

CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 26-27, 2013

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

NBI 1 /13-1

That CTA support American union jobs by only purchasing CTA branded materials that are union made. This includes baseball caps, shirts, free giveaways at CTA conferences and all other merchandise bearing the CTA logo.

Rationale: As a union that fights for the rights of workers and often states that unions do not harm businesses we should fight for other unions and lead by example. How can we criticize the likes of Scott Walker and the Michigan GOP if we ourselves do not support union labor with the most powerful of voices, our pocketbook? Every 2-4 years political campaigns sell a wide variety of merchandise made in the USA so clearly it can be done, it should be done.

[Brian Davenport (FPE)/Amy Vidunas (PR&R)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-2

That CTA not send out in paper print form to members and delegates that which can be sent out as links to online documents. That individual paper print documents can ONLY be authorized on a one-time individual basis by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Rationale: Those of us on State Council and State Committees get pounds of paper a month, most of it of no interest to us. If the board authorizes a mailing then we can hold them responsible for this waste of trees and postage.

[Jim Weir (AVCTE)/William Hewitt(RET)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-3

That CTA direct the appropriate department(s) to negotiate with insurance carriers that are endorsed by CTA to provide coverage for ALL members and thus avail themselves of the benefits of CTA endorsed insurance.

Rationale: The current carrier of CTA endorsed homeowners insurance will not insure rural members' dwellings that are further than a prescribed distance from a fire hydrant. Rural members do not rely on fire hydrants for fire suppression. Rural members have entered into agreements with local volunteer and mutual aid fire departments for fire protection. The rate of fire loss amongst rural faculty members' homes is slightly LESS than our urban and suburban colleagues. Therefore they should be entitled to the same benefits and rates as our other colleagues.

[Jim Weir (AVCTE)/Ed Gomez (NEG)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-4

That CTA endorse the "Apollos" Political Action Committee's local, state and national drive to solidify and perpetuate the "King Legacy" by establishing the month of January as "National Martin Luther King, Jr. Month."

Rationale: In 1981, the Apollo Political Action Committee from Oakland Technical High School led a drive to establish a national Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Dr. King's impact on the civil rights movement was such that a single day is not sufficient to honor his legacy. An entire month would allow the time necessary to teach nonviolence and other themes related to his teachings. The Apollos are now leading the charge to establish January as King Month. The Oakland Education Association, United Educators of San Francisco and the Oakland City Council have so far endorsed the idea.

[Keith D. Brown (SSM)/Mark Murray (STL)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-5

That CTA's President write a letter to the Oakland mayor, Oakland City Council members and the Oakland police chief to ask for a formal written apology to Keith and Rodney Brown, OEA members.

Rationale: On December 3, 2012 Keith and Rodney Brown were leaving an OEA rep council meeting and were subjected to an unwarranted and excessive detainment at the hands of the Oakland Police Department.
[Cecily Myart Cruz (CRE)/E. Toby Boyd (Rep)]

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RECOMMEND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND APPROVE.

NBI 1 /13-6

That CTA amend policy on funding as follows: "CTA believes tying student test scores to teacher evaluation should not be required in deciding Federal funding."

Rationale: CTA has clear language in opposition to use of student assessment results in the evaluation of teachers. However, this language is needed to focus attention on access to Federal funding being leveraged to promote tying student test scores to teacher evaluation.
[David Turner (FPE)/Jim Mordecai (STL)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE ASSESSMENT AND TESTING COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-7

That CTA work to pass legislation to amend section 48366 of the Ed Code by inserting "Early Education/child development teachers." This would allow ECE/Child Development a right to a hearing when RIF'd.

Rationale: Currently Early Childhood Education/Child Development teachers do not have a right for a hearing when they are RIF'd even though they are represented by the Teachers' Union. ECE teachers are credentialed by the state and are mandated to complete 105 hours of professional development every 5 years, no matter how many degrees one may have in order to retain certification in the ECE program.
[Jeanne Contreras (ECE)/Betty Forrester (NEG)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-8

That CTA work to pass legislation to delete section 44595 of the Ed Code which categorizes Early Education/Child Development teachers as classified/at will employees.

Rationale: This section of the Ed Code as written into the Ed Code back in the early 1960's and it no longer applies. Therefore, we request that it be deleted, so that school districts cannot refer to it when it comes to RIFs. This Ed Code is obsolete and no longer fair and equitable considering the proven importance of Pre-school/Early Education.
[Jeanne Contreras (ECE)/Betty Forrester (NEG)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-9

That CTA request that CalSTRS divest from Wal Mart Stores, Inc.

Rationale: Wal Mart has worked to undermine the collective bargaining process in the United States, especially in regards to teachers' unions. Wal Mart has actively worked on privatizing public education. Wal Mart's practices are contrary to CTA's purpose statement, specifically "...to advance the cause of free, universal and quality public education..."
[Carlos Rico (CRE)/Joseph Barnett (COM)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-10

That CTA sign on to the National Testing Resolution that builds on the work of Diane Ravitch and unites teachers, and other school workers, in a powerful statement that testing is not teaching.

Rationale: The rampant excesses of the Accountability movement have left public education saddled with a corset of testing that is choking creativity and artistry within the classroom. The National Resolution on Testing unifies the voices of teachers and other school workers in response to the stultification of teaching. Adding CTA's voice to the outcry will significantly enhance the credibility of the effort.
[Dennis Kelly (COM)/Susan Solomon (TEAF)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-11

That CTA delete the section on charter school policy designating a charter as a “CTA Charter School.” Starting with “A local association may sponsor a charter school...” ending with “shall result in the revocation of CTA Charter School Status.”

Rationale: Why are we promoting charter schools? Growth of charter schools with or without CTA seal of approval diverts public education away from the public schools our membership work in until enrollment drops. Oversight cost of charter schools mount as fraud and mis-management is uncovered by districts.

[Jim Mordecai(STL)/Jim Weir (ACT)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-12

That CTA engage in a conversation at the CTA Board level regarding maximizing local chapter participation of chapters that have non-traditional school year calendars in CTA campaigns and conferences and to ensure that these chapters have adequate CTA staff support at the start of their school years.

Rationale: As an example, chapters in south San Diego County began their first break in late October. Our Chapter’s work year should be taken into consideration when planning election campaigns, conferences and other trainings in order to maximize our contributions and efforts and to minimize disenfranchisement. Furthermore, we need to be fully staffed by our CTA staff as we start our school years as we need their valuable support at a hectic time of the year.

[Alex Anguiano(FPE)/Roberto Rodriguez (PIC)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-13

That CTA sign on to the letter at <http://newprioritiesnetwork.org/national-sign-on-letter/> recommending that Congress cut Pentagon spending by \$500 billion over the next 10 years, and send a copy of this letter to congressional leaders, California's delegation and the New Priorities Network no later than February 11, 2013.

Rationale: March 1 is Congress' "fiscal cliff" deadline. Many military experts say we could cut as much as \$1.5 trillion over the next decade without compromising national security. Pentagon spending comprises more than half of the current discretionary budget. Without more cuts to Pentagon spending, even very deep cuts to all other discretionary funding will fall short of alleviating deficit spending and raising the debt. Thirty organizations, including the Courage Campaign, the New Priorities Network, Democracy for America and US Labor against the War have signed this letter. With more money available Congress could better fund education and other domestic programs.

[Daniel Reynolds(STL)/Betty Olson-Jones (BUD)]

**THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

NBI 1 /13-14

That CTA work with the group "25 Teachers Salaries" to help find a sponsor in the Assembly and in the Senate for a joint resolution in support of America's Weapons Rebate to Education Act.

Rationale: At the April 2011 meeting State Council passed an NBI resulting in the CTA President writing a letter to the State Legislature in support of America's Weapons Rebate to Education Act and encouraging its passage. This bill would reallocate 3% of the Pentagon budget to education. We still have the opportunity to direct our national priorities away from Pentagon spending and into education. By working to find a legislator to sponsor a joint resolution in the Assembly and in the Senate we can move this forward.

[Daniel Reynolds (STL)/Betty Olson-Jones (BUD)]

**THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

NBI 1 /13-15

That CTA distribute to local chapters the resolution at <http://25teacherssalaries.org/wp-content/uploads/generic-school-board-resolution-april-2012.doc> and encourage their advocacy of its adoption at their local school boards.

Rationale: California's six million students deserve well-funded schools. Since 2007 we have seen significant cuts to education while Pentagon spending continues to grow. America's Weapons Rebate to Education Act seeks to reallocate 3% of the Pentagon budget to education. At the April 2011 meeting State Council passed an NBI resulting in the CTA President writing a letter to the state legislature in support of AWREA and encouraging its passage. We still have the opportunity to direct our national priorities away from Pentagon spending and into education. Our locals can work with their school boards to adopt resolutions supporting the AWREA.
[Daniel Reynolds (STL)/Betty Olson-Jones (BUD)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-16

That CTA Legal report on whether there exists possible legal strategies to oppose the Department of Education Race-to-the-Top grant program being open to application from not just states but from state districts.

Rationale: The spirit of a federal system and separation of governing powers between Federal government and state government was violated by Race-To-The-Top program. Yet, the fact that the program was "voluntary" and not mandatory may mean that there is no legal way to challenge that action. But, Legal is most qualified to report on that question.
[Jim Mordecai (STL)/Bill Freeman (FPE)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-17

That CTA take immediate action to put a program in place for K-12 to teach students about personal space and how to protect themselves against anyone trying to cause them physical, mental or verbal abuse.

Rationale: According to our 2010-2011 Organizational Handbook, page 72, under Health, Welfare and Safety, "CTA believes that all students should be safe from physical, verbal and psychological abuse from all criminal activities." In light of all the recent cases of child abuse brought to light in our schools, there is an urgent need to educate and protect our children from harm. We need to give students the tools they need to protect themselves.

[Teresa Basin (LAN)/Erandida Alvarez (CRE)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE SCHOOL SAFETY/SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-18

That CTA oppose the arming of educational professionals or volunteers on school campuses or at school related functions. CTA shall inform its members and the public of this opposition.

Rationale: As educators our job is to educate. It would seriously impede our ability to teach and work with students if we were to be armed as the NRA is proposing. It would not make our students any safer.

[Celia Lamantia (SEC)/John Haschak (BUD)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE SCHOOL SAFETY/SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-19

That CTA disseminate information about "Changing the Game," a program for physical education classes that recommends ways to reduce bullying aimed at GLBT students.

Rationale: One of the areas in school with the highest incidence of bullying is in physical education classes. GLSEN, the Gay Lesbian Student Education Network, has developed a set of recommendations to reduce anti-GLBT bullying in P.E. classes called "Changing the Game." CTA needs to help spread the word to members about these important recommendations.

[Mark Murray(STL)/C. Scott Miller (COM)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE SCHOOL SAFETY/SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-20

That CTA declare that when a run-off election is scheduled and candidate withdrawal leaves only the remaining candidate(s) eligible to be elected, the election should be waived and the remaining candidate(s) should be declared the winner of the election by default.

Rationale: When there is only one possible outcome to an election, it is an unnecessary expense for locals, Service Centers and CTA to mandate an election. Furthermore, to require this futile and labor-intensive action actually decreases participation, increases member apathy and overall reduces the significance of the election process in their eyes.

[Kevin Moretti (PR&R)/Kathryn Kennedy (REP)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

NBI 1 /13-21

That CTA believes charter schools have a positive role in California's education system when they are created by local, democratically elected school boards, are non-profit and all educators are members of a union.

Rationale: CTA should support union charter schools. CTA must also – as part of its commitment to representative democracy - fight against the approval of charter schools by county and state boards of education. It is unacceptable that this mechanism, frequently taken advantage of by for-profit charter management organizations, bypasses governing school boards democratically elected by the local community which the schools serve.

[Steve Neat(NEG)/David Turner (FPE)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-22

That CTA take action to protect teachers from liability when school districts calculate and misreport teachers' CalSTRS pension or Defined Benefit Supplement Benefits. Therefore, it shall be school districts' responsibility to fully reimburse CalSTRS for all overpayments due or pay a fine equal to the amount that was overpaid.

Rationale: It is the school districts' fiduciary responsibility to give accurate data to CalSTRS when reporting pension benefits. When the district violates this trust it undermines CalSTRS and causes unwarranted harm to the retiree. Under the law, this is commonly called the rule of "Detrimental Reliance." When overpayment occurs CalSTRS hold the retiree liable to repay the overpayments. Districts are held harmless unless a 3-year statute of limitations applies. When the statute of limitations applies the district is responsible to pay the balance of the overpayments. Many districts use their liability insurance to cover their costs thus avoiding any financial liability.
[Ed Foglia (RET)/Dorothy Moser (RET)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-23

That CTA provide a report to State Council on the cost on charter school oversight that includes estimate of District and other charter authorizers staffing cost for authorization, revoking and appeal hearings.

Rationale: State Council policy on charter schools may be amended with an understanding of the cost for charter schools. Education cost is a zero sum with public schools and charter schools competing for the same education dollar.
[Jim Mordecai (STL)/Mike Jones (PIC)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-24

That CTA support State Superintendent of Education Tom Torlakson's proposal to reduce California State Testing (CST's) in the 2013-2014 school year.

Rationale: We know that California tests too frequently and too many grade levels. Our testing requirements exceed those of the Federal No Child Left Behind law. Further we know that these high stakes tests do not represent the best use of instructional time and education funds. The proposal will at least provide some temporary and partial relief to the testing mania that we must currently endure.

[Jim Mordecai (STL)/Mike Jones (PIC)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE ASSESSMENT AND TESTING COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-25

That CTA join with CFT to seek legislation to require the state of CA's Commission on Teacher Credentialing to develop two Single Subject Credentials, one in Dance and one in Theatre, with grandfathering closures; and lobby for and support colleges and universities in the development of high-quality Dance and Theater Education Teacher Subject Matter Preparation Programs leading to Single Subject Credentials in Dance and Theatre.

Rationale: Equity for Dance and Theatre as Arts Education is vital to ensure that all California students receive a balanced, comprehensive, high-quality education including a robust offering of curriculum, instruction and courses in the visual and performing arts. Each arts discipline (Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts) is given equal weight in the CA Education Code (Sections 51210 and 51220), the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Framework for CA, K-12, the Federal and State VAPA Content Standards. Dance and Theatre are the only two NCLB "Core Academic Subjects" with discrete Federal and State Content Standards that do not have corresponding CA Single Subject Credentials; and few universities offer Teacher Prep programs in Dance and Theatre. Without Single Subject Credentials and adequate teacher Subject Matter Prep Programs in Dance and Theatre, CA school districts are hard-pressed to recruit, contract and retain "Highly-Qualified Teachers" specifically trained and expert in Dance and Theatre, sustain robust Dance and Theatre programs and fully implement the VAPA Framework and Content Standards for all students in all arts disciplines.

[Ginger Rose Fox (CPD)/Janet Lee Davis (CPD)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CREDENTIALS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

NBI 1 /13-26

That CTA lobby, support and encourage its locals to work with districts for full implementation of the Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards, by following the VAPA Framework for CA Schools, K-12, and offering a comprehensive, sequential and balanced course of study in all VAPA disciplines, including Dance and Theatre, as an essential part of the core curriculum for all students, in all CA schools, as required by CA Ed Code (51210 and 51220.)

Rationale: All CA student s deserve equal access to a balanced, comprehensive high quality education including a robust offering of curriculum, instruction and courses in the Visual and Performing Arts: Dance, Music, Theatre and the Visual Arts. Access to and participation in VAPA is an integral part of every student’s intellectual, physical, social, emotional, creative, cultural and civic development. Misplaced economic priorities and mandates from NCLB have led to an elimination of Arts Education in CA public schools. A disproportionate number of students denied access to VAPA are English Language Learners, minority students, students with disabilities and those from economically disadvantaged families, resulting in an inequity in public school arts education offerings and a denial of a high-quality, well-rounded comprehensive education that all students deserve.

[Ginger Rose Fox (CPD)/Janet Lee Davis (CPD)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

NBI 1/13-27

That CTA’s President write a letter to our superintendent on behalf of the Teachers Association of Paramount highlighting the achievement of the urban, Title 1, QEIA middle school winning the National Award “Schools to Watch” but expressing concern over current contentious negotiation over 2012-2013 teaching contract.

Rationale: Paramount USD had committed to be in the top quarter of pay and benefit contributions with no planning period provided for K-8. In the last seven years we have dropped to the bottom BUT our Adm. Pay is now one of the highest in the county. Our school district’s superintendent needs to reprioritize what is important: classrooms and those who run them. The award is a big spotlight on our district, I need to use it to help get professional pay and treatment to my teachers. They are getting squeezed working two jobs and losing their homes! We need help! (President Vogel has already been invited to 2/22 celebration of school.)

[April O’Connor (NEG)/John Valerie (PIC)]

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RECOMMEND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND APPROVE.