

# State Council Wrap-up

## CTA State Council of Jan. 24 – Jan. 25, 2015

---

### Your State Council Representatives:

Ann Katzburg  
*Vice Chair of Communications*

Japhia Mott  
*Special Education*

Linda Venturino  
*Teacher Evaluation and Academic Freedom*

Robert Gendron (alternate for Kimberley Gilles)  
*Civil Rights in Education*

---

### Council Highlights

In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Dean Vogel spoke about CTA's proud history of being at the forefront of Civil Rights. Our association has worked to secure education for our students. We were the first group to oppose the internment of Japanese Americans during World War 2. We have fought to have English Learners succeed and we have stood up for GLBT rights. We were the largest and most prominent group opposing Prop. 8. We led the battle and now 36 states have marriage equality. We have done all of this work because it's the right thing to do.

CTA's strategic plan was adopted a year ago. It entails the goals of organizing, social justice, community engagement, and political involvement. We must keep our eyes on the prize as we persist in our work to effect change and take back our profession.

The Governor's budget is a result of the work that YOU did to pass prop. 30. With the new funding formula and the Local Control Accountability Plan, we have an opportunity to design our plan for how the money should be spent in our districts.

Joe Nunez, CTA's executive director, addressed council on the "deformer's movement" that is the antithesis of what it claims to promote – Students Matter. The lawsuit, Vergara vs. California claims that permanent status is the cause for ineffective teachers. It believes that if student test scores are used in teacher's evaluations, and if the test scores drop, the teacher's permanent status can be rescinded. All teachers will be "At Will" employees. It is fundamental that we continue to stand up for ourselves, and lead the conversation, because we are the ones that know our students matter, and what our students need to have a quality education

### Council Business:

The CTA board report opened with the Political Involvement Committee chair calling for council to approve the endorsement of Joan Buchanan for the special election in Senate District 7. Mark Desaulnier, who held that seat, was elected to congress in November. Susan Bonilla, Steve Glazer in addition to Joan have all submitted their candidacy as democrats, and republicans Michaela Hertle and Terry Kremin will also appear on the ballot. Ann Katzburg spoke in favor of supporting the board's recommendation of endorsing Joan Buchanan for this important senate seat and against the proposed amendment of no endorsement. Upon the recommendation, it was noted that Joan has been a champion for CTA, as she authored many bills including AB215 – known as the dismissal bill that would escalate the dismissal of teachers involved in egregious crimes. Council voted to endorse Joan Buchanan for the special election in Senate district 7. Candidate forums were held for President, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer of CTA. There are a large number of candidates, and the forum provided an opportunity for council members to listen to the perspectives of all of the candidates.

Barbara Shulman, the chair of the Special Ed. Committee, was elected to NEA board. Representing us in California and working on policy, Barbara will now impact us on a national level.

## **Committee Highlights:**

### **Assessment and Testing Committee:**

Council approved immediate action on delaying the Academic Performance Index (API) for one year so that CTA can guide future legislation and provide information to the state board. The API is targeted to be reinstated in 2016. CTA would like to delay this target to 2017. The rationale for this delay is due to the fact that materials are not ready for the Common Core. The SBAC is unavailable, and districts need more information to prepare.

Another recommendation is to change the weights of the statewide assessments on the API to 25% for High School and 40% for elem. and middle schools. The rationale for this recommendation is the test should only be a percentage of the measures, allowing for local districts to develop targets that make a difference in their communities. The goal is to have the API to be a growth model for a local district, and not a comparison to other districts that do not have similar criteria, and needs.

Another recommendation is to eliminate the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). It was stated that the test is no longer relevant and doesn't align to the state standards.

### **Student Support Services Committee**

5 committees sent representatives to discuss the Discipline Alternatives of AB420. Japhia Mott was selected from the Special Education Committee to participate in this discussion. The state is claiming that suspensions have decreased, and this may be due to positive discipline programs and restorative justice. The committee discussed that the decrease may be due to schools refusing to suspend students and returning them to class. The Committee wants data on how districts are using LCFF funding for training and implementing programs and if they are being included in the LCAP.

For the first time, there is a National School Counselor of the Year. This was established as part of the first Lady's Reach Higher Initiative. Tawnya Pringle, a CTA member was selected as the one of the five finalists. She will be visiting the White House for a ceremony similar to The Teacher of the Year reception.

### **Special Education Committee**

New policy was written for a "first reading" that states CTA believes that districts should mandate the reporting of all injuries that occur as a result of students' actions, as well as no reprisals for reporting incidents of injury. Also, CTA believes that districts should provide formal, extensive, and ongoing training in injury prevention and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, CTA believes that districts should provide additional personnel resources, supplies and materials needed to promote and ensure the safety of education professionals and students.

### **Civil Rights and Responsibilities Committee:**

Kimberley Gilles co-wrote policy for this committee on the School to Prison Pipeline and Incarceration Prevention. This policy was voted upon and approved by the council. Congratulations, Kimberley, on making a difference in the lives of students.

### **Teacher Evaluation and Academic Freedom**

We are all waiting on the ruling in the Vergara lawsuit, which may affect seniority and the dismissal process. When the decision has been rendered, we will use our TEAF committee time at State Council to plan our next steps. Our CTA legislative analyst, Patricia Rucker, spoke to us about teacher evaluations. The legislature is interested in writing a bill which would address teacher evaluation, with respect to updating the current language on teacher evaluation contained in the Stull Act, passed in 1971. The good news is that the lawmakers want to use the CTA framework for evaluations as a model for the language. Yay!

**Other Highlights:** The communications committee would like to do an article on Innovative teaching. If you are teaching a class that is non-traditional, and highly innovative, please contact Ann Katzburg at [akatzbu@srvusd.net](mailto:akatzbu@srvusd.net) with your information.