

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Barbara Schulman, Chairperson
Jennifer Moon, Vice Chairperson
Tyrone Cabell, Board Liaison
Pamela Greenhalgh, Recorder
Isabelle Garcia, Legislative Advocate
Stacy Begin, Consultant
Angela Marese Boyle, Consultant

MAJOR POLICY – Immediate Action

None

MAJOR POLICY – First Reading

None

MAJOR POLICY –Second Reading

None

OTHER ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

NONE

REFERRAL TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

None

MATTERS PENDING

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Chair Report, Barbara Schulman welcomed all returning and new members to the committee.
2. The chair encouraged the committee to comprehend the CTA long term strategic plan. The committee discussed the town hall meetings. The committee assisted in answering questions concerning the strategic plan.
3. The committee reviewed the Teacher Evaluation Workgroup Introduction and Guiding Principles. A lengthy and lively discussion followed. Notes from the discussion were provided to CTA.
4. The committee received a legislative update from legislative advocate Isabelle Garcia on the Sacramento scene for the 2014 legislative year for special education issues. Isabelle

talked about the transitional leadership changes, the budget and expected bills on special education.

5. Statewide Special Education Survey-At the October 2013 State Council, the Special Education Committee designed and administered a statewide online survey about Special Education in California. The purpose of the survey was to collect information from general education and special education members about how students with disabilities are provided special education instruction and services. The information provided from the online survey will assist the Special Education Committee in identifying special education deficiencies, trends, opportunities and areas for potential improvement.

This online survey was designed to take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Although the majority of questions were designed in multiple-choice format, respondents were provided an opportunity to identify their school district and provide comments in open ended format. The survey was available online from October 26, 2013 through January 24, 2014 and during that time, a total of 8,157 responses were received from the online survey.

The Committee started reading and reviewing the survey results. Initial findings from the survey include:

- Over half, 5,156 of 8,157 of the survey respondents, or 64%) were general educators and 33% of survey respondents, 2,661 of 8,157 are special educators.
- Nearly half, 51. % of survey respondents worked in an elementary school setting, 27% in high school settings, and 20% in middle school settings.
- 70% of respondents indicated that there has been an increased the number of special education students in general education classes.
- 59% of respondents revealed that special education students are being moved into general education without providing adequate training to the staff.

The Committee engaged in discussion about potential uses for the data to make improvements in special education. The Committee will continue to disaggregate and discern the data from the survey and share information with State Council at future meetings.

6. The committee received a report from CTA Board Report, Tyrone Cabell. Scholarships are available to attend conferences for small chapters and minorities for fall and Summer Institute. Additionally, IFT grants applications available at teacherdrivenchange.org.
7. The Committee received reports from liaisons:

California Speech, Language and Hearing (CSHA), Trina Brown shared CSHA is reworking their position statement on workload/caseload. There is currently a task force in place to address this issue and any members that would like to be a part of it, please contact Christina Leroy @ c.leroyslsp@gmail.com. The CSHA board will be voting on a potential survey to SLP members this weekend.

CSHA is interested in sponsoring legislation that would offer loan forgiveness to SLPs employed in California. They are interested in working with various agencies to make

this legislation a success. The purpose of this legislation is to address the SLP shortage in CA.

Organization for Special Educators (CARS+), Alan Rawlins, (www.carsplus.org) reported that the CARS+ Convention will be held in Irvine this year. The dates are February 28 through March 2. There are two openings for Region Directors; one for Region 2 and one for Region 6.

Advisory Commission on Special Education (ACSE), Kelly Connell Sandler shared that the Advisory commission on Special Education continues work on its Strategic Plan, providing opportunity for ongoing community (public) input in three areas, Common Core Curriculum and Assessment, Quality Support Services, and Transition. Assembly Bill 86 (repeal of the "Hughes Bill") creates changes in the California Ed Code, primarily addressing and clarifying behavioral intervention with implications for flexibility and service delivery to appropriately meet student needs in IEPs.

California School Psychologists Association (CASP), Josie Meza Malik; (www.casponline.org) shared that the CASP's Spring Institute 2014 is scheduled for March 13 & 14, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara. Deadline for early registration is February 24, 2014. Ahead of the Curve: Autism, Mental Health and PBIS are the theme of this year's spring event. Autism specialist Dr. Ivor Weiner has been added to the list of presenters. His six hour workshop will focus on "Addressing the Social Communication Challenges of Students with Autism".

Communities of Practice on Secondary Transition (COP), Ed Amundson reported that the California Transition Conference was a huge success; sold out over 1400 participants. The California Community of Practice Leadership Team was invited to present their success in Washington DC. They were the hit of the conference. Their strategy drew attendees from federal agencies including DOD, DOE, and Homeland Security.