urban planning so kind of what was your your thinking and in college and how was it that you ended up getting into teaching, given your path in college.

23

00:02:47.880 --> 00:02:48.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah I got.

24

00:02:49.080 --> 00:02:52.590

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I got you know in high school I got sort of like.

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00:02:53.610 --> 00:03:11.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: A little bit involved in racial justice work and and just because, like I said I was a part of you know multi-racial student environment than you know heavily black student population, so I got a little bit involved in racial justice oriented work, but not in any sort of.

26

00:03:12.750 --> 00:03:15.270

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: super focused way but.

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00:03:16.890 --> 00:03:36.450

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, and that sort of piqued my interest in social issues, I think, and sports were also really important in you know just the Multi racial aspects you get from playing basketball and football and other things that was really important, so when I went to college, I went to.

28

00:03:37.890 --> 00:03:49.470

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: To brown University in Rhode island and was because of those experiences in high school was a little bit you know attracted to sort of thinking about bigger social issues and.

29

00:03:51.000 --> 00:03:55.830

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think that the big the biggest things that happened for me in college were.

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00:03:57.660 --> 00:04:06.270

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: were probably three things one was I got involved in the peer counseling program which at Brown was.

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00:04:07.470 --> 00:04:17.430

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know I mean Brown is an elite institution that is you know messed up in many ways around you know racial structures economic structures.

32

00:04:18.480 --> 00:04:19.800

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: not admitting enough.

33

00:04:20.820 --> 00:04:32.790

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Black students low income students etc That said, there was a healthy activist Community there and I was able to get involved in the peer counseling program there.

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00:04:33.810 --> 00:04:36.180

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And the peer counseling program really focused on.

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00:04:37.290 --> 00:04:47.520

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: me it was good, in the sense that it was trying to be anti racist and trying to be so that was important for me in college did two other big things for me in college were.

36

00:04:49.200 --> 00:04:54.180

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: This was from 1986 to 1990 so was.

37

00:04:55.290 --> 00:05:03.450

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: involved in the in what ended up being the culminating years of the of the South Africa divestment.

38

00:05:04.980 --> 00:05:21.600

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: work, which was very, very important for me to you know be working you know under black student leadership in in that endeavor just as my development as a white man.

39

00:05:23.610 --> 00:05:24.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

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00:05:25.230 --> 00:05:27.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then the third big thing in college for me was.

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00:05:29.460 --> 00:05:41.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Getting very deeply involved in the Central American Solidarity movement that was the the at the time of the the Reagan interventions in El Salvador, Nicaragua etc and.

42

00:05:41.910 --> 00:05:55.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean, one of the things that completely changed my life was going to Nicaragua, in the summer of 1989, which was the last year of the 70s, to send any through revolution.

43

00:05:56.160 --> 00:06:02.670

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And being with a group that was helping to build schools in rural areas and just had a.

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00:06:03.780 --> 00:06:16.410

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Just a really I mean was able to make a contribution by helping a little bit and building schools, you know, in a socialist experiment country and in an Anti imperialist country.

45

00:06:17.850 --> 00:06:29.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But at the same time, just the sort of political education that one can get from that so those were those are the biggest things for me and in college, and so I wasn't quite sure.

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00:06:31.080 --> 00:06:33.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: What I wanted to do, immediately after college and so.

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00:06:35.580 --> 00:06:42.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, looked at the Peace Corps looked at witness for peace, which was doing important human rights documentation stuff in Central America.

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00:06:45.150 --> 00:06:45.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

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00:06:47.220 --> 00:06:48.750

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: ended up ironically.

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00:06:49.980 --> 00:06:50.910

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Ironically.

51

00:06:52.290 --> 00:07:12.330

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: applying for teach for America to teach from rap was in its first year at that time that this is 1990 so literally was in its first year it was like a fly by the seat of your pants first time experiment, it was not yet the corporate privatization behemoth that is now become.

52

00:07:13.620 --> 00:07:15.840

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But you know got accepted to that and.

53

00:07:17.190 --> 00:07:34.920

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, decided to be a part of it, and came to Los Angeles, for the first CFA Institute in the summer of 1990 and was assigned to teach in compton unified school district, which is a separate district from La but you know, is in South la right next to watch.

54

00:07:36.030 --> 00:07:36.510

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

55

00:07:38.160 --> 00:07:42.030

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Just pretty immediately fell in love with teaching.

56

00:07:43.650 --> 00:07:45.990

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Not just because of what you do in the classroom but.

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00:07:47.880 --> 00:07:54.330

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: It was just uh just the connection I taught at an elementary school at the time and.

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00:07:55.410 --> 00:08:03.990

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The connection felt with the Community, the connection felt with families, I mean I had you know that a part of activist work in college that.

59

00:08:04.740 --> 00:08:19.350

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: exposed me to fighting for social justice and learning about immigration so just students from all over and, along with a you know very substantial black student population was just it was very.

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00:08:21.420 --> 00:08:30.510

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I embraced it immediately didn't say it was a great teacher immediately, but embrace it immediately, and I think the.

61

00:08:31.560 --> 00:08:35.370

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think the next big thing for me.

62

00:08:36.960 --> 00:08:45.390

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like in all of those years, and this is not uncommon in all of those years of dipping my toe in racial justice work and social justice work.

63

00:08:45.750 --> 00:08:58.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I never really got trained in organizing which is not uncommon at all, I mean that happens, unfortunately that's us society right, you are an activist and you go out and you go to protest but you don't actually try to organize power.

64

00:08:59.850 --> 00:09:01.410

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so I was exposed.

65

00:09:03.510 --> 00:09:09.510

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In 1992 two years my in my second year of teaching incompetent unified.

66

00:09:11.100 --> 00:09:19.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: An oil refinery plant that was relatively close to content exploded and put massive air toxins into the atmosphere.

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00:09:21.180 --> 00:09:27.870

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And you know destroyed a bunch of working class families homes, etc, and.

68

00:09:28.950 --> 00:09:45.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I have had students Vincent woods, who had the previous year died from an asthma attack and uncontrolled asthma attack, and so I was just very conscious of air quality issues, and it was learning more about the intersection with environmental racism and.

69

00:09:47.160 --> 00:09:54.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So I looked around for anybody who was organizing like trying to do something around the this Texaco explosion and.

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00:09:55.290 --> 00:10:07.890

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There was a group called the Labor Community strategy Center which was doing organizing to try to get Texaco to cut it to missions to get reparations for the Community and I got involved there and, as it turns out.

71

00:10:09.120 --> 00:10:19.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know there's a bunch of pretty incredible organizers there who were looking to train people and how to not just be an activist, would be an organizer and so.

72

00:10:19.950 --> 00:10:29.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I spent about the next 12 years volunteering with, as I was teaching volunteering with strategy Center and getting getting a lot of.

73

00:10:30.420 --> 00:10:31.920

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Really top of the line.

74

00:10:33.660 --> 00:10:38.670

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Organizing training over those years so that's a long answer to your question.

75

00:10:40.200 --> 00:10:49.020

Joel Berger (he/him): that's great no I really appreciate that that context and that before we kind of get into another question about the 90s.

76

00:10:50.220 --> 00:11:02.640

Joel Berger (he/him): You allude to it a little bit, but I really think this this distinction you're making between being an activist and organizer is is is so interesting and so important, and I was just wondering if you could just flush that out a little more and explain what you mean by that.

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00:11:04.680 --> 00:11:05.220

Joel Berger (he/him): yeah.

78

00:11:05.400 --> 00:11:14.340

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: um you know I mean i'm i'm very influenced by you know people like Jane mack levy on this and Jane has written.

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00:11:15.390 --> 00:11:19.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: three great books on and she can explain it a lot better than I can but.

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00:11:20.400 --> 00:11:22.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know just the idea of.

81

00:11:25.170 --> 00:11:38.430

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean, I was sort of grappling with this issue of Okay, you know I can like self select into like an organization that's trying to take on social justice issues.

82

00:11:40.260 --> 00:11:44.670

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And I can go to marches and protests and those are good things, but.

83

00:11:45.750 --> 00:11:55.200

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In places like the US Government one US Government when it's intervening and El Salvador or Texaco when it as an entrepreneur explode.

84

00:11:55.920 --> 00:12:06.270

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: These are, these are people at the pinnacles of power and and what's going to make them respond in any sort of systematic or structural way.

85

00:12:06.870 --> 00:12:12.330

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: that's not just a throwaway to some activists, for you know the throwaway concession to some activists.

86

00:12:13.110 --> 00:12:29.100

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: what's going to make them actually respond in a structured way is power and the power that we have as ordinary people as parents as teachers as bus drivers, whatever the power we have this collective power and so.

87

00:12:31.410 --> 00:12:38.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So you know this is definitely was fundamental to the teachings of the Labor Community strategy Center this was.

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00:12:40.200 --> 00:12:47.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The strategy Center and you can i'm sure you've either heard of them, or you can look them up, but they the founders of the strategy Center came out of.

89

00:12:49.830 --> 00:12:59.520

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The movement to stop plant closings in the in the 1970s, you know, in the in the late in the mid to late 70s.

90

00:13:00.690 --> 00:13:04.770

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Los Angeles was destroyed by the number of.

91

00:13:05.910 --> 00:13:07.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Factories moving away.

92

00:13:09.060 --> 00:13:14.190

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know firestone for General Motors mean you name it.

93

00:13:15.240 --> 00:13:18.000

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Moving either to the south of the US or to.

94

00:13:19.230 --> 00:13:19.650

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: To.

95

00:13:21.300 --> 00:13:31.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: to Mexico and Central America and the strategies, there was very clear that we don't we don't criticize that as like a like a.

96

00:13:31.530 --> 00:13:46.560

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Pro American like, why are they taking our jobs thing we criticize it from the standpoint of wire corporations able to come in and use people's Labor and destroy communities and pollute communities and then move on.

97

00:13:47.580 --> 00:13:51.600

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so the strategy Center folks were very clear that.

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00:13:52.650 --> 00:14:13.500

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In order to take on General Motors, which many of them have done in San Fernando valley and kept General Motors there for years beyond what it wanted to be the way you do that, as you organize power and it's not just self selected activists you actually have to get into places where.

99

00:14:14.610 --> 00:14:27.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Frankly you're with people who don't agree with you, and you have to engage them and build your base and that can be workplaces that can be churches that can be wherever and so that's the the distinction there of just.

100

00:14:28.710 --> 00:14:41.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Being able to think like an organizer rather than just think as a as a well intentioned activist, which I don't I don't have anything against well intentioned activists, but in terms of analyzing power that was a key moment for me.

101

00:14:43.050 --> 00:14:45.330

Joel Berger (he/him): Thank you, this this great was really helpful.

102

00:14:46.680 --> 00:15:00.600

Joel Berger (he/him): I was curious about one thing that that I saw in a couple of articles was this group in the 90s and La that progressive education educators for action, I was wondering if you were an involved in in them in any way.

103

00:15:01.740 --> 00:15:04.110

Joel Berger (he/him): And if so, what you know how did you get involved.

104

00:15:06.060 --> 00:15:06.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah.

105

00:15:08.850 --> 00:15:16.410

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So, in terms of my own trajectory so I taught a content for four years and then.

106

00:15:19.290 --> 00:15:36.300

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Once went to the UCLA urban planning master's program which at the time was a was a consciously left progressive outfit which isn't that way anymore, and so was able to learn a lot about sort of.

107

00:15:37.560 --> 00:15:46.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Just analyzing the capitalist economy, looking at regional economic issues, looking at social movements looking at Labor movement etc and.

108

00:15:49.260 --> 00:15:54.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: When I decided to go back into teaching after that master's program that was 1997.

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00:15:57.570 --> 00:16:06.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I you know quickly got involved with a small group of folks and put out a progressive newsletter within the United teachers Los Angeles so.

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00:16:07.230 --> 00:16:13.770

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So when I made that move I I was no longer teaching content I started teaching in Los Angeles unified school district which.

111

00:16:15.240 --> 00:16:17.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Has a massive Union.

112

00:16:18.270 --> 00:16:22.770

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So there was a there was a small group of progressives to put out a.

113

00:16:24.480 --> 00:16:28.260

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Progressive newsletter called second opinion and.

114

00:16:29.340 --> 00:16:37.650

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, it was like a rank and file based like way to like put out an opinion, other than what the leadership of the Union will say.

115

00:16:38.940 --> 00:16:39.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

116

00:16:41.160 --> 00:16:42.390

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Over the course of.

117

00:16:44.160 --> 00:16:45.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The next few years.

118

00:16:46.980 --> 00:16:52.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We were able to bring in more people into a second opinion.

119

00:16:53.250 --> 00:16:56.790

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And we actually probably around 2001.

120

00:16:58.860 --> 00:17:06.300

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: shifted from calling it a second opinion to calling your progressive educators for action, because it a second opinion was really a newsletter.

121

00:17:06.780 --> 00:17:23.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That wasn't like an organization that was attempting to set up structures develop new leaders identify new leaders, it was more focused on just putting out a regular newsletter, which is important i'm not diminishing that but it wasn't it wasn't something bigger than that and so.

122

00:17:24.630 --> 00:17:41.550

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So we sort of shifted a second opinion into progressive educated for action with the explicit purpose of number one continuing to put out a newsletter but number two actually trying to set up a broader structure of record for folks who could.

123

00:17:43.260 --> 00:18:00.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Use strategy at different points within Eric within Union meetings that was you know coherently looking to identify potential leaders recruit those leaders into progressive educators for action, etc, there was a sort of.

124

00:18:02.010 --> 00:18:06.510

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: key thing that happened was in 1998.

125

00:18:07.980 --> 00:18:27.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We had been very involved, the number of progressive folks and in a multi racial group of students parents and teachers came together around fighting to protect bilingual education, which was under attack and a 1998 proposition called prop 37 and so.

126

00:18:28.890 --> 00:18:47.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We we build that into an organization called coalition for educational justice and that became an organization that you know, starting in 1999 men regularly involved parents involved students tried to consciously expand its base.

127

00:18:49.050 --> 00:18:58.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We related to the Union leadership at UCLA at the time but but weren't but we're independent of the Union leadership and so pete progressive educators for action.

128

00:18:59.220 --> 00:19:01.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Essentially, became like a.

129

00:19:02.160 --> 00:19:21.540

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: A teachers and educators only space to try to think about how to move a progressive agenda within the Union, whereas cj was a lot of those same people but them together with parents and students and Community trying to move more of a Community based agenda around.

130

00:19:22.770 --> 00:19:33.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Racial justice we took on standardized testing from a racial justice perspective, we obviously took on the bilingual education issue, etc, so that was all sort of overlapping work.

131

00:19:37.320 --> 00:19:45.810

Joel Berger (he/him): that's that's really helpful and and and and really interesting I i'm wondering when was it that you started.

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00:19:46.320 --> 00:19:55.920

Joel Berger (he/him): Teaching at crenshaw because there's so many articles about you and this work that you did it at crenshaw and organizing at crenshaw, and so I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about.

133

00:19:57.540 --> 00:20:07.260

Joel Berger (he/him): You know what what was teaching at crenshaw like what was your classroom like and then also what were the issues that really galvanized you is as an organizer there.

134

00:20:08.970 --> 00:20:09.810

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah I taught.

135

00:20:11.160 --> 00:20:24.330

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So my first teaching and Simon in La unified I have taught incompetent before that, but my first LSD assignment was at john muir middle school, which was in South la.

136

00:20:26.610 --> 00:20:35.340

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And y'all wanted to teach in South la sort of in in the same general area is where was teaching in compton.

137

00:20:37.380 --> 00:20:48.270

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And I mean I liked being a mirror, but after a couple of years, I wanted to get high school a try I hadn't taught high school up to that point and so.

138

00:20:49.290 --> 00:21:03.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: got my secondary teaching credential and started looking for jobs and I wanted, I wanted to teach you one of the high schools in South la and so in 2001 I started teaching your current shot and.

139

00:21:05.250 --> 00:21:12.870

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, was was lucky that I got into the history department and social studies department I taught.

140

00:21:13.860 --> 00:21:30.840

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: My first year I taught a core exercise course called life skills which which I sort of made into a like Community Community organizing Community sort of understanding our Community and Community organizing course.

141

00:21:32.640 --> 00:21:33.420

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then.

142

00:21:34.770 --> 00:21:39.300

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: started teaching history and social studies and was there from 2011 i'm sorry.

143

00:21:40.320 --> 00:21:42.990

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Up to 2013 and.

144

00:21:44.910 --> 00:21:51.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Those were the best some of those years were the best teaching years of my life, I mean I love crenshaw was.

145

00:21:54.570 --> 00:21:56.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: An incredible school with.

146

00:21:57.960 --> 00:22:02.370

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: An enormous amount of you know, school tradition and Community tradition.

147

00:22:03.810 --> 00:22:06.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: My wife worked down the street, that a.

148

00:22:09.630 --> 00:22:11.490

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Healthcare justice.

149

00:22:14.430 --> 00:22:17.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: nonprofit, and so we ended up.

150

00:22:18.120 --> 00:22:23.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean both of us work there, we ended up moving into the Community right down the street from crenshaw.

151

00:22:24.600 --> 00:22:28.440

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so very you know just a great just an incredible.

152

00:22:29.880 --> 00:22:32.760

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Teaching experience men, the.

153

00:22:34.170 --> 00:22:47.550

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: As I was teaching at crenshaw we continued to build the base of cj the the parents student teacher and we actually got lots of students involved from crenshaw dorsey some of the other.

154

00:22:50.130 --> 00:22:51.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Major high schools there.

155

00:22:52.770 --> 00:22:58.320

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And peak continue to operate as sort of the rank and file progressive Caucus so.

156

00:22:59.790 --> 00:23:04.350

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I continued you know, in both of those as we were, as I was teaching at crenshaw.

157

00:23:07.170 --> 00:23:11.970

Joel Berger (he/him): And you know I think in it, what were some of the things that that.

158

00:23:13.110 --> 00:23:24.480

Joel Berger (he/him): were some of the struggles that you all faced at crenshaw in terms of some of the the no child left behind policies and how they affected you all on the ground and what type of organizing did you all do at crenshaw to.

159

00:23:26.040 --> 00:23:29.280

Joel Berger (he/him): To address that fight back against some of those those policies.

160

00:23:31.320 --> 00:23:34.260

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah we were concerned and the this was.

161

00:23:34.830 --> 00:23:38.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: 2004 2005 that time period one.

162

00:23:41.220 --> 00:23:50.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We were concerned with the implementation of no child left behind and just the lack of parent engagement very top down sort of.

163

00:23:52.860 --> 00:23:59.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean obviously no child left behind, was very top down, and of itself, but also the district is implementing it in the very top down right.

164

00:24:00.210 --> 00:24:01.380

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so we started.

165

00:24:02.940 --> 00:24:12.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We started organizing parents to make sure the parent voices were being heard and all of the different conversations about.

166

00:24:14.250 --> 00:24:18.810

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The direction that the school should be headed, you know, in the context of no child left behind.

167

00:24:22.020 --> 00:24:32.880

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: crenshaw was also you know I mean it was a school that had a stigma as being sort of a tough school, and so the district.

168

00:24:34.050 --> 00:24:41.040

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Had rotating administrators, I mean there were I forget the exact statistic, but it was something on the order of.

169

00:24:42.150 --> 00:24:48.000

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: 35 different administrators over the course of seven years seven just a revolving door of administrators.

170

00:24:49.980 --> 00:25:04.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And not surprisingly, when you have that amount of instability and it was further destabilized by man that was really the beginning of the massive investment in the Charter industry.

171

00:25:05.070 --> 00:25:06.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: in Los Angeles, and so.

172

00:25:07.980 --> 00:25:23.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know crenshaw became you know literally surrounded by charter schools, who were drawing drawing students out and, of course, not accepting all students only taking you know high performing students and so.

173

00:25:24.870 --> 00:25:28.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: All of these were creating different pressures on crenshaw and.

174

00:25:29.400 --> 00:25:36.510

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Not surprisingly, in that sort of context the schools accreditation came under fire.

175

00:25:37.890 --> 00:25:45.090

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: As to whether it should be accredited by the Western association of schools and colleges and that became a huge struggle.

176

00:25:46.320 --> 00:25:47.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: It was used as a.

177

00:25:48.660 --> 00:25:52.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: as a pretext to remove me from the school the superintendent.

178

00:25:53.280 --> 00:25:59.370

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Transport me from school saying that I was you know, bad for the accreditation of the school and.

179

00:26:01.530 --> 00:26:17.880

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Students and parents and educators organized and got me reinstated three months later, but that was sort of a key key moment the district administration tried to use in a very political way to retaliate against organizing.

180

00:26:19.590 --> 00:26:20.040

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

181

00:26:21.360 --> 00:26:22.260

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think the.

182

00:26:24.060 --> 00:26:26.820

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean eventually all of that turmoil.

183

00:26:29.280 --> 00:26:36.090

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And it certainly helped build the base parents and students and teachers who were working with us on our progressive vision for crenshaw.

184

00:26:37.380 --> 00:26:39.600

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But it eventually sort of.

185

00:26:41.460 --> 00:26:46.170

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Created the foundation for what was an early Community school project.

186

00:26:48.150 --> 00:26:57.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Before we even really knew what Community schools were we were trying to build something like it at crenshaw starting in around 2010.

187

00:26:59.910 --> 00:27:00.750

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We.

188

00:27:02.070 --> 00:27:11.190

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: organized with the Community with parents with educators, we we convince the major very prominent and brilliant.

189

00:27:12.930 --> 00:27:23.520

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Progressive academic black academic men Sylvia we're so convinced her to become a part of our work and help us help lead us into.

190

00:27:24.300 --> 00:27:35.850

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like a different vision of the school where the Community was much more involved, where it was like a sort of hub of the Community in terms of social services, as well as you know, democratic action around.

191

00:27:37.740 --> 00:27:39.900

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, Community Problem Solving etc.

192

00:27:42.630 --> 00:28:01.200

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We got a grant from the Ford foundation to support that organizing work and those were the best teaching years of my life those couple of years, where we made everything was hitting on all cylinders it's hard work to try to create a Community school out of something that had been a.

193

00:28:02.400 --> 00:28:14.190

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: neglected school for decades, but just the amount of energy from student leaders from parent leaders from Sylvia from from our Union chapter.

194

00:28:15.990 --> 00:28:27.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, a really in crenshaw was a majority black student population really with very strong black leadership through and through all of these different constituencies, it was a very.

195

00:28:28.410 --> 00:28:29.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: energizing.

196

00:28:31.590 --> 00:28:35.250

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: couple of years, which ultimately was disrupted by.

197

00:28:37.170 --> 00:28:41.550

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The superintendent who, by that time and 2013 was a.

198

00:28:42.570 --> 00:28:51.300

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Major growth foundation sort of superstar who was projected across the country as as the.

199

00:28:52.320 --> 00:28:55.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: ultimate broad foundation superintendent done daisy.

200

00:28:57.330 --> 00:29:02.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: He had become superintendent in 2011 and by the time 2013 rolled around.

201

00:29:06.090 --> 00:29:16.290

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: He was he frankly didn't like what we're doing crenshaw because it because you couldn't control it, a minute was there, there were.

202

00:29:17.610 --> 00:29:28.470

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Prominent black academics leading it prominent parents leading it, it was pro union, the Union was integrated with the Community and so he used the.

203

00:29:29.730 --> 00:29:39.150

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The shortcut that privatized can always use, which is you're not showing enough progress and so we're going to reconstitute the school and so.

204

00:29:40.320 --> 00:29:52.290

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So he pulled that trigger there was a big fight about it, but he he stuck to his guns and reconstitute the school so that that happened in 2013 but those.

205

00:29:53.310 --> 00:29:54.750

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Those years from.

206

00:29:55.830 --> 00:30:04.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: 2010 to 2012 were some of the most energizing you know visionary years that i've ever been a part of.

207

00:30:07.560 --> 00:30:17.220

Joel Berger (he/him): it's it's it's almost like almost tragic to just hear you tell that that story of what was you were building and then what what happened and in 2013.

208

00:30:18.660 --> 00:30:28.680

Joel Berger (he/him): i'm curious as to what what was a PAC and and is it CSA or si.

209

00:30:28.950 --> 00:30:31.470

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: si sta si cj.

210

00:30:32.970 --> 00:30:39.780

Joel Berger (he/him): what was going on with with those kind of organizing vehicles and in these years and.

211

00:30:41.250 --> 00:30:47.370

Joel Berger (he/him): And yeah in that decade of what 2000 into 2013 or so.

212

00:30:49.980 --> 00:30:50.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah.

213

00:30:52.620 --> 00:30:55.170

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So cj was.

214

00:30:57.030 --> 00:31:09.420

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: When cj was very grassroots we got a couple of small foundation grants enough to hire full time organizer, but it was not a well resourced organization, but.

215

00:31:11.040 --> 00:31:17.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: cj was growing, particularly within the youth organizing piece.

216

00:31:18.690 --> 00:31:27.570

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But was hindered by you know just some broader capacity issues that affect a lot of grassroots organizations, but.

217

00:31:30.030 --> 00:31:32.880

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But it was growing in terms of youth involvement in particular.

218

00:31:38.100 --> 00:31:42.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: peak the progressive educated fraction the rapid fire pockets had.

219

00:31:45.240 --> 00:31:50.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Basically forged a mean what you might call a centre left coalition.

220

00:31:53.040 --> 00:31:58.920

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: with other folks in the Union to try to take Union leadership and 25 and.

221

00:32:00.570 --> 00:32:10.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And was successful that Center left coalition with successful in taking a number of the full time officer positions and and a number of the Board positions.

222

00:32:13.380 --> 00:32:14.100

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

223

00:32:17.250 --> 00:32:21.270

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and part of the reason was the Members were.

224

00:32:23.250 --> 00:32:30.270

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know not satisfied with the districts with the unions response around some of the top down mandates from no child left behind, etc.

225

00:32:31.710 --> 00:32:49.920

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But I mean That said, I mean it was hard to tell what do you tell a membership thought because UCLA was not built as a I mean it was a very low participation union at the time, without strong workplace structures, etc.

226

00:32:51.120 --> 00:33:05.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So that election victory in 2005 of the Center left coalition, it was significant but but I wouldn't overstate the significance because it was still an election that happened at a very low participation Union.

227

00:33:08.700 --> 00:33:09.390

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

228

00:33:12.240 --> 00:33:15.300

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That leadership was in place from 25 to 2011.

229

00:33:16.860 --> 00:33:22.500

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And you know peak was able to exert more influence on.

230

00:33:23.520 --> 00:33:24.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The the Union.

231

00:33:26.220 --> 00:33:28.860

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, through this Center left coalition.

232

00:33:29.880 --> 00:33:32.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But a combination of factors really.

233

00:33:33.180 --> 00:33:37.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: hindered that coalition effort from being successful.

234

00:33:38.580 --> 00:33:42.750

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Men one was the bottom dropping out of the economy.

235

00:33:44.400 --> 00:33:45.030

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know.

236

00:33:46.260 --> 00:33:54.810

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: which the men rattled every Union leadership, no matter what its political stripe and made it very difficult in 2008.

237

00:33:55.980 --> 00:33:57.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Another was the.

238

00:33:58.590 --> 00:34:13.440

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Was the just massive investment continued investment into the Charter industry in La I mean, as you know, La became sort of the epicenter of charter investment, led by you like we're but with a lot of other folks as well.

239

00:34:14.520 --> 00:34:18.300

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And that was that was helped by.

240

00:34:19.530 --> 00:34:32.670

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The Mayor Antonio via to go said, made a made a turn from what people you know people thought of him as a Labor friendly progressive mayor, turning to completely pro charter pro privatization.

241

00:34:35.340 --> 00:34:36.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

242

00:34:37.350 --> 00:34:47.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So those two factors hinder the Center left experiment, the bottom dropping out of the economy, the turn of the ghosts and the doubling down on the charters.

243

00:34:49.260 --> 00:35:02.760

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then I think the third thing was just an inability of all of us, and this was as much as much my responsibility as anyone elses inability on the part of the.

244

00:35:04.470 --> 00:35:09.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That Center life coalition to actually take any steps towards transforming the Union.

245

00:35:11.370 --> 00:35:13.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: was not able to.

246

00:35:14.640 --> 00:35:23.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: When I was, I was on the board of directors of UCLA the, so there are seven full time elected officers who were the you know the.

247

00:35:24.000 --> 00:35:36.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The main sort of day to day political leadership of the Union, and then there's a board of directors of 47 rank and file, you know classroom folks so I was on the board of directors level, starting in 2008.

248

00:35:37.560 --> 00:35:37.980

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

249

00:35:41.190 --> 00:35:55.650

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The the leader, the leadership did not make huge efforts and and to the degree that there were efforts made, they were not successful to transform the Union, so we remained very much a service Union.

250

00:35:58.140 --> 00:36:09.330

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: did not build structures for organizing in the workplace and building power in the workplace, did not build structures to build with parents and community.

251

00:36:12.780 --> 00:36:24.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean the rhetoric was better the rhetoric was more to the left and the and then actually many of the actions were more to the left to give credit where credit is due, but.

252

00:36:26.580 --> 00:36:36.570

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There was no movement on the actual transformation of the Union to become to become a more powerful entity in an organized way and so.

253

00:36:38.160 --> 00:36:39.210

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So those.

254

00:36:41.160 --> 00:36:44.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And i'll give you one example, the there was a.

255

00:36:45.540 --> 00:36:47.490

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There was a work action that we did.

256

00:36:51.390 --> 00:36:53.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: must have been 2007.

257

00:36:55.230 --> 00:36:57.810

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: It was reasonably successful.

258

00:36:59.010 --> 00:37:04.590

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Although, although it's hard to know how successful because the unit at the time had.

259

00:37:05.610 --> 00:37:14.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Very little structure in terms of actually being able to assess how many workplaces out of 900 workplaces actually to part of an action so.

260

00:37:15.360 --> 00:37:27.600

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: it's anybody's guess when it's probably a few hundred out of 900 so you know can take some good photos people saw it around the city and made the news, it was it was a work action where we stayed out for an hour.

261

00:37:31.080 --> 00:37:38.850

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There was there was a positive feeling after that work action at least among the.

262

00:37:39.990 --> 00:37:46.890

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Those folks who were engaged, but again, it was a reasonably low participation union, and so the Union leadership at the time.

263

00:37:48.030 --> 00:37:48.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: said.

264

00:37:50.910 --> 00:37:57.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: we've got to take this opportunity to go for dues increase like people feel good about the Union we just had this good work action.

265

00:37:58.110 --> 00:38:04.470

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Everybody knows utility is about to fall off fiscal cliff which I can tell you more about Joel if you want to know but.

266

00:38:05.160 --> 00:38:15.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But the Union was very much headed off the fiscal cliff because of the way the Constitution was written and the the inability to raise news and frankly.

267

00:38:16.470 --> 00:38:36.420

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The inability to empty, the inability to even raise dues when our state and national affiliates were raising Dudes so essentially the Union was was headed off of fiscal cliff when the when the dude step the local didn't stay the same, but the state and national do is continue to rise.

268

00:38:38.040 --> 00:38:41.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so the the leadership said now's the time to go for this and.

269

00:38:43.080 --> 00:38:44.700

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: One for music Greece which.

270

00:38:46.440 --> 00:38:47.460

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Which peak.

271

00:38:49.650 --> 00:38:55.380

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Progressive educators for action as a Caucus we support it, I mean this was our Center left leadership.

272

00:38:57.120 --> 00:39:03.540

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But it was very disorganized and it was very much of a hothouse thing and and we lost badly, it was something like.

273

00:39:04.980 --> 00:39:13.740

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Again, low participation Union so not very many people voted, but of those who did vote we lost maybe 40 to 60%.

274

00:39:17.070 --> 00:39:26.250

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So anyway that's in a response to your question, or what was happening in P during those sort of 2005 to 2011 years.

275

00:39:28.050 --> 00:39:43.110

Joel Berger (he/him): that's that's so interesting it sounds it, I mean if someone who is not from California it just it almost sounds like the the Union Constitution version of prop 13 in terms of like yeah that's just it's really fascinating to me.

276

00:39:44.100 --> 00:39:45.630

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: set up a structural.

277

00:39:46.020 --> 00:39:46.980

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: it's set up a.

278

00:39:47.850 --> 00:39:52.800

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Structural malfunction that would eventually.

279

00:39:54.480 --> 00:39:58.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Put you into the where you no longer could function as an organization.

280

00:40:01.350 --> 00:40:03.300

Joel Berger (he/him): yeah that's that's really entry so.

281

00:40:04.320 --> 00:40:12.630

Joel Berger (he/him): that's happening in in those years and then was PAC was that kind of the foundation for.

282

00:40:14.070 --> 00:40:24.300

Joel Berger (he/him): 2014 and the Union power slate and or could you talk a little more about the the Union power slate and how it came to be and how you came to run for President, for the first time of UCLA.

283

00:40:25.800 --> 00:40:26.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah.

284

00:40:28.950 --> 00:40:29.820

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

285

00:40:30.390 --> 00:40:34.260

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The mid part of the reaction to.

286

00:40:40.500 --> 00:40:44.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Part of the reaction to what was generally viewed as a.

287

00:40:47.550 --> 00:41:04.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: At best assertive keeping our head above water and, at worst, the failure of this Center left effort from 25 to 2011 part of the reaction to that again in a low participation was.

288

00:41:06.240 --> 00:41:12.270

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The election of a very narrow trade union.

289

00:41:13.500 --> 00:41:18.090

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean someone who we ran against in 2011 and so.

290

00:41:19.740 --> 00:41:29.910

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But this person who won the Presidency and it wasn't a part of a coalition, it was it was they were just single people running for single positions.

291

00:41:31.200 --> 00:41:37.740

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The person who won the Presidency who i'm friendly with and I, and I respect as a person and an educator.

292

00:41:39.900 --> 00:41:47.970

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, he was viewed as sort of back to basics like Okay, we tried this thing from 2005 to 2011.

293

00:41:49.350 --> 00:41:55.740

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: didn't really work that well we're getting the shit kicked out, I was like charters getting the shit kicked out of us by privatized there's.

294

00:41:56.700 --> 00:42:06.150

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The the district administration doesn't respect this there's a new privatizing is the superintendent of the district.

295

00:42:07.050 --> 00:42:22.620

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And there was a certain attraction to the idea of back to basics right like look we're going to focus on our contract we're going to try to make sure that you don't have your rights violated in the workplace that's what we're going to do.

296

00:42:25.920 --> 00:42:32.250

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So that's what happened in 2011 as a as a response to the 25 to 2011 period and.

297

00:42:33.480 --> 00:42:35.430

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Then what it did was it.

298

00:42:39.000 --> 00:42:39.540

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know.

299

00:42:40.590 --> 00:42:50.250

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The group that took office in 2011 wasn't prepared to lead let the second largest union in the United States minutes a hard job and.

300

00:42:52.950 --> 00:42:53.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

301

00:42:55.350 --> 00:43:00.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We continue to get the shit kicked out of us by charters continue to get the shit kicked out of us by the district.

302

00:43:02.130 --> 00:43:13.200

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Because it was such a narrow like just teacher focus thing we started getting the shit kicked out of us by Community.

303

00:43:13.770 --> 00:43:24.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like there was much less of a feeling that the teachers union was on the side of the Community and students and parents and i'm sorry i'm not supposed to be saying curse words on the recording.

304

00:43:27.150 --> 00:43:27.690

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The.

305

00:43:29.280 --> 00:43:43.350

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So it got worse from 2011 to 2014 I mean people felt beleaguered and and just beat not, and so what it created with the possibility for a broad coalition to sort of run.

306

00:43:44.850 --> 00:43:46.740

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Against that and.

307

00:43:48.150 --> 00:43:51.570

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: peak progressive educators rational was one component.

308

00:43:52.770 --> 00:44:04.830

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There was a progressive women's Caucus that that also came together with peak there were independent activists who weren't necessarily progressive politically, but this sure didn't like.

309

00:44:05.970 --> 00:44:13.200

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, getting stomped on from 2011 to 2014 so we created the conditions to build a broader.

310

00:44:14.790 --> 00:44:16.650

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: coalition and.

311

00:44:19.530 --> 00:44:21.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We didn't say it.

312

00:44:22.500 --> 00:44:32.790

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: mean we did talk very clearly about what our program was and what our vision was in that run for the 2014 office that it's very important that was done.

313

00:44:33.930 --> 00:44:36.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: As a complete team, it was done.

314

00:44:38.010 --> 00:44:45.150

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: All seven full time elected officer positions, we had a slate of people who were on the same page.

315

00:44:46.170 --> 00:44:51.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, doing the work together, doing the organizing work of the campaign together that was crucial.

316

00:44:56.310 --> 00:45:01.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So we had a really clear program that resonated with Members that was.

317

00:45:03.330 --> 00:45:10.020

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We need to be organized we're not organized right now, like we literally this was literally our campaign stump speech.

318

00:45:10.530 --> 00:45:17.340

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: which might seem boring and might seem technocratic but it worked in the moment because of the moment, we were in.

319

00:45:18.060 --> 00:45:24.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We need to be organized the way we have power is by organizing ourselves collectively for collective action.

320

00:45:25.290 --> 00:45:33.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: being organized means we need an organizing department, we need someone whose job it is to know that every single one of our 900 school sites.

321

00:45:33.870 --> 00:45:46.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: who's the elected leader what support that they need or they're organized that's number one number two UCLA has never had a research department, we need to create a research department.

322

00:45:47.250 --> 00:45:58.560

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The privatized errors have research out the wazoo about everything they need law urban planning policy, whatever it is.

323

00:45:59.670 --> 00:46:07.770

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We need to research department, so that we can find the dirt on the privatized years, and you know, be able to build campaigns.

324

00:46:08.880 --> 00:46:20.430

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Third, we need a communications department that's not reactive and just waiting for the next thing to happen to us to then respond, we need a communications department is actively shaping the narrative.

325

00:46:22.050 --> 00:46:28.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and actively out shaping the narrative forth, we need a parent community and youth organizing department.

326

00:46:29.700 --> 00:46:38.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Where we're actually proactively going out listening to parents listening to Community listening to us building coalitions to build power fight.

327

00:46:39.690 --> 00:46:40.890

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: For public education.

328

00:46:43.290 --> 00:46:43.890

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

329

00:46:45.570 --> 00:46:50.370

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I was basically are some speech and i'm like again, I mean.

330

00:46:51.900 --> 00:47:05.520

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: there's a certain nuts and bolts quality to that, but it's it actually met the moment because people, people were like yeah yeah that all like the big ideas off sound right and the nuts and bolts that you're describing sound right.

331

00:47:07.080 --> 00:47:08.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so.

332

00:47:10.080 --> 00:47:23.670

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, through that plus a bunch of organizing and a bunch of school site visits and a bunch of talking to people, you know after hours and all the stuff you do when you run a campaign we were able to win that 2014 election.

333

00:47:24.840 --> 00:47:26.100

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: What we didn't say.

334

00:47:29.490 --> 00:47:33.870

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: What we didn't say was the YouTube I was about to go off a fiscal cliff.

335

00:47:35.580 --> 00:47:38.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And that we were going to need to do some major.

336

00:47:39.990 --> 00:47:48.540

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: major restructuring, as well as other efforts to be able to do any of what we just said, if we wanted to hire more organizers.

337

00:47:49.170 --> 00:47:58.830

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: build a research department, whatever we didn't make that a part of the campaign we figured we could get into that later, once we had proven that our approach would work.

338

00:48:01.980 --> 00:48:03.900

Joel Berger (he/him): that's that's so interesting.

339

00:48:05.490 --> 00:48:06.030

Joel Berger (he/him): and

340

00:48:07.050 --> 00:48:15.630

Joel Berger (he/him): i'm curious, so I before we we go on, I want to be really cognizant and respectful of your time I know we had originally planned to go to 530.

341

00:48:16.650 --> 00:48:26.670

Joel Berger (he/him): Should should we still end around them, that can I kind of flavor how I approach these whether I ask certain questions or just jump jump ahead a little bit.

342

00:48:27.570 --> 00:48:28.230

um.

343

00:48:29.790 --> 00:48:30.420

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We can.

344

00:48:32.340 --> 00:48:34.290

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We can go.

345

00:48:36.930 --> 00:48:41.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We can go towards I should try to get off a little bit before three o'clock Pacific.

346

00:48:42.120 --> 00:48:44.160

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: gather maybe another half hour.

347

00:48:44.460 --> 00:48:45.510

Joel Berger (he/him): Okay, great.

348

00:48:46.710 --> 00:48:52.140

Joel Berger (he/him): that's perfect yeah but I probably will try to do about 20 more minutes if that sounds sounds okay to you.

349

00:48:53.700 --> 00:48:54.300

Joel Berger (he/him): So.

350

00:48:57.180 --> 00:49:13.830

Joel Berger (he/him): So yeah I was gonna if we needed to go to 530 I was going to jump ahead, all the way to 2019 but if if you could maybe talk a little bit about you know, once you were elected president in 2014 and your sleep with your whole slate was everybody on the slate elected at once and.

351

00:49:15.240 --> 00:49:15.840

Joel Berger (he/him): You know how.

352

00:49:16.320 --> 00:49:24.570

Joel Berger (he/him): What did those first few years and in in leadership look like was there anything that surprised you as you kind of came into this position or or.

353

00:49:25.860 --> 00:49:37.770

Joel Berger (he/him): And you know what were some of your first initiatives as as Union leadership, how did you get these finances figured out so that you could you know do these things that you all wanted to do.

354

00:49:39.840 --> 00:49:53.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So our team did win all seven elected officer positions that that had never been done before, so we did that, for the first time in 2014 and then we also did that in 2017 to 2020.

355

00:49:55.950 --> 00:50:10.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We did not run for every position on the 47 person board of directors, so that continue to be a mixed politically diverse group which was fun because we're good at building bridges and doing that kind of work.

356

00:50:14.130 --> 00:50:14.730

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

357

00:50:17.430 --> 00:50:20.490

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We knew there were a couple of things that we needed to do immediately.

358

00:50:23.250 --> 00:50:23.790

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We.

359

00:50:26.280 --> 00:50:39.750

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We started talking immediately with nda an afc, as you know, we're merge local and and you know that my position now as UCLA any a Vice President right.

360

00:50:42.240 --> 00:50:42.870

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

361

00:50:44.010 --> 00:50:46.230

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We immediately started talking about the DNA.

362

00:50:49.590 --> 00:50:53.430

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: because frankly to carry out our Program.

363

00:50:54.600 --> 00:50:56.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We needed their investment.

364

00:50:58.320 --> 00:51:02.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And we essentially made an agreement was called the partnership agreement.

365

00:51:03.720 --> 00:51:09.690

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We knew that naft had a had a an incentive to make sure that UCLA was strong.

366

00:51:10.800 --> 00:51:23.130

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And you can't really be a strong national union movement, if your second largest local is, we can getting the shit kicked out of it, so we knew there was an incentive.

367

00:51:24.450 --> 00:51:27.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That both any if you had to make utilised strong.

368

00:51:30.090 --> 00:51:32.190

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And the partnership agreement.

369

00:51:34.080 --> 00:51:37.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: had them naft and their state affiliates.

370

00:51:40.770 --> 00:51:47.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: been very generously on their part, although they had their own incentive structure for that was not complete generosity.

371

00:51:50.190 --> 00:51:53.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: They gave us a couple million dollars.

372

00:51:54.570 --> 00:51:56.820

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: To take the first steps.

373

00:51:58.890 --> 00:51:59.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

374

00:52:01.140 --> 00:52:02.850

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And what what we.

375

00:52:04.290 --> 00:52:12.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: committed to do with something that we knew we had to do anyway, so it was not a it's not a stretch, for us, which is we knew we needed to do to increase.

376

00:52:14.610 --> 00:52:15.300

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

377

00:52:16.770 --> 00:52:21.330

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: All of those talks were crucial in those beginning month.

378

00:52:24.990 --> 00:52:31.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We, and that was one big thing in the beginning, second big thing in the beginning, is.

379

00:52:32.190 --> 00:52:33.030

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We.

380

00:52:34.440 --> 00:52:45.360

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: did what we call it a blitz and men, you probably know this, but we've been working with the folks in Chicago since 2009 before before either of us were in leadership.

381

00:52:46.230 --> 00:52:54.870

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so we have taken we've learned a lot from them over the years and they've learned a lot from us over the years, and one of the things that they told us was.

382

00:52:55.860 --> 00:53:05.550

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: first couple months just be out in the schools like just have your elected officers out in the schools, the whole fucking day every day and.

383

00:53:07.230 --> 00:53:12.870

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so we did that, for the first few months in August September and October 2014.

384

00:53:15.000 --> 00:53:21.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And we tried to do it systematically as possible, like really charting out which schools, we were at etc.

385

00:53:22.860 --> 00:53:32.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That was crucial just in terms of like membership connection us learning, like all the stuff going on and different schools.

386

00:53:33.360 --> 00:53:41.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Members learning that we were actually serious about being out there and engaging in a very different way that was particularly significant given.

387

00:53:42.690 --> 00:53:45.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: What a low participation Union UCLA had been previously.

388

00:53:47.250 --> 00:53:48.630

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So that was a second key thing.

389

00:53:50.430 --> 00:53:53.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think the third key thing was.

390

00:53:54.780 --> 00:53:59.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Immediately starting a series of Community dialogues that we.

391

00:54:01.530 --> 00:54:10.380

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We have UCLA idea convened for us UCLA Institute for democracy, education and access, they were a.

392

00:54:12.210 --> 00:54:24.180

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: They were third party enough that community groups that had been beating up UCLA and detail I could come together to same table, and just talk and.

393

00:54:24.930 --> 00:54:40.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So we immediately started that and we started a series of one on ones with community groups to where frankly people could just speak bitterness and yell at us and there were tears there was crying there was anger, there was all of that, but it was crucial.

394

00:54:41.760 --> 00:54:43.350

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: To setting an initial foundation.

395

00:54:45.270 --> 00:54:49.890

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then fourth We work very closely with our board of directors.

396

00:54:54.510 --> 00:54:57.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Which again was politically diverse.

397

00:54:58.560 --> 00:55:04.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We were very close with our board of directors on a on a first series of staff moves that we were going to make.

398

00:55:07.380 --> 00:55:18.840

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We were going to bring in an executive director you till I had not had an executive director and about 25 years which, which means a lot of things fell through the cracks there was not a.

399

00:55:19.860 --> 00:55:20.790

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There was not a.

400

00:55:22.140 --> 00:55:22.920

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: structure.

401

00:55:25.140 --> 00:55:32.820

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: cta loaned us someone who, who has since become permanent as Executive Director.

402

00:55:35.970 --> 00:55:48.150

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We use the partnership agreement money from any naft to hire an organizing director, which you feel I had never had before got an absolute badass as an organizing director.

403

00:55:49.710 --> 00:55:59.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: 33rd we hired again another absolute badass as our first ever parent Community full time parent Community organizer.

404

00:56:01.380 --> 00:56:15.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and forth we hire another absolute best as our research director who at the time didn't have a department was just a research director, with no department, but so those moves getting people.

405

00:56:16.980 --> 00:56:27.600

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Who are not just good at what they do, but who were ideologically committed to building building an Anti racist movement and building a strong Union.

406

00:56:28.890 --> 00:56:36.510

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In the case of our organizing director someone who had led strikes, you know in many different strikes, those were crucial.

407

00:56:41.370 --> 00:56:45.450

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then I think the fifth thing I mean you asked for early.

408

00:56:47.160 --> 00:56:48.600

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Early things that we did.

409

00:56:49.740 --> 00:56:59.190

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think the fifth thing was we again without having built up all the structures, yet, because we were just bringing people on board could help us build those structures.

410

00:57:01.680 --> 00:57:05.760

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We did a massive Member survey process.

411

00:57:08.850 --> 00:57:19.200

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Which again was not it had a bunch of holes in it, because it because we had taken over a low participation Union and we didn't have all the systems and structures figured out yet, but.

412

00:57:20.490 --> 00:57:33.210

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We did a very broad a member process process Member survey process where chapter leaders would lead their colleagues through like a process of.

413

00:57:34.320 --> 00:57:41.490

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: What was most important to them, because we were dealing with a three year expired contract the contract expired in 2011.

414

00:57:42.810 --> 00:57:43.320

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And the.

415

00:57:44.340 --> 00:57:49.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: folks who were who were elected in 2011 which I talked about a few minutes ago they weren't able to.

416

00:57:50.700 --> 00:57:53.700

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Three years and they hadn't been able to get a contract.

417

00:57:55.980 --> 00:57:59.730

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So we did a massive Member survey process around priorities.

418

00:58:01.650 --> 00:58:10.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: which our Board was very involved in and again was just another way for us to learn what Members were talking about and for Members to see.

419

00:58:11.340 --> 00:58:21.090

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: that things were headed in a different direction, so if I were to choose five things that we did early that were crucial I would say, those those five were up there.

420

00:58:23.220 --> 00:58:28.320

Joel Berger (he/him): That I really yeah I really appreciate that the reflection and and on it.

421

00:58:29.760 --> 00:58:30.510

Joel Berger (he/him): I you know.

422

00:58:31.950 --> 00:58:49.050

Joel Berger (he/him): It is jumping ahead a little bit, but maybe not if you, you know, because obviously know strike happens in a vacuum things build up over a long period of time, so I was wondering if you could just explain what happened in the strike from your 2019.

423

00:58:50.310 --> 00:59:01.080

Joel Berger (he/him): just trying to remember yeah it was 2019 2019 strike from from your perspective, and especially how it came to be centered on these bargaining for the common good demands.

424

00:59:02.070 --> 00:59:17.850

Joel Berger (he/him): And and just what what your memories were of the strike and and the lead up to the strike and and the strike itself and and maybe some reflections and what you want, and what what work still still is left to be done.

425

00:59:20.400 --> 00:59:22.020

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah um.

426

00:59:23.490 --> 00:59:30.870

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean i'll give you a couple of footnotes in those intervening 2014 to 2019 years.

427

00:59:31.980 --> 00:59:33.630

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The the.

428

00:59:35.490 --> 00:59:42.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: winning the contract in 2015 so we basically did the survey process.

429

00:59:45.270 --> 00:59:50.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Explain to our Members that we were going to do a series of escalating actions, and then we were going to win a contract.

430

00:59:52.950 --> 00:59:58.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And, and so between October 2014 and April 2015 that's what we did.

431

00:59:59.670 --> 01:00:00.090

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

432

01:00:01.620 --> 01:00:08.700

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: wasn't a perfect contract like no contract is but 10% raise protected health care.

433

01:00:09.930 --> 01:00:26.040

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: took on one of the most hated things that the district was doing around this teacher jail like just throwing people in the cubicles you know, saying they were accused of something so big victories and.

434

01:00:28.200 --> 01:00:32.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In October, by the way we took over in July of 2014.

435

01:00:33.480 --> 01:00:52.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And by October the superintendent daisy had resigned and it was clearly because he knew what was coming I mean we were building and we were targeting him everything we said was john daisy john daisy needs to be held accountable john days needs to be held accountable.

436

01:00:53.520 --> 01:01:00.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So the reason i'm saying that is that when we did an action in February 2015.

437

01:01:01.890 --> 01:01:12.540

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Where we really systematically by this time we are organizing director, we had all of our schools plotted out we're still filling in the gaps, but we have the rudimentary system and structure.

438

01:01:13.650 --> 01:01:18.990

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so we drove commitment petitions to get everybody out to this rally.

439

01:01:20.070 --> 01:01:32.490

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: With the culmination of a series of escalating actions in the true form of I mentioned Jane mack levy earlier in the true form of like structure tests and escalating actions that Jane read about and no shortcuts.

440

01:01:34.800 --> 01:01:35.490

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

441

01:01:39.540 --> 01:01:50.910

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We ended up with about 15,000 people in downtown la which, which you know 15 out of 34,000 that's you know not quite half of our membership.

442

01:01:52.770 --> 01:01:56.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But the previous rallies that have been called basically between.

443

01:01:59.010 --> 01:02:04.740

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: When you were getting maybe 700 people, it was a very small self selected club.

444

01:02:05.880 --> 01:02:15.000

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: February of 2015 felt so different because it was in one it was 15,000 instead of 700 but two.

445

01:02:16.110 --> 01:02:32.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: There were just a Fuck load of people that are you've never seen before in your life, and it was like wow like if we use a real workplace organizing model we can build a powerhouse here if we did that just between July and February.

446

01:02:33.630 --> 01:02:36.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So it was important for that reason, but it was also important because.

447

01:02:38.460 --> 01:02:41.160

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: been to the district looked at that crowd.

448

01:02:42.330 --> 01:02:47.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And they said these mother fuckers are going to strike, and this was February 2015.

449

01:02:48.750 --> 01:03:00.540

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We knew we couldn't strike when we didn't have the workplace structures in place, we have the workplace structures in place to get 15,000 people downtown but that's different from getting 98% of people and picket lines.

450

01:03:01.980 --> 01:03:09.450

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But the district thought we were going to strike and it's why we got a good agreement and it helped our Members feel that power.

451

01:03:12.330 --> 01:03:16.260

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So the superintendent resigning in October.

452

01:03:17.310 --> 01:03:21.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That rally in February, getting the contract in April.

453

01:03:22.320 --> 01:03:34.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: It allowed us to then in August launch the dues increase drive and so between August 2015 and February 2016.

454

01:03:34.800 --> 01:03:54.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We again when we were just at school sites mean hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of school site visits about why we needed to do this and we ended up winning we got 82% yes for to raise news by 33% which, when you consider a 33% do is increases.

455

01:03:56.400 --> 01:04:09.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean it even surprised us that we got 82% yes, I mean we knew we were going to win the vote because we organized in a structured way and we literally when we were guessing we'd get maybe 70% yes.

456

01:04:11.670 --> 01:04:17.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But the fact that it was 82% just showed us even more like the just the momentum that we are.

457

01:04:19.050 --> 01:04:23.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: i'm saying that, because in relationship to the strike because.

458

01:04:27.210 --> 01:04:42.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That does increase also gave us the ability, starting in 2016 to start funding reclaim our schools Los Angeles, which was what came out of these two and a half years of conversations with community groups that I mentioned before.

459

01:04:44.370 --> 01:04:52.560

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: very complicated process that I won't go into but we we established anchor organization that would create a new coalition called reclaim our schools la.

460

01:04:53.100 --> 01:05:07.470

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And UCLA would actually give give money to each anchor organization, not just like a $1,000 check it at dinner, which is what unions always do doesn't mean shit but to actually pay for a staff member for each community organization.

461

01:05:09.240 --> 01:05:18.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And we've done that every year since but to really structurally change their ability to build their own base among youth and parents.

462

01:05:21.510 --> 01:05:22.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: it's critical for the strike.

463

01:05:24.120 --> 01:05:25.980

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and launching reclaim our schools la.

464

01:05:27.900 --> 01:05:42.360

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: allowed us to have 2016 2017 2018 to really be hearing from parents and youth in a different way and in a systematic way around the bargain for the common good stuff.

465

01:05:43.470 --> 01:05:44.340

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so.

466

01:05:48.330 --> 01:05:48.990

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

467

01:05:50.100 --> 01:05:55.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean, I guess i'll just on the strike i'll just say that the.

468

01:06:00.960 --> 01:06:02.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And there's a lot to say about it but.

469

01:06:05.160 --> 01:06:08.730

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think some of the crucial moments were.

470

01:06:10.590 --> 01:06:14.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: losing the school board elections in May of 2017.

471

01:06:15.900 --> 01:06:28.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: which they were at the time they were the most expensive school board races and in United States history, they event, they were then surpassed by the Los Angeles school board elections.

472

01:06:29.850 --> 01:06:30.180

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: It.

473

01:06:31.230 --> 01:06:33.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That was important because.

474

01:06:34.110 --> 01:06:42.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We were reasonably well organized by 2017 we had we had brought on more staff through the dues increase like we had.

475

01:06:42.570 --> 01:06:53.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We had released more members for training trainings of Member leaders, I mean all the stuff with this new money right we're reasonably well organized and even reasonably well organize.

476

01:06:54.840 --> 01:07:06.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: It and even with good candidates, we lost that it was because the charters, I mean they basically sent the message that they will spend whatever they think it takes.

477

01:07:08.280 --> 01:07:11.880

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: To win, and so we lost and.

478

01:07:14.130 --> 01:07:19.830

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That was really important for us, because I think it helped us shake some of our Member leaders out of.

479

01:07:21.030 --> 01:07:25.560

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Look man, we all, we all believe in elections.

480

01:07:26.700 --> 01:07:30.480

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And and we're going to continue to promote elections and promote democracy but.

481

01:07:31.950 --> 01:07:43.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But we cannot view elections as the main way that we exert our power We just cannot look at it that way, and the 2017 elections helped us.

482

01:07:44.280 --> 01:07:46.500

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: helped us make that point.

483

01:07:49.590 --> 01:08:01.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Those elections were also important because it brought to charter school board members in who then hired the superintendent Austin buettner, who was a investment banker, as you know, with no education experience.

484

01:08:05.490 --> 01:08:05.970

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We.

485

01:08:16.710 --> 01:08:29.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean we were pretty sure before the school board elections in 2017 that we would have to strike to try to shift power in Los Angeles, but after the elections, we were 100% sure.

486

01:08:30.060 --> 01:08:38.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then, when they hired an investment banker frankly when they're hired an investment banker to be superintendent we were like.

487

01:08:39.270 --> 01:08:48.180

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: fucking go for I mean hire an investment banker, because this motherfucker is gonna have to handle the strike and.

488

01:08:54.570 --> 01:08:55.230

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

489

01:08:57.570 --> 01:09:04.860

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The district, I mean negotiations were very long and difficult the contract expired and.

490

01:09:06.360 --> 01:09:07.800

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: spring of 2017.

491

01:09:09.600 --> 01:09:26.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So the strike was in January 2019 on a contract that by that time was a year and a half expire, the district threw up every legal mean by a certain point by certain point they knew that that we could strike, and that we might even want to strike.

492

01:09:27.720 --> 01:09:30.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so they started throwing up all these legal obstacles so.

493

01:09:32.940 --> 01:09:44.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean they they extended out the mediation period longer than we'd ever seen it done, I mean literally like three months waiting for for them to come to the mediation table, I mean just trying to stall things out.

494

01:09:49.110 --> 01:09:56.160

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Because we were organized and gotten into a practice of doing escalating actions and we're in touch with our Members through.

495

01:09:57.330 --> 01:10:02.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like literally charts on the wall and turf of like every single school.

496

01:10:02.970 --> 01:10:13.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We were able to use their delay tactics look to our advantage because it just made people more angry just you know and we just frame the narrative reframed everything back on.

497

01:10:14.460 --> 01:10:20.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Why are they stalling on class size, why are the stolen on salary, where are they stalling on all these different things.

498

01:10:23.220 --> 01:10:25.590

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So actually generated more support through that.

499

01:10:28.320 --> 01:10:47.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We it also allowed more creativity in from Members in the escalation pattern, I mean had we not had all those months in the district was trying to like wait us out like there were there was all sorts of stuff that that our Members to like Members did like.

500

01:10:48.450 --> 01:10:50.880

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Man I i'm not even gonna remember.

501

01:10:51.990 --> 01:10:53.970

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Have you know, most of them, but.

502

01:10:55.740 --> 01:11:05.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Members did like bike tours around the city about like our contract demands, there was like a our Members, created a mariachi dammit.

503

01:11:05.970 --> 01:11:17.010

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Of maniaci band that was just focused on like playing music for the contract escalation they formed a a traditional band for the same purpose.

504

01:11:17.940 --> 01:11:31.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: They did they filmed like whenever the district would send like a higher up out to school to talk about stuff like there were Members filming like you know confrontations, I mean it just.

505

01:11:33.120 --> 01:11:45.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: It just created a cauldron that Members stepped into into started doing this really creative stuff and and that was primarily because of the district delays which helped us.

506

01:11:47.640 --> 01:11:49.860

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In the summer of 2017.

507

01:11:51.210 --> 01:11:52.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So we had.

508

01:11:54.210 --> 01:11:55.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We had started a.

509

01:11:57.810 --> 01:11:59.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: mean we knew when we came in and.

510

01:12:00.450 --> 01:12:03.210

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That we needed like a.

511

01:12:04.860 --> 01:12:09.660

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We needed a different vision for what we wanted our schools to look like we couldn't just say.

512

01:12:10.770 --> 01:12:19.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We couldn't just say lower class size and like a library in the school, we needed something more concrete that felt more.

513

01:12:19.560 --> 01:12:34.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like rooted in an individual school because that's what charters, do they attract you to an individual school, and so we started doing this research on the the sustainable Community schools movement, and this is again where we got help from our friends in Chicago and.

514

01:12:35.280 --> 01:12:38.280

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: friends and milwaukee other places we thinking school's.

515

01:12:39.480 --> 01:12:48.030

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: This whole in this is what I was talking about a crenshaw and we were building a sustainable Community school model without really calling it that at crenshaw to the time.

516

01:12:49.200 --> 01:13:04.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: By 2014 the folks in Chicago had done hunger strikes around Community schools in their 2012 contract their 2012 contract at talked about this sustainable Community schools model which is premised on.

517

01:13:06.810 --> 01:13:08.730

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: As you probably know, is premised on.

518

01:13:10.290 --> 01:13:25.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: A Community school is has deep parent engagement, the parent engagement deep shared decision making broadened and deepened curriculum so ethnic studies, etc.

519

01:13:26.400 --> 01:13:35.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and social services on campus including things that help you with restorative justice and other things like that, but those are the four main pillars.

520

01:13:36.780 --> 01:13:37.320

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

521

01:13:38.880 --> 01:13:41.550

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: By the time we create a reclaim our schools la.

522

01:13:43.080 --> 01:13:50.100

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like We brought the experts out from Chicago from DC from all over the place, just to teach us about Community schools.

523

01:13:51.060 --> 01:13:59.250

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so we want emotion at the school board before the previous board left that had last 2017 elections.

524

01:13:59.850 --> 01:14:07.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Their Final Act was getting a school board motion passed that said that LSD was going to move towards becoming a Community school districts.

525

01:14:08.610 --> 01:14:17.580

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So is it significant victories, it could because it allowed a setup and implementation team, the district was required by that school board motion.

526

01:14:18.540 --> 01:14:24.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: setup and implementation team that involve parents Youth Community organizations others to actually.

527

01:14:25.410 --> 01:14:31.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like write down how we're going to become a Community school district, I mean the Board is just voted on this.

528

01:14:31.530 --> 01:14:46.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: let's get the research from Chicago let's get it from milwaukee let's get it from you know the civil rights, freedom schools let's do all that, so this great team developed all that, through the latter part of 2017 and 2018.

529

01:14:47.580 --> 01:14:54.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then, and then the districts, have no money to fund it so it was and we knew that was gonna happen like that.

530

01:14:54.600 --> 01:15:01.560

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Okay, great did all that work pat you on the head, you did, that great work talking about Community schools too bad we don't have any money for it.

531

01:15:02.550 --> 01:15:10.800

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So by this time that we're playing our schools la parents youth in this coalition and they're fired up about Community schools, and so this became.

532

01:15:11.340 --> 01:15:23.370

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Like a major vehicle for the bargaining for the common good stuff and for the the grassroots leadership of parents and youth behind it, so in the summer of 2017.

533

01:15:24.480 --> 01:15:37.020

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We did a series of forums around the city with parents Youth Community organizations, churches, etc, we didn't you know we did what we could I mean we didn't have.

534

01:15:37.590 --> 01:15:51.510

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Unlimited capacity, but we did you know six or seven pretty major forums basically ask people hey we're at the bargaining table right now, what would you want like if you what would you want us to demand.

535

01:15:52.680 --> 01:16:01.290

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so we came out so out of those forums, there were nine nine Community demands that we put forward.

536

01:16:04.170 --> 01:16:20.610

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: i'm not going to remember them all right now, but one was funding the Community schools initiative another was ending the administrative searches of students that targeted black and Muslim students and other was creating an immigrant Defense fund for immigrant families.

537

01:16:23.280 --> 01:16:26.460

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We had someone housing, we had someone green space.

538

01:16:29.310 --> 01:16:40.440

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We had one on the school Board and the mayor should support the the upcoming what we knew was going to be an upcoming.

539

01:16:41.640 --> 01:16:44.820

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: ballot measure on increasing school funding across the state.

540

01:16:46.080 --> 01:16:52.320

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We had one on charter accountability, so these were like nine Community events that emerged from these forums.

541

01:16:53.340 --> 01:17:03.210

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That we went in September of 2017 we took we had about 40 students parents Community Members come to the bargaining table and present the nine.

542

01:17:04.320 --> 01:17:05.370

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: demands.

543

01:17:06.420 --> 01:17:15.120

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Along with everything else, I mean we were of course doing our regular contract stuff around a healthcare salary, etc.

544

01:17:16.470 --> 01:17:16.890

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

545

01:17:20.310 --> 01:17:28.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And you know the district did what we thought that would do they said, well, we we're not we're not going to negotiate this is not a mandatory subject of bargaining.

546

01:17:30.300 --> 01:17:36.810

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And so we just again use that we did it early enough in in the summer of 2017.

547

01:17:37.920 --> 01:17:46.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: To use that as an axe to grind against the district over the next year and a half of well why aren't they going to negotiate this what I mean.

548

01:17:47.190 --> 01:17:55.350

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Is it going to hurt them to negotiate about searches that make black students feel like they're fucking nothing you know being pulled out of class.

549

01:17:56.880 --> 01:18:06.000

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So we use that as another axe to grind and reclaim our schools la did incredible agitation and escalating actions around it, in fact.

550

01:18:07.500 --> 01:18:24.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In 2018 the reclaim our schools are like shut down school board meeting it was an probably November of 2018 they just masses of parents and youth and by this time we were like a month away from the strike and things were like at a really.

551

01:18:26.550 --> 01:18:29.850

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Energetic moment and parents and youth, they just.

552

01:18:30.960 --> 01:18:39.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: They just stopped the school board meeting and the school board had to leave so it's like really so is this interesting combination of.

553

01:18:42.960 --> 01:18:50.520

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: sort of tried and true Union organizing workplace by workplace methodical.

554

01:18:51.570 --> 01:18:55.980

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Combined with sort of tried and true community organizing.

555

01:18:57.180 --> 01:19:00.570

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: tactics like that and.

556

01:19:01.590 --> 01:19:04.260

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Man I just read the book you've probably read it.

557

01:19:05.460 --> 01:19:10.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: i'm forgetting who the authors are but it's called, this is an uprising, have you have you read that book.

558

01:19:14.460 --> 01:19:19.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: mean it's interesting it talks about like structure based organizing versus what they call momentum based organizing.

559

01:19:20.400 --> 01:19:20.850

and

560

01:19:22.320 --> 01:19:31.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And they've typically been thought of and many historical periods being separate but I think we actually combined them like very structure based organizing.

561

01:19:31.860 --> 01:19:45.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: with something that comes out of like a lot of the Community and civil rights tradition, which is momentum based organizing of forcing decision makers through escalating.

562

01:19:46.260 --> 01:19:54.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Actions of Community to like take a position, so I think we found like a sweet spot of having both of those.

563

01:19:55.590 --> 01:19:56.640

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Working together.

564

01:20:00.030 --> 01:20:00.720

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So.

565

01:20:02.010 --> 01:20:04.530

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah I don't know what else you asked about the strike.

566

01:20:05.730 --> 01:20:21.720

Joel Berger (he/him): ya know it that's awesome and I know we need to hop off here so maybe just looking at at at the strike, what do you see as the big victories that came out of it, and what do you see as the work that still needs to be done.

567

01:20:23.100 --> 01:20:27.360

Joel Berger (he/him): By UCLA by by your your coalition that that that you all have.

568

01:20:30.360 --> 01:20:30.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: um.

569

01:20:36.510 --> 01:20:38.820

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah I mean, I think the I think the.

570

01:20:43.980 --> 01:20:49.290

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: to know a lot more about that question in a couple of years, I mean.

571

01:20:56.400 --> 01:20:58.470

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean on a scorecard.

572

01:21:00.810 --> 01:21:01.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, we won.

573

01:21:03.030 --> 01:21:04.260

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: A huge number of.

574

01:21:05.640 --> 01:21:07.200

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Very significant victories.

575

01:21:10.140 --> 01:21:26.790

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Public education, I mean you know from teaching in Detroit the public education has been underfunded and Fuck with for long enough that even when you do win a lot of things on a scorecard it can still feel very incomplete and maybe even feel like you didn't quite get enough.

576

01:21:30.210 --> 01:21:33.150

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So, even with that dynamic in mind.

577

01:21:35.340 --> 01:21:35.910

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I think.

578

01:21:40.080 --> 01:21:42.360

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah in the most important things were.

579

01:21:44.940 --> 01:22:01.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The first time ever, enforceable classes cats, which is the last thing that is the district agreed on was the lat the very last thing that they broke on, for obvious reasons that they have never had to have enforceable classes caps before.

580

01:22:02.940 --> 01:22:03.900

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: That was huge.

581

01:22:06.810 --> 01:22:11.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Protecting healthcare was huge meant for the mass of our Members.

582

01:22:12.480 --> 01:22:21.060

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: get our we made a lot of progress with our Members on like seeing that a struggle around their what they consider their basic needs, like healthcare.

583

01:22:21.690 --> 01:22:31.710

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: could and should be wet together with like bargaining for the common good bargain for Racial justice so winning on healthcare, with huge in terms of just like an affirmation of like.

584

01:22:32.910 --> 01:22:45.960

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: yeah yeah my Union like says some radical shift like about like housing and like racism and stuff, but they also sure as hell protected health care, like that's an important like thing for.

585

01:22:47.160 --> 01:22:48.780

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Members to have.

586

01:22:52.350 --> 01:23:01.230

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, definitely the the common good stuff I mean the the victory of.

587

01:23:03.240 --> 01:23:18.990

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The strike victory on random searches was that it would be, it would be eliminated at several schools, but not all schools, but that clearly led to what happened, four months later, which was the elimination of them at all schools, so that was huge.

588

01:23:20.760 --> 01:23:23.070

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The Community schools victory, I mean we now.

589

01:23:24.300 --> 01:23:37.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean, I think this is something that's going to go decades in the future if we build the movement right which is mean la is now leading on Community schools, I mean, arguably, more so than anywhere else in the country.

590

01:23:39.690 --> 01:23:45.990

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Because we got I mean the strike 112 million dollars put into the first 30 Community schools.

591

01:23:47.070 --> 01:24:02.730

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We immediately set up a steering committee that that where we appointed Community folks Union folks district folks to drive the Community school project forward and since then we've won 40 more so there's not 70 Community schools in La.

592

01:24:04.620 --> 01:24:08.910

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: we've overlapped the chart the choosing of the 70 with.

593

01:24:10.110 --> 01:24:16.020

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Many of them will be high proportion black student populations, and we want infrastructure.

594

01:24:17.010 --> 01:24:28.410

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: For the Community schools product, there will be a Community director within the district, there will be coaches Community Community school coaches essentially organizers for every five Community schools.

595

01:24:29.910 --> 01:24:41.220

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So the Community is victory is huge in terms of like actually being able to step by step, build an alternative to privatization of like this is a vision of what your school can look like.

596

01:24:41.970 --> 01:24:47.430

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And we've got the infrastructure now to build it with parent engagement with partner engagement, etc.

597

01:24:50.430 --> 01:25:02.850

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The defeat of the of the superintendent's portfolio plan you've probably read about portfolio districts, he was definitely moving towards a portfolio plan the investment banker.

598

01:25:04.590 --> 01:25:05.100

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: and

599

01:25:06.480 --> 01:25:16.140

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean it wasn't one of our demand we didn't have it on a piece of paper like scrap your portfolio plan, but it happened as a result of the strike, and then we didn't hear a peep about it.

600

01:25:17.250 --> 01:25:18.150

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: After the strike.

601

01:25:21.000 --> 01:25:22.110

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Getting the mayor.

602

01:25:23.640 --> 01:25:28.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: As you know, the mayor helped us reach an agreement, getting the mayor and other key.

603

01:25:30.540 --> 01:25:38.400

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: officials to endorse the 2020 ballot measure which we ultimately ended up losing by percentage and a half statewide.

604

01:25:39.270 --> 01:25:53.160

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: But getting them on board early a year and a half early saying I endorse this was huge minute created the momentum mean we wouldn't have gotten that flows if we hadn't gotten those concessions out of the strike.

605

01:25:54.720 --> 01:25:55.290

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then.

606

01:25:56.520 --> 01:25:59.880

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, one of the more interesting things in the common good demands was.

607

01:26:01.710 --> 01:26:04.320

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Was charters.

608

01:26:05.340 --> 01:26:06.630

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We actually got.

609

01:26:10.410 --> 01:26:13.050

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The President of the school Board and the superintendent.

610

01:26:14.340 --> 01:26:15.000

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: committed.

611

01:26:16.350 --> 01:26:26.310

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: in writing at the table before we ended the strike to take emotion, to the La school board where the school board would call for a moratorium on charters.

612

01:26:27.270 --> 01:26:42.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So, in other words for a pro charter school board to call on sacramento for a moratorium on charters, which then did a week later, and which gave the governor room to set up a committee that nine months later, led to the first.

613

01:26:44.070 --> 01:26:46.080

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: charter regulation and 25 years.

614

01:26:49.800 --> 01:26:53.370

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Those are all key victories, I think, I think.

615

01:26:54.960 --> 01:26:58.800

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: From an organizing perspective, given our Members, the experience of being on strike.

616

01:26:59.880 --> 01:27:09.210

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: After 30 years and not striking coordinating with oakland so that their strike was a was a month after ours was key in in like just.

617

01:27:10.650 --> 01:27:13.320

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: figuring out how to do that kind of coordination.

618

01:27:16.830 --> 01:27:18.240

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And then frankly.

619

01:27:19.290 --> 01:27:21.000

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: investment banker superintendent.

620

01:27:22.980 --> 01:27:27.330

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: was pretty damn good during the pandemic and.

621

01:27:29.520 --> 01:27:34.020

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: All of our Members say he was good during the pandemic.

622

01:27:35.040 --> 01:27:35.820

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: Because.

623

01:27:36.930 --> 01:27:39.810

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We went on strike, and he doesn't want to deal with that.

624

01:27:42.150 --> 01:27:43.890

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So I mean I think those were some of the main.

625

01:27:46.890 --> 01:27:47.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The main things.

626

01:27:50.910 --> 01:27:54.540

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean in terms of what else we need to do I think it's like everything I.

627

01:27:55.710 --> 01:27:56.730

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: mean we haven't.

628

01:27:58.620 --> 01:28:05.940

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: We have we have shifted power in Los Angeles, we made the superintendent good on depend on.

629

01:28:07.230 --> 01:28:13.800

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: The school board, even though it's heavily charter like charters are on their heels in California.

630

01:28:15.030 --> 01:28:25.680

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: I mean we have shifted the power dynamic in the narrative strike up through that but we haven't structurally changed public education in terms of how its funded.

631

01:28:26.880 --> 01:28:27.930

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: In terms of.

632

01:28:29.640 --> 01:28:32.160

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: You know, ethnic studies and racial justice.

633

01:28:33.270 --> 01:28:37.950

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: So I mean I think it's like we've got a hell of a long way to go.

634

01:28:39.060 --> 01:28:43.350

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: And we've positioned ourselves to to do good work, but.

635

01:28:45.000 --> 01:28:46.470

Alex Caputo-Pearl - He/Him: we've got a hell of a long way to go.

636

01:28:48.570 --> 01:28:53.910

Joel Berger (he/him): Thank you so much, I think that's a perfect place to end it here so i'm going to pause the recording.