EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Paula Merrigan, Chairperson

Wendy Colson, Vice Chairperson

Paula Keen, Recorder

Bill Freeman, Board Liaison

Ann Adler, Consultant

Michael Stone, Consultant

Kei Swensen, Consultant

Toni Trigueiro, Legislative Consultant

# **MAJOR POLICY:** For Immediate Action (2/3 vote required)

# None

**MAJOR POLICY**: First Reading

# None

**MAJOR POLICY:** Second Reading

# None

# **OTHER ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

# None

# **REFERRALS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# None

# **Matters pending**

# None

# **Informational iTEMS**

1. Paula Merrigan, ECE Committee Chairperson, welcomed the Committee members remotely. She explained how the meeting would work including committee elections and gave the following reports:
   1. Governor Newsom’s Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC)-There was a virtual meeting on May 27, 2020. The group reviewed the May Revise proposed state budget as it applies to early learning and care. Since taxes were delayed until July, the total state revenue is unknown at this time. The next meeting is June 8, 2020.
   2. CTA Pandemic Child Abuse Policy Workgroup-The ECE Committee gave input on the CDE’s Guidance Policy for Child Abuse and Neglect for distance learning.
   3. CTA Distance Learning Workgroup-ECE provided input into distance learning from an early childhood perspective.
   4. CTA Grading Workgroup-CTA talked about the need to hold harmless and the CDE agreed. Questions remain about next year and standardized tests.
   5. CTA Reopening of School Workgroup-There are many concerns: social distancing, PPE equipment, diapering issues, shields, etc. SDC and EL kids in particular need to see the face to learn. It will be up to each LEA how the reopening takes place but there needs to be local bargaining.

# Toni Trigueiro, Legislative Advocate, reviewed past bills and the interim legislation already passed by the ECE Committee prior to State Council. Toni also shared information on the State Budget as it impacts early childhood education. The Democrats have agreed to propose a different short term budget than the Governor’s May Revise. It relies on federal money and borrows state money from the rainy day fund to prevent draconian cuts for the 2020-2021 school year.

# CTA Board Liaison, Bill Freeman, gave an inspiring report. He covered the following points.

* 1. “Schools and Communities First” has qualified for the November ballot- CTA members will be key to passing this in November; be ready to talk to your friends, families, and colleagues. IT IS CRITICAL to get the $12 million per year from this initiative.
  2. CTA policy and practice opposes racism- You can find CTA’s statement on the CTA website.
  3. The May Revise proposed state budget is unacceptable if we are going to reopen schools safely- A 10% cut to the Local Control Funding Formula as proposed is the equivalent of layoffs for more than 57,000 teachers or 125,000 Education Support Professionals or increasing class size by 19%. Schools must have enough money to implement physical distancing and other COVID-19 precautions to reopen classrooms.
  4. June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month- CTA salutes the LGBTQ+ community, and thanks the thousands of our members who stand up for equality and make our classrooms safe and accepting for all. Resources for educators and students are available on our “[CTA Social Justice Resources” web page](https://www.cta.org/our-advocacy/social-justice/social-justice-resources).
  5. CTA Summer Conferences are at home online and FREE to CTA members-The Presidents Conference is July 13-17, and the Summer Institute is July 27-30. The 2020-2021 EMEID program will begin virtually.
  6. CTA Offices and Staff are working remotely at least until June 15-Local chapters and leaders should continue to consult their primary contact staff for assistance with local issues.

1. Paula Merrigan thanked Ann Adler, Emeritus staff for her years on the ECE Committee, congratulated Bill Freeman on his retirement and thanked him for his dedication and support of the ECE Committee. Paula also welcomed Kei Swensen who will join Michael Stone as the ongoing Co-Consultant of ECE. Paula thanked all the outgoing ECE Committee Members for their service and contributions.

# Consultant Ann Adler thanked the ECE Committee for their passion and advocacy on ECE issues. She said it had been an honor to support this committee as staff. She reminded us that there will be a “next” after the pandemic and that we must be vigilant and ready to proceed forward for our young students and make sure all students are receiving an equitable education.

# New Consultant Kei Swensen returned to the ECE as staff. She introduced herself and is excited about returning to the ECE Committee in this new role.

# Liaisons to the Committee reported as follows:

# California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC)-Yvonne Molles: The upcoming conference will now be a virtual meeting from June 27-29. The cost is $375 if you are a member and $525 for non-members.

# California Kindergarten Association-Maria Crisologo-Lum: No report.

First Five California-Monique Segura (read by Ann Adler): The group met on April 23, 2020 via “zoom”. Monique recommends the following:

1. We (ECE/CTA) work in partnership with First Five to advocate for a fairer wage for Early Childcare Workers. Monique does not see any action on CTA’s part at the moment but wants CTA and especially ECE to be aware of the need for training and fair wages for our members and all involved in this childcare industry.

Rationale(s): It has become evident to many Childcare Workers that they make more money not working than working in their chosen industry. Our children are one of our most important resources, and by providing competitive wages, we can attract and retain the best workers for our children.

1. Monique also reminded ECE members and all educators and families to complete the Census and count ALL children in their reporting. She made the point that the most unrepresented group for any census data is children between the ages of 0-5 years old. First Five is dependent on this information for appropriate funding.
2. She also reported that there was major discussion on COVID19 and the impact on our State and Children, that the First Five Board is concerned about our youngest children and their access to funding and support especially as related to the May Revise and State Budget, and that the First Five Board is also extremely sensitive to equity issues and protecting and advocating for future funding.

# California State PTA-Lynette Henley: No report. (Yvonne Molles reported that the PTA annual conference will be virtual and free.)

# The following new ECE officers were elected for the 2020-21 State Council:

# Chairperson-Paula Merrigan

# Vice Chairperson-Wendy Colson

# Recorder-Paula Keen