SCHOOL SAFETY/SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mark Kotch, Chairperson
Linda Chan, Vice Chairperson
Tyra Weiss, Recording Secretary
Curtis Washington, Board Liaison
Vern Gates, Co-Consultant
Alva Rivera, Co-Consultant
Toni Triguiero, Legislative Advocate

MAJOR POLICY – Immediate Action (2/3rd Vote Required)

NONE

MAJOR POLICY – First Reading

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Student Nutrition
CTA believes nutrition has a direct effect on a student's ability to learn. School lunch and nutrition programs should focus on quality food with a healthy balance of nutrients. Additionally, the school lunch period should provide table time of no less than 20 minutes for adequate completion of the meal. Food and drink served to students should be free of harmful chemicals and those substances that are known to contribute to childhood diseases such as obesity and diabetes. School food service programs must be nutritionally sound, appealing, and affordable.

The opportunity to participate in nutritious school lunch/programs shall be uniformly available in all public schools including charter schools. Programs within the education framework should promote understanding of proper nutrition and proper hydration.

CTA further believes when considering fundraising options, schools should consider healthy foods or non-food alternatives. *(CRE: May 1996; June 1995; March 1995; December 1989; SPS: June 2006; June 2005)*

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Discipline, Order, and Safety Required for Learning
CTA believes discipline, order, and safety are essential for an environment conducive for learning. The following guidelines must be followed in the schools:

a. Students must be taught a system of rules that will develop their mental, ethical, and physical capabilities to the utmost, and instill in them a clear distinction between their own rights and responsibilities and rights and responsibilities of others.
b. An orderly environment, including infrastructure, for students and education employees must be established on the basis of rational methods and procedures to promote school activities and behaviors that enhances teaching and learning.
c. A truly safe school setting must extend beyond freedom from danger to freedom from fear of danger, which inhibits both teaching and learning as well as participation in school and community activities.

d. State and local government must assume full responsibility for providing law enforcement services in and near our schools including providing safe routes to school for pedestrians and bicyclists.
e. Schools must be integrated into local emergency networks and tied into inter-agency health and safety networks. This includes up to date telecommunications systems. This also includes a telephone in every classroom.
f. CTA believes elected school officials should exhibit the same level of professional behavior as expected of school personnel.
g. CTA believes in alternative models of discipline, including but not limited to "Restorative Justice" programs that:
    1. Assure community protection;
    2. Hold offenders personally accountable for repairing the harm done to victims and communities resulting from juvenile crime;
    3. Ensure that juvenile offenders make measurable gains in educational, vocational, social, civic and other areas of competency that enhance their capacity to function as law-abiding citizens; and,
    4. Protects, restores and improves the public safety by providing the opportunity to bring together affected victims, the community and juvenile offenders for restorative purposes.
h. School personnel shall have the right to remove a student from the classroom or school activities when the student engages in a pattern of chronic and willful disruption and/or defiance of lawful authority.

All present and future education employees should be given formal, extensive, and ongoing training in discipline, order, and safety in both school and school-related activities. *(CRE: April 2008; SMC: February 2002; June 2001; March 1995)*

MAJOR POLICY – Second Reading

NONE

OTHER ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

The committee declares NBI 6/12-11 and 6/12-18 moot. Both of these NBI's attempt to deal with the use of laser pointers by students in schools. CTA policy is already wide encompassing and addresses "guns and other weapons." California Penal Code section 417.27et. seq. makes possession of a laser point by a student at school a crime unless the laser pointer is for a valid instructional purpose. Shining a laser pointer into a person's eyes or using the laser pointer to intimidate a person is also a criminal offense. The text of Penal Code section 417.27 is listed below for interested council members.

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        417.27.  (a) No person, corporation, firm, or business entity of any
kind shall knowingly sell a laser pointer to a person 17 years of
age or younger, unless he or she is accompanied and supervised by a
parent, legal guardian, or any other adult 18 years of age or older.
   (b) No student shall possess a laser pointer on any elementary or
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secondary school premises unless possession of a laser pointer on the elementary or secondary school premises is for a valid instructional or other school-related purpose, including employment.

(c) No person shall direct the beam from a laser pointer directly or indirectly into the eye or eyes of another person or into a moving vehicle with the intent to harass or annoy the other person or the occupants of the moving vehicle.

(d) No person shall direct the beam from a laser pointer directly or indirectly into the eye or eyes of a guide dog, signal dog, service dog, or dog being used by a peace officer with the intent to harass or annoy the animal.

(e) A violation of subdivision (a), (b), (c), or (d) shall be an infraction that is punished by either a fine of fifty dollars ($50) or four hours of community service, and a second or subsequent violation of any of these subdivisions shall be an infraction that is punished by either a fine of one hundred dollars ($100) or eight hours of community service.

(f) As used in this section, "laser pointer" has the same meaning as set forth in subdivision (c) of Section **417**.25.

(g) As used in this section, "guide dog," "signal dog," and "service dog," respectively, have the same meaning as set forth in subdivisions (d), (e), and (f) of Section 365.5.

REFERRALS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NONE

MATTERS PENDING

1. The committee continues to work on the Guide to School Safety.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. The committee heard from Greg Bonacorsi from the Teacher Evaluation Workgroup.
2. NBI 6/12-8 was transferred to the Negotiations Committee.
3. The committee received reports from Liaisons to PTA, Cal-OSHA, SARB, and California Safe Schools. CSS Liaison Lisa Buckner provided the following website for more information for interested Council members: www.faireducationact.com.
4. The committee thanks Denise Schyling for her many years of service to State Council and the School Safety/School Management committee.
5. The committee elected the following officers for next year: Tyra Weis, Recording Secretary, Linda Chan, Vice-Chairperson, Mark Kotch, Chairperson.