Student Support Services committee

Allan Roberts, Chairperson

Erika Zamora, Vice-Chairperson

Nicole Piscionere, Recorder

Sergio Martinez, Board Liaison

Arleigh Kidd, Consultant

Susan Midori-Jones, Consultant

# **major policy** – **Immediate Action (2/3rd vote required)**

# None

# **major policy** - **First Reading**

# None

# **Other items for immediate action**

None

# **referrals to the board of directors**

None

# **matters pending**

NBI# 10/19-20 That CTA lobbyists will work with our legislators to ensure that School Psychologists have a 1 to 500-700 ratio per National Association of School Psychologist Standards.

*The SPS Committee is drafting changes to current CTA Policy that would allow support for smaller ratios and will present those changes for first reading at October State Council. While SPS agrees that lower support personnel-to-student ratios are needed, such policy would be needed to support legislation calling for a lower ratio such as that recommended by NASP and other professional organizations.*

# **informational items**

1. A State Plan Amendment (SPA 15-021) for students who are eligible for Medicare services has been approved effective July 1, 2020 and retroactive to July 2015 (if districts can document Medicare eligible services). CTA Legislative Consultant Toni Trigueiro said that it has been a struggle to make California districts aware of this reimbursement opportunity. The problems with past district audits and lack of technical assistance from the State has discouraged some districts from applying for Medicare reimbursement. This funding is extremely important for hiring additional support staff because their hiring can serve as the school district’s financial match. The district then receives back in federal reimbursement half the costs associated with the hiring of additional support staff. Under SPA 15-021 additional staff performing health services are now eligible for reimbursement.

Toni reported on $50 million “settlement language” in the State education budget trailer bill that will settle a lawsuit between the State of California and the Public Council. The lawsuit accused California of depriving low-income students of color their constitutional rights to a basic education by failing to teach them reading skills. Unfortunately, the settlement language agreed to by the Department of Finance and Public Council, neither of whom are “education” experts, authorizes $50 million be spent on the same programs that were the topic of the initial lawsuit. Our hope is to “tweak” the settlement language to place greater emphasis on the important role credential school librarians play in reinforcing reading skills.

Going back to school, schools are to have an isolation room for students with COVID-related medical needs or diagnosis.

1. In their respective reports, SPS Chair Allan Roberts and CTA Board Member Sergio Martinez spoke to potential budget cuts our districts face as part of the 10% cut proposed by the Governor in the May Revise 2020-2021 State Budget. Allan explained the possibility of August layoffs and the potential effect on support service staffing if we can’t fund the statutory COLA. These potential cuts come at a time when counselors, psychologists, school nurses and other support personnel will be needed more than ever because of the pandemic. These same groups are often the target of district-level budget cuts and layoff.
2. CTA Board Member Sergio Martinez reminded members to lobby at both the State and the Federal level. He said we must create a revenue stream that education can count on and that is why the Schools and Communities First Initiative is needed more than ever. He also encouraged all members to call the CTA legislator hotline at (855) 977-1770 where CTA members can leave messages for their State Senator and Assemblyperson. The message is: “We need a California budget with no cuts to education.”
3. The SPS Policy Sub-committee reported work they have been doing in regard to staffing ratios for student support service providers and recommend that current CTA policy regarding these ratios be changes to reflect the updated recommendations. Professional associations have recommended the following support staff ratios:

* **The American School Counselor** Association (ASCA) recommends a 250-to-1 **ratio,** students to counselor ratio.
* **The National Association of School Nurses** (NASN) **recommended** one **school nurse** **to 750** **students** in the healthy **student** population; 1:225 for student populations requiring daily professional nursing services; 1:125 for student populations with complex healthcare needs in 2015.
* **The National Association of School Psychologists** (NASP) recommended ratio for school psychologists is 500-**700:1** (NASP Model for Comprehensive and Integrated School Psychological Services).
* **The National Association of Social Workers** and the **School Social Work Association of America** both recommend services be provided at a ratio of one school social worker to each school building serving up to 250 general education students, or a ratio of **1:250** students. When a social worker is providing services to students with intensive needs, a lower ratio, such as **1:50**, is suggested (NASW, 2012).
* **The American Association of School Librarians** (AASL) recommends **one or more certified school librarians** supported by technical and clerical staff, **for each school library** in every school at every grade level.

1. The SPS Committee held a discussion regarding our recent experience with distance learning and remote instruction—what went well and what needs to be improved. Technology support concerns about student attendance and participation, equity issues, and the difficulty support personnel had in working remotely with students and families were the most mentioned issues.
2. Kirsten Barnes, member of the California Association of School Counselors, reported that the CASC website has resources for school reopening and is working with ACLU on services for students as a result of the pandemic. CASC is joining in lobbying for increased services for student mental health services. The CASC Fall 2020 Conference in Riverside is postponed.
3. Ken Johnson, Liaison to SARB, reported that the SARB reviewed committee recommendations regarding recognition of model plans for District SARB plans.
4. Patty Taylor, CTA Pupil Services Coalition Liaison, explained the Coalition is working on a collaborative program with ACLU. The survey acknowledges that mental health needs will be severe upon return to school in the Fall 2020. The Pupil Services Coalition is asking districts to fund mental health services in anticipation of this need. In a joint letter to Governor Newsom, CASC and ACLU support student voices who point out that mental health support in California schools was already inadequate before the crisis: ***“California is 48th in the nation when it comes to access to school counselors. There are nearly 400,000 California students in schools that lack a counselor but have a police officer. It is shameful that our state has twice as many school police than school social workers. In addition, there are more security guards in schools than there are nurses.”***
5. Jacquella Payne RN, CTA Liaison to CSNO, reported that she attended the CSNO 70th Anniversary Conference, Hyatt Regency, Orange County, February 13 – 16, 2020. She functioned as the newly appointed CSNO GRC State Chair. CSNO is calling for presenters for its 71st Annual Conference February 4-7, 2021 in Rancho Mirage, CA.
6. The SPS Committee elected the following SPS Committee members to leadership positions:

**Erika Zamora** was elected **SPS Chair**

**Greg Palatto** was elected **SPS Vice-Chair**

**Denise Tellez** was elected **SPS Recording Secretary**

1. The SPS Committee thanked Chair Allan Roberts for his years of leadership as the Current Chair of the SPS Committee.