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# CTA Liaison News



By CTA Vice President Dean E. Vogel and Secretary-Treasurer Gail Mendes

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## Close-up

### **Gov. Jerry Brown Appoints Seven Members to State Board of Education**

Within days of taking office on January 3, Gov. Jerry Brown made good on his promise to revamp the state's education policy-making body, the State Board of Education. The new governor made seven appointments to the body, replacing Schwarzenegger appointees whose terms expire this month. The State Board approves or denies charter school petitions and sets policy on a wide range of educational issues, including instructional materials. The seven newly appointed members include Patricia Ann Rucker, the CTA legislative advocate and instructional expert.

The six others include: Dr. Carl Anthony Cohn, of Palm Springs, a Professor and the Co-Director of the Urban Leadership Program at Claremont Graduate University and a former Superintendent of Schools for the San Diego Unified School District.

Dr. Michael Kirst, of Stanford, a Professor Emeritus at Stanford University. Kirst served on the California State Board of Education under Governor Brown from 1975 to 1982.

Aida Molina, of Bakersfield, Executive Director on Academic Improvement and Accountability for Bakersfield City School District. She has been a Commissioner with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

James Ramos, of San Bernardino, the Chairman for the San Manuel Band of Indians. He was re-elected in 2010 as a member of the San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustees.

Dr. Ilene Straus, of Beverly Hills, is the assistant superintendent for educational services in the Beverly Hills Unified School District.

Trish Boyd Williams, of San Jose, She has served as the Executive Director for EdSource since 1992.

The governor originally included former Supt. of Public Instruction Bill Honig, but his nomination was withdrawn without comment on January 11.

The State Board's website is [www.cde.ca.gov/index.html](http://www.cde.ca.gov/index.html).

*CTA's Liaisons to the State Board are Larry Carlin, Margie Granado, Pixie Hayward-Schickele, Doreen McGuire-Grigg, and Sandra Thornton.*

### **Arnold's Last-ditch Acts Aim to Block Changes in Credentialing Panel**

Before leaving office, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger apparently made three appointments to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The last-minute appointments seem designed to block Gov. Jerry Brown's opportunity to appoint a panel that will work more closely with his office and more effectively overall, CTA Liaisons report. It is believed that Gov. Brown will have the option to withdraw the appointments and submit the names of others, instead. The three persons were appointed to fill the teacher representative seats.

Mark Freathy, 55, of Elk Grove, has worked as a math teacher and math department chair for the Elk Grove Unified School District since 1989.

James Hines, 47, of Fresno, teaches at Wilson Elementary School in Fresno, California since 1998.

Hilda Villarreal Wright, 37, of Bakersfield, has been an academic math coach and teacher for the Washington Middle School Math Department in Bakersfield, California since 2006.

The CCTC's webpage is [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov).

*CTA's Liaisons to the CCTC are Harold Acord, Alexandra Condon, Kathy Harris, and Courtney Woods-Ziani.*

### **CC Board of Governors Votes to Freeze Full-time Faculty Obligation**

The California Community College Board of Governors voted at its November 8-9 meeting to freeze college districts' Full-time Faculty Obligation Number (FON). Freezing the FON effectively frees districts

from hiring additional full-time faculty to boost the ratio of full-time to part-time instructors.

The freeze lets district slough off this obligation even if they have the financial wherewithal to hire additional full-time staff. Faculty representatives stressed that CC districts had reserves in excess of \$1 billion and should be using some of these funds to increase the number of full-time staff.

The Community College Board of Governors' website is [www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/BoardofGovernors](http://www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/BoardofGovernors).

*CTA Liaisons to the BOG are Lynette Nyagah and Ron Norton Reel.*

## California Math Council Gets Briefing on New Common Core Standards

Members of the California Math Council received a briefing from Jim Greco of the State Department of Education on the newly adopted state Common Core Standards. Among other things, the SDE representative explained the differences between the old and new standards and spelled out the timeline for implementation of the new ones. It is believed that the new standards do a better job of aligning topics with a child's natural development.

The California Math Council's website is [www.cmc-math.org](http://www.cmc-math.org).

*CTA's Liaisons to the California Math Council are Lori Adams and Jan Bridge.*

## Pupil Services Coalition Express Fears of Impact of Funding Cuts on Students

During its November 12 meeting, the California Pupil Services Coalition expressed concerns about the impact of former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's veto of AB 3632 that would have provided funding for the counseling of Special Education students. Concerns center on the fact that schools have an obligation to provide the services, despite the appropriations.

Despite CTA victories that killed legislation allowing non-medical personnel to administer some potentially dangerous prescribed drugs to students, a new effort is surfacing that would have non-medical staff administer a different dangerous anesthetic, Versed, to students undergoing seizures.

The website of the California Pupil Services Coalition is [www.naswca.org/cassw/cpscfactsheet.htm](http://www.naswca.org/cassw/cpscfactsheet.htm).

*CTA's Liaison to the California Pupil Services Coalition is Patty Taylor.*

## More Funding for Schools Could Hang on Educators' Outreach to Voters

When Gov. Jerry Brown unveiled his 2011-2012 state budget plan, he outlined two scenarios. In the first, schools and other key state programs would be able to avoid additional massive and debilitating cuts if voters would extend some state temporary taxes that are scheduled to expire.

A ballot measure extending the taxes could be put before voters prior to the June 30 constitutional deadline for a new state budget. In the months leading up to the expected vote, school supporters will be able to play a vital role by helping educate communities about the unmet needs of students and schools.

You can help by signing up to become a CTA budget advocate. As a budget advocate, you'll receive special bulletins and alerts that will let you continue to play an important role in this ongoing battle. By responding to these e-mails by writing, calling, or visiting your lawmakers, you'll help keep the pressure on our new governor and newly elected lawmakers to support public education.

To sign up, simply send an e-mail with your address and zip code to [budgetadvocate@cta.org](mailto:budgetadvocate@cta.org). We'll do the rest.

If you haven't yet, you can also sign up for a free subscription to the *CTA Liaison News*. Just send an e-mail to [dbasurto@cta.org](mailto:dbasurto@cta.org).

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