STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Patty Blume Taylor, Chairperson
Kirsten Barnes, Vice Chairperson
Kendall Vaught, Board Liaison
Arleigh Kidd, Consultant
Susan Midori-Jones, Consultant

MAJOR POLICY - Immediate Action (2/3rd vote required)

None

MAJOR POLICY - First Reading

None

OTHER ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

None

REFERRALS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. That CTA develop a NODD advisory regarding the issue of subcontracting for school counselor services. The advisory should reference the comprehensive services that school counselors can provide under the California Education Code, which includes academic; career, technical education and college counseling; and personal/social counseling. This issue of subcontracting also occurs at the higher education level.

MATTERS PENDING

1. SPS is continuing to collect and analyze examples of SPS evaluation instruments, standards, and contract language.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. CTA Board Liaison Kendall Vaught encouraged SPS members to participate in the State Council phone bank for State Superintendent. Kendall also explained the importance of the proposed increase in CalSTRS contributions and said there would be further information provided throughout council this weekend.

2. SPS Chair Patty Taylor discussed continuing reduction in counselor positions that are related to a misunderstanding regarding the services that school counselors are authorized to provide. In some cases, counselors have been reduced and outside agency mental health therapists have been hired to conduct group counseling, parent support groups, and intervention therapy. Under CA Ed Code Section 49600, educational counselors are authorized to provide academic, career, vocational and college counseling, and social-emotional counseling in the school setting. CFT proposed legislation (AB 1995 Pan) that would utilize LCFF funding to provide more social workers and psychologists. The term

"Academic Counselor" is often used erroneously and encourages faculty to believe the role of counselors should be relegated to academic and career counseling. In some cases SPS Committee members reported that the LCAP plan in their District has resulted in a lower counselor-to-student ratio or actual counselor RIFs.

3. SPS Committee members discussed added student support services that have resulted from increased LCFF funding in their districts. Some districts are placing counselors at every school site, including elementary and middle schools. Many districts have increased nursing and health aide services. The target for much of the new services has been the provision of social-emotional services.

4. In 2013, the California Supreme Court authorized the administration of insulin by unlicensed personnel. CSNO has asked CTA for a letter of endorsement for the California School Nurses Organization's (CSNO) project to develop a tiered training for unlicensed personnel to administer medication in the school setting. The SPS Committee believes that it is difficult to endorse a training program that has not been completed, but encourages CSNO do what it can to protect school nurses and unlicensed school employees who are pressured to participate in "voluntary" training. SPS believes that members should be informed of and consider liability issues before volunteering to be trained to administer insulin and other specialized medications. The SPS Committee also encourages local associations to enroll school nurse members in CTA's additional liability insurance program and to protect school nurse members with local contract language.

5. The Committee moved, seconded, and voted to respond informally to CSNO. Included in the response will be issues cited in item number four above.

6. The SPS Committee reviewed and approved a final draft of a revised Student Support Services brochure. Jody Sanchez, SPS Policy Sub-Committee Chair, said the brochure will be distributed at the October 2014 State Council.

7. Jacquella Payne, CTA Liaison to CSNO (California School Nurses Organization), said CSNO was disappointed that more organizations did not support its effort to pass legislation requiring a school nurse. A safe and adequate student to school nurse ratio in all California schools is a legislative priority for CSNO. CSNO has asked for CTA to present at its Annual Conference.

8. Patty Blume Taylor, liaison to the Pupil Services Coalition, said that the coalition is preparing for a presentation on student support services at the ACSA SPED and Student Support Services Symposium in Monterey, CA.

9. Kirsten Barnes, CASC (California Association of School Counselors) reminded members that the CASC Annual Conference will be held November 14-15th in San Diego.

10. Patty Blume Taylor was re-elected SPS Committee Chairperson and Kirsten Barnes was re-elected SPS Committee Vice Chairperson.