

State Council Wrap-up

CTA State Council of Oct. 24 – Oct. 26, 2014

Your State Council Representatives:

Ann Katzburg
Vice Chair of Communications

Japhia Mott
Special Education.

Linda Venturino
Teacher Evaluation and Academic Freedom

Kimberley Gilles
Civil Rights in Education

Council Highlights

State council's October meeting occurred right before the election, and our activities were focused on what we can do to get education friendly candidates into office. Dean Vogel addressed the council on Saturday morning. Dean spoke about how education changed his life, and that he became involved in his union because he realized that a teacher's working conditions are a student's learning conditions. Our work in the union has provided the strength and solidarity to bring enormous changes to education in California. What have we done?

We passed Prop. 98 bringing guaranteed funding to our schools.

We brought Class Size Reduction to our youngest students.

We passed a school bond in 2000 to renovate and improve our schools

We elected a governor that supported prop. 30 bringing the first voter's tax increase to education in 20 years

We passed an assembly bill – 484 that suspended outdated testing and put a moratorium on high stakes test as we begin to grasp the changes in our standards.

Dean finished his speech in the words of humanitarian anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has!"

Tom Torlakson visited State Council Sunday morning to express his gratitude for our teachers who believes and supports the potential of all of our students in achieving their dreams. Tom expressed the need to stop the blame game, and to emphasize that public schools are not for sale. He shared that we have made progress, and we must reach new thresholds and new heights.

Council Business:

CTA launched an Appreciative Inquiry of CTA's Structure and Governance. Last January Council adopted CTA's Strategic Plan. For the duration of this year CTA will be examining the stands in-depth to identify possible changes in CTA's structure and governance to carry out its mission. There are 6 strategic strands-

Advocacy on Education Reform

Transforming our Profession

Building an Organizing Culture and Organizing Unrepresented Education workers

Leadership Development

Community engagement and Coalition building

Social Justice, Equity, and Diversity

During Committee, members focused on one of the strands and imagined the potential, stretching the realms of the status quo, challenging assumptions in order to suggest real possibilities and develop a provocative proposition.

Committee Highlights:

Student Support Services Committee:

This committee recommended that CTA develop a Task Force/Work Group that meets periodically and reports out to State Council and the general membership on the implementation of AB 420 which changes the requirements for suspension and expulsion for willful defiance. It is recommended that the Task Force/Work Group report back on successful programs that provide interventions and alternatives to suspension and expulsion and ensure that all students are treated equitably.

The SPS Committee discussed the passage of SB 1266, a bill requiring school districts, county offices, and charter schools to stock epinephrine auto-injectors. If a school nurse is not available, a person who has received proper training is authorized to use the auto-injector. Use of the auto-injectors by teachers and ESP support staff is **voluntary**. Those willing to volunteer to administer medication should be trained before volunteering to administer the medication. Liability for those who volunteer and are properly trained is assumed by the school district. Members are cautioned not to sign any statement assuming liability for administration of medicine to students.

Teacher Evaluation and Academic Freedom Committee

The committee looked at AB 215 The Dismissal Law. This new law will separate immoral and unprofessional conduct into separate grounds. Egregious misconduct will be defined as immoral conduct according to Ed. Code – sexual abuse, controlled substance, and child abuse. For egregious crimes, districts may expedite the process.

Unsatisfactory progress may be filed at any time during the year. A case must be heard within 7 months.

Civil Rights and Responsibility

This committee added language to our organizational handbook that says “CTA believes that ethnic studies enhances student achievement and is an essential component of a culturally diverse education.” This language is important as we develop our LCAP and attempt to engage all students in their learning.

Other Highlights:

Join the NEA campaign regarding *Degrees, Not Debt*. Organizing materials are on the www.nea.org website.

The book *Teacher Wars: A History of America's Most Embattled Profession* by Dana Goldstein was recommended by Joe Nunez, CTA's executive director. In her introduction, Goldstein writes, “I began this book in early 2011 with a simple observation: Public school teaching had become the most controversial profession in America.” She goes on to write, “No other profession operates under this level of political scrutiny, not even those, like policing or social-work that are also tasked with public welfare and are paid for with public funds.”