

**CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT
STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATION
MAY 31- JUNE 1, 2014
NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

NBI 5/14-1

That CTA create a conference offering available for conference planners to offer at both statewide and regional conferences which summarizes and illustrates not only CTA's involvement in the legislative process, but the different roles and positions CTA can take on individual pieces of legislation.

Rationale: Often, standing committees at State Council are asked to evaluate NBI's which call for CTA to "sponsor legislation", "advocate" for legislation, or lobby legislation. Many of our local leaders and even state council members may not fully understand the legislative process, such as how legislation is introduced or how it can be influenced or amended. By having a conference session available, conference planners would not only have a new and different session available to enrich conferences, but attendees would have an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of one of the important functions of CTA.

[Jeff Johnston (NEG)/Manny Lopez (NEG)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBI 5/14-2

That CTA shall conduct a statewide on-line membership survey about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium field test and in a timely manner, shall make the results of this survey public.

Rationale: 1. AB 484 authorizes the State Board of Education to postpone the 2014-15 SBAC launch, based on the recommendations of the State Superintendent of Instruction. 2. Policy-makers should hear directly from educators about the utility, appropriateness and impact of the field test. We shouldn't rely on a survey created by SBAC itself. 3. CTA policy is to "oppose standardized tests when they do not match skill, academic or developmental levels of language proficiency of the students."

[Alita Blanc (FPE)/Alice Mercer (AST)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE ASSESSMENT & TESTING COMMITTEE

NBI 5/14-3

That CTA urge NEA to oppose the inappropriate use of high stakes tests in teacher preparation, including corporatization of teacher performance assessments like Pearson Ed-TPAs and ask NEA to explain to DOE that data collected from assessments shall only be used to inform candidate needs and teacher preparation program development/improvement.

Rationale: Educators are concerned for the following reasons: the corporatization of student teacher performance assessment as a replacement for faculty assessment of teacher candidates, the role of SCALE and Pearson, Inc. in removing the edTPA from public accountability by identifying edTPA handbooks and other materials as proprietary information that cannot be reviewed through college curriculum processes or other avenues for public review, inadequate assessment of the validity of the edTPA as a predictor of teaching excellence, privacy concerns associated with videotapes of K-12 students that will remain in the hands of Pearson, Inc.

[Rosalinda Quintanar (LNG)/Janet Davis (CPD)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBI 5/14-4

That CTA, by the 2015-2016 school year, reactivate and fully implement the CTA Staff Internship program, specifically to encourage and support ethnic member participation.

Rationale: Our CTA strategic plan identifies a goal: "develop programs that recruit, support and retain historically under represented groups into the ranks of our education workforce and CTA staff...Locals that employ their own staff will review current programs for recruitment of the communities we serve...review current and previous programs for recruitment and retention of staff (such as the staff internship program) and improve upon them so that every effort is made to assure that CTA staff is reflective of the diversity of the communities we serve."

[Gretel Rodriguez (COM)/Betty Olson-Jones (BUD)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBI 5/14-5

That CTA:

1. Issue Legal guidance based on Ed. Code.
2. Seek and distribute guidance directly from IRS regarding the acceptability of 12-monthly paychecks.

Rationale: Districts in Nevada Co. and elsewhere in Region 2 are announcing they will no longer issue 12 checks; only 11 monthly checks based on guidance from county offices. This is a hardship and inconvenience especially on lower paid employees; is a unilateral imposition. Districts claim STRS, PERS and especially the IRS mandate not issuing 12 month pay for 10 or 11 months of work.

[Peter Minett (NEG)/Linda Crow (STL)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBI 5/14-6

That CTA disseminate a "myths and facts" resource sheet on CA Parent Trigger Law to all service centers, posted on CTA.org resources and on CTA Facebook page.

Rationale: School sites need to be aware of the threat that corporate-backed reform groups and outside special interest groups pose to public education. Organizations such as Parent Revolution are preying on unaware communities and using the Parent Trigger Law to destabilize schools and create divisive environments while parents are misled and used.

[Reagan Ducan (CRE)/Erik Beinke (CRE)]

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RECOMMEND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND APPROVE.

NBI 5/14-7

That CTA, beginning with the first State Council of 2014-2015, require that New Business Items cite their alignment with the CTA Strategic Plan.

Rationale: If it is the goal to make the Strategic Plan central to the organizational work of CTA, then the actions directed by NBIs need to support and promote that goal.

[Trish Gorham (ECE)/Meritt Davies (SSS)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBI 5/14-8

That CTA direct the officers and GR to continue working on the CalSTRS plan: - insert review periods every 3-5 years - lessen impact on districts and salary negotiations - continue to keep funding away from Prop. 98 - determine possibilities of 80, 85, 90 and 95 % funding - Keep member contributions at a minimum

Rationale: The current negotiated CalSTRS full funding proposal needs continued refinement and attention. The burden placed on districts has the potential to disrupt and deny salary increases while projecting 30 years of changes without a defined review period. With 80% funding an accepted measure of a safe and secure pension fund, this proposal aims at 100% funding without explanation of the benefit. The trade off for a 2.5% increase is a guarantee of a 2% COLA, an apparent sacrifice of a half percent.

[Dennis Kelly (COM)/Mark Kotch (RET)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

NBI 5/14-9

That CTA develop a myth/fact and/or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet/paper on CCSS. This would be available in the appropriate venues to both the public and to members.

Rationale: CTA had a CCSS forum at State Council and an article in the Educator which were informative but did not address all concerns. AS CCSS is adopted/supported by NEA/CTA, we need to be sure that information is accurate. There are concerns about CCSS and we must discuss it with correct/accurate information. There is confusion between instruction versus curriculum versus assessment. Also, there are misconceptions such as teachers are teaching "hippie" math - CCSS only wants to know how the students feel about the math process. Some say CCSS is too difficult others say it isn't rigorous enough.

[Alexandra Condon (TEAF)/Shelly Gupton (C&I)]

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RECOMMEND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND APPROVE

NBI 5/14-10

That CTA support, and that the CTA President write to the state legislature a letter of support for, SB 935 and all legislation which would raise the minimum wage in California to \$13 an hour by 2017, and guarantee minimum wage increases ongoing tied to inflation.

Rationale: The minimum wage affects our students and their families deeply. A higher minimum wage is good for families, good for the economy, helps people get out of debt, and reduces poverty.

[Dan Reynolds (CRE)/Kimberley Gilles (CRE)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

NBI 5/14-11

That CTA produce, through electronic means, a members-only survey that examines the roll-out of SBAC tests this past year. The survey will explore the quality, age-appropriateness, functionality and user-friendliness of these tests including written feedback. The results shall be published using existing means on or before January 2015.

Rationale: California students deserve a quality, functional test that will appropriately measure progress towards the CCSS. Flaws from last year's pilot test remained in this year's field test. Poorly worded and vague test items, writing performance tasks that CCSS call for guidance and support at that grade level (ex: multiple paragraph texts for 3rd graders), confusing formatting, lack of age appropriate tutorials for tools and non-functional parts of the test are some of the problems encountered. We need a vehicle to voice our concerns and then use the data gathered to demand improvement of the tests.

[Anita Vanegas (RET)/Greg Bonaccorsi (COM)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE ASSESSMENT & TESTING COMMITTEE

NBI 5/14-12

That CTA lobby to divest CalSTRS from fossil fuels by 2020, and to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil fuel companies.

Rationale: It is wrong to profit from destroying our climate. CTA serves the public good. Fossil fuels harm the public. Divestment and freezing investment stops fossil fuel infrastructure projects, improves environmental health, and takes steps to slow climate change. Colleges, churches, local governments, and retirement plans around the world are divesting from fossil fuels. We should, too.

[Dan Reynolds (CRE)/Kimberley Gilles (CRE)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

NBI 5/14-13

That CTA lobby to restore EIA (economic impact aid) funding to the state budget to 2012-2013 levels.

Rationale: Students in poverty, language learners, and other students need support to allow them more equitable access to education. We need support, programs, and activities designed and implemented to assist educationally disadvantaged students at all of our schools.

[Dan Reynolds (CRE)/Guy Moore (RET)]

**THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE FINANCING
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

NBI 5/14-14

That the CTA Board review the implementation process for the new dues structure and ensure a gradual roll-out to ease the financial burden this new structure may have on our members.

Rationale: The new CTA dues structure has created a situation in which Adult Ed, CCA, and Childhood Development educators will be moved into a higher dues paying bracket. Many of these Educators could move from a payment tier of \$82.40 to \$644.00 within one year. Since this dues increase is potentially so dramatic, the board should take this into consideration before implementing.

[Ruth Luevand (ACT)/Dani Tucker (C&I)]

**THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE**

NBI 5/14-15

That CTA create a work group to investigate CTA going carbon neutral by 2020.

Rationale: Climate change is a serious problem, caused primarily by the carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels like oil, coal, and gas. Going carbon neutral will help. Going carbon neutral means taking responsibility for our part in reversing climate change, by cutting use of fossil fuels, utilizing alternative energy sources, implementing and following energy efficiency practices, and purchasing carbon offsets (which supports further alternative energy infrastructure).

[Dan Reynolds (CRE)/Trish Gorham (ECE)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBI 5/14-16

That CTA call on members and friends to no longer shop at Staples stores because of their efforts towards privatizing US postal operations, refusing to staff postal counters in their stores with unionized workers. Further, CTA will publicize this decision to the NEA and to other unions.

Rationale: CTA needs to support the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) in its efforts to protect well-paying jobs and customer service, and oppose efforts by the US Postal Service to privatize operations.

[Betty Olson-Jones (BUD)/Mary Prophet (NEG)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NBI 5/14-17

That CTA advocate for legislation that aggressively tackles the issue of student debt, including but not limited to: making student loan debt forgivable, lowering and keeping low interest, and working to cut fees and lower tuition, with the ultimate goal of free public higher education for all students.

Rationale: Let's take the lead, beyond NEA's "Degrees Not Debt," beyond austerity, beyond interest freezes, beyond stopping fee hikes- free universal California higher education should be our goal. Let us pursue the 21st century economy, the California dream, the dream of the middle class, and the dream of ending poverty through education.

[Dan Reynolds (CRE)/Guy Moore (RET)]

**THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE FINANCING
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**