

Winter 2010

District I

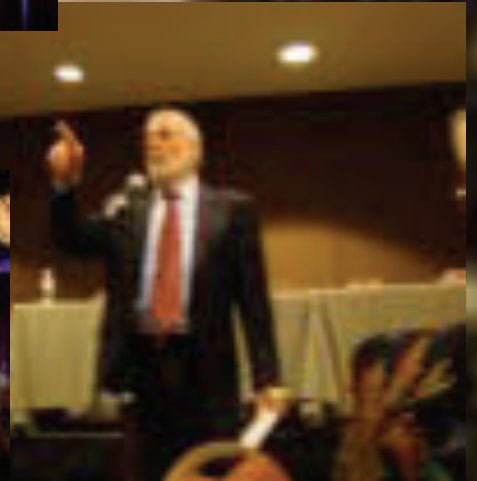
Bonnie Shatun, CTA Director

State Council Report

Leslie Littman —Editor

What are you

doing



on



March 4?



Be a part of the campaign to fight for the resources our children deserve!!

State Council Committee Reports

Here is a brief summary of some of the work done at the January State Council:

- Elected Ron Edwards as NEA Director, District 15
- Re-Elected NEA Board of Directors KC Walsh (District 4), Carol Mathews (District 5) and Sergio Martinez (District 13)
- Elected Roberto Rodriguez for CTA ABC Committee, Minority at Large
- Council adopted the Financing Public Education 2010-2011 State Budget Principles for K-12, Community Colleges, and CSU
- The Assessment and Testing Committee presented language for second reading that focused on using multiple measures and assessment results that are understandable to all stakeholders.
- The Student Support Services Committee focused on the impact the budget cuts are having on SPS personnel and is looking for information about staffing ratios and other professional organizations to make sure SPS members are informed about their rights during a RIF process.
- The Negotiations Committee sent its best wishes to its chair and his wife and their twins.
- The Special Education Committee amended policy on aversive procedures in anticipation of bills being introduced in the coming months.
- The Language Acquisition Committee is reviewing policy in regards to RTTT regulations and El and Bilingual Authorizations
- The Political Involvement Committee recommended oppose on three potential ballot initiatives and support on two others and Council authorized \$4 million from the Initiative Fund to support those efforts.
- The Teacher Evaluation and Academic Freedom Committee presented policy for first reading on dismissal procedures and RIF procedures.
- The Early Childhood Education Committee heard updates on legislation, RTTT, and First 5.
- The School Safety and School Management Committee recommended rejecting changes in legislation related to the School Attendance Review Board and presented the results of their school safety survey. The overwhelming issue identified was a failure to enforce school wide discipline policies.
- The Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee wrote policy in regards to permanent status for non administrative certificated employees and temporary teachers and on instructional excellence.
- The Civil Rights in Education Committee presented policy for first reading on commercially and sexually exploited minors, and policy related to issues around immigration status.
- The Communications Committee recommended winners for the CTA State Gold Awards and additional dates for the pocket calendar.
- The Credentials and Professional Development Committee presented policy on administrator effectiveness and professional development
- The Curriculum and Instruction Committee is working on issues surrounding Professional Learning Communities
- The Retirement Committee continues to focus on the unfunded liability issues in the CalSTRS trust fund. The committee also conducted an educational session with the focus on defined benefit retirement systems. Information about the impact of the proposed initiative was included in their report and can be accessed on the CTA website.
- Alternative, Career and Technical Education Committee focused on working with educational ACT groups outside of CTA

State Budget Principles Adopted by Council

- *CTA opposes any further cuts in the current year, 2009-10 or the budget year 2010-11*
- *CTA believes that we must protect the integrity of Prop. 98. CTA will oppose any attempt to suspend or manipulate the Prop. 98 guarantee*
- *CTA opposes any policy proposals such as: changing teacher seniority, substitute costs, staffing notification process and contracting out.*
- *CTA believes that the Prop 98 funding guarantee is the minimum, not the maximum level.*

*All of the budget principles are available in the state council report on the website.

Just say no to the 3
'PUBLIC' initiatives.
If it says public in the title, DON'T SIGN IT!!!!



Make Plans, Get Organized, and Get Ready for March 4

On March 4, CTA is asking people to join with students, educators, faculty, and other union members for a statewide day of action to support public education, school funding, and other essential community services. The state budget cuts have decimated schools, colleges, and social programs throughout the state.

More than \$17 billion in cuts to education were made over the last two years. More than 16,000 educators lost their jobs last year—and thousands more will get pink slips by March 15 of this year. State funding for community college has been cut by the equivalent of admission fees for a quarter of a million students. CSU enrollment is expected to drop by 40,000 students over the next two years while student tuition is 32 percent higher and UC students will pay 10 percent more.

The idea for a March 4 day of protest started with college students who have seen double-digit fee increases and classes eliminated, but it quickly grew into a broader action. The entire Education Coalition

Some Facts to Consider

According to data from the California Department of Education, we are educating two million more students today than we were in 1980. The number of kids enrolled in 2008 was 6,275,999 compared with 4,119,000 in 1980. In terms of demographics, Latinos are up 188% to 3,057,000, African Americans are up 22% to 466,000, Asian Americans are up 131% to 516,000 and white students are down 17% to 1,790,000. In 1980, 326,000 kids needed to learn English, in 1990 the number increased to 741,000 and in 2008 1,553,000 were identified as English language learners. In 28 years, that is a 382% increase and equals 25% of all the kids in

(teachers, parents, administrators, and school boards) is supporting the demonstrations. This is a day for all of us—parents, administrators, school board members, college faculty, classified, and teachers—to be united against the state budget cuts that are destroying the state’s public education system.

Need some ideas for what do on March 4? Check out the CTA Stand up for Schools website but here are some to get you thinking.

1. Serve donut holes because they should be the “only ‘hole’ that is be acceptable in these days of “hole-filled” budgets.
2. Have a tailgate protest breakfast
3. Park cars on the streets outside schools with signs in the windows
4. Have a bake sale and sell cupcakes symbolically priced at \$10,000
5. Come up with clever slogans like “Happy Teachers Don’t Work in California” or the “Early bird doesn’t get the worm” or “Early to bed and early to rise makes us...well, at least wise.”
6. Distribute flyers as parents drop off kids at schools—check the website for templates.

school. Special Education student population has also increased from 361,000 in 1980 to 683,000 in 2008. And yet, as the student population has increased, the amount of state spending devoted to public education has decreased.

In 1972, California ranked 19th out of 50 in spending per student. If we were to look at that as a percentage of personal income, 5.4% of the state’s personal income was spent on schools during that year. In 2006, California ranked 29th in spending per student or 3.8% of California’s personal

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CTA Director:
Bonnie Shatun, Dist. I

CTA Minority At Large Director:
Marty Meeden

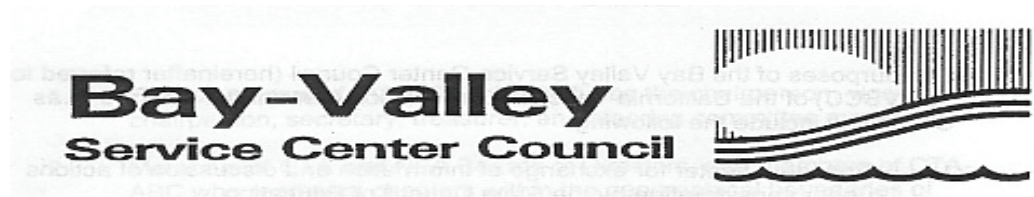
NEA Directors:
Carol J. Mathews, Dist. 5
Margie Granado, Dist. 7

CTA-ABC Committee:
Leslie Littman

Bay Valley Service Center Chair:
Marc Hyatt

Geographically, District I extends from the Santa Clarita Valley, through the San Fernando Valley, along the South Bay and ends in Long Beach. District I has one Service Center. The Bay Valley Service Center Council is composed of 36 local education unions.

Service Center Councils meet shortly before the meetings of State Council and coordinate member participation in CTA activities. BVSCC provides a variety of training programs dealing with such contract issues as the state budget, health benefits, retirement, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It is also responsible for State NEA Delegate Elections as well as State Council elections for seats that represent multiple chapters.



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income was spent on schools. One percent of California's personal income is roughly equal to \$17 billion.

While these numbers show a substantial change in the student population and a serious decline in resources, it does not mean that public schools are failing. In fact, the numbers show some significant improvements. In 1999, 607 was the API score for schools in the 5th decile. In 2007, 644 was the API score for schools in the first decile. Reading and math scores over the last six years have shown gains in all student groups. In addition, California secondary students are taking 60% more college bound course today than they were six years

ago. And the percentage of students who are proficient in those state assessments has grown by 80%. While the numbers show that public schools are not failing, the positive trend will likely slow down if the state continues to cut public education.

Although he promised to protect public education, the Governor's current budget proposal cuts \$2.4 billion from K-12 schools and community colleges. This is in addition to the \$17 billion cut previously. We need to convince the legislature and the public that California's investment in public schools, community colleges, and universities must be restored so we can continue our efforts in student achievement.