

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

JANUARY 26, 2013

Patty Blume Taylor, Chairperson
Gerald Gandolfo, Vice Chairperson
Kendall Vaught, Board Liaison
Wendy Plew, Consultant
Susan Midori-Jones, Consultant

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

None

MAJOR POLICY - Second Reading

A. Health, Welfare, and Safety

SPS recommends the modification of the following policy for first reading (page 281 of the 2012-13 CTA Organizational Handbook):

Pupil Support Services Team

CTA believes all school districts should have at least one Pupil Support Service Team. This team should be composed of a school nurse, a psychologist, a credentialed counselor, a social worker, a speech therapist, a welfare attendance worker and an audiologist. The team would ensure equal access to academic and support services for all students in order to provide a comprehensive delivery of services and develop programs and strategies that address school climate issues.
(SPS: April 2005)

CTA believes that students' social-emotional needs must be addressed before effective teaching and learning can take place. When site-level approaches to student discipline or the development of social competencies are implemented, CTA believes that the involvement of teachers and credentialed support staff such as counselors, psychologists, nurses and social workers is crucial to and should be involved in the development and implementation of such programs.

Rationale: Support providers at a school site should work together with teachers to address student problems, including discipline. Each provider brings different services that can be part of the solution addressing the needs of the whole student.

OTHER ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

None

REFERRALS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

None

MATTERS PENDING

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. SPS Board Liaison Kendall Vaught led a spirited conversation regarding strategic planning for CTA. Committee members offered many suggestions as to how information and issues from State Council could be reported to members at the local level. Concern was also expressed as to the need for two-way communication.
2. We have lost 34,000 members and are back at the 2001 membership level. We are looking at how we can reduce costs. CTA Board liaison Kendall Vaught invited committee members to share ideas with the CTA Budget Committee.
3. The SPS Committee discussed the Fontana Unified School District's recent decision to purchase semi-automatic rifles for school police. The weapons will be locked up and only used if there is an active shooter on campus. Pat Mazzulli, President of the Fontana Teachers Association, addressed the SPS Committee. He said the decision to purchase the weapons was brought forward by local school board members. The weapons were ordered before the Sandy Hook shooting and later linked to the incident. The Fontana Teachers Association has been discussing revision of school site safety plans and the restoration of counseling positions before the shooting incident in Connecticut. Pat said that local police are in favor of more school counseling services. Every Fontana site plan now will require teacher involvement in the planning. He also recommended that all teachers receive active shooter training.
4. Patty Taylor, Committee Chair, discussed the CTA Member Lobby program. SPS Committee members volunteered to serve as potential lobbyists.
5. Jacquella Payne, Chair of the SPS Policy Sub-committee, reported that the CTA Evaluation Framework was completed and includes reference to issues related to support staff evaluation. SPS will make samples of support staff evaluation forms and checklists available to local association bargaining teams.
6. Jacquella Payne, Liaison to CSNO (California School Nurses Organization), reported that CSNO is holding its statewide conference Feb. 6 through 10, 2013 in San Diego. A concern for CSNO is that the State Legislature will also attempt to change the law so insulin can be administered by non-licensed personnel.
7. Patty Taylor reported that the Pupil Services Coalition tries to have an impact legislatively. They are working on the revision of school criteria to include student support services for the California Distinguished School designation. The Pupil services Coalition is collaborating with the CDE to revise the SPARC awards program to include all of student support services.
8. Kirsten Barnes, board member of CASC, the CA Association of School Counselors, said that the organization will sponsor one-day workshops in Feb 8, 2013 in northern California and Feb 9, 2013 in southern California. More information is available at www.schoolcounselor-ca.org.

9. Josie Malik, liaison from the CA Association of School Psychologists, reported that their organization will hold a spring conference April 18 and 19, 2013 at the Sacramento Arden Doubletree Hotel. They will lobby the legislature on April 20, 2013.