

CTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATION

JUNE 1-2, 2013

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

NBI 6/13-1

That CTA leadership direct our Legislative advocates to support an increase to the base grant in the Local Control Funding Formula by raising the base grant target from \$6,816 to be fully implemented by 2019/20, to, at a minimum, the national average of \$7,916.

Rationale: Our 2013/2014 Budget Principles states that school funding should “...move California to the average of the top ten states in per pupil funding.” We won’t even get close to that goal if we accept the Governor’s target at \$1,100 less than today’s national average. As it is, California is still 49th among the states in per pupil spending. The Legislative Analyst reported \$3.2 billion more in revenues than acknowledged by the Governor, so increasing the base is possible. The additional funding will restore years of cuts which have caused class size increases, elimination of programs and salary reductions.

[Vicki Soderberg (RET)/Maggie Ellis (RET)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-2

That CTA send the *California Educator* to all active charter school teachers.

Rationale: Access to the *California Educator* will provide information to active charter school teachers about the benefits of joining CTA. It helps to highlight the positive work that CTA does. It will also help promote unionization and membership as well as showcase good teaching practices.

[Yvonne Tran (PIC)/Shanti Arnold (LNG)]

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

NBI 6/13-3

That CTA develop flyers, mailers or other promotional materials as well as protocols for use by local leaders and CTA staff to use when talking to charter schools about the advantages of becoming unionized.

Rationale: With the influx of charter schools within our local school districts local membership has decreased a significant amount. Many locals are interested in discussing with and providing relevant information about the benefits of unionization to charter school teachers, but lack the resources on how to best accomplish this goal.

[Yvonne Tran (PIC)/Shanti Arnold (LNG)]

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

NBI 6/13-4

That CTA develop a workshop, training or session to be presented at various CTA conferences, particularly the Presidents Conference, on "How to Unionize Charter School Teachers."

Rationale: Active charter school teachers are our professional peers. Some of us have witnessed first-hand the burn-out that many of them experience within the first few years. It is imperative that we provide them with the information to collectively come together and unionize to ensure that their professional needs are met.

[Shanti Arnold (LNG)/Yvonne Tran (PIC)]

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

NBI 6/13-5

That CTA change bylaws template for locals by addition to create a second initiative procedure. That this second initiative route use the same language except instead of 60% of active members threshold, uses 10% That instead of triggering a special election the initiative proposal would be placed on the next scheduled election.

Rationale: CTA's own initiative procedure uses 10%. Our locals should also have access to this fundamental democratic institution. A useable initiative procedure allows all members the opportunity to bring their concerns before the membership. Currently, the initiative procedure is unusable in large locals. Gathering 60% of members in 15 calendar days is prohibitive. One objection is that lowering the threshold allows a small group of members to waste time and resources. Therefore we propose the lower threshold not trigger a special election, but be placed on the next scheduled election.

[Eric Swabeck (TEAF)/Mark Kotch (SSM)]

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

NBI 6/13-6

That CTA take a stance advocating for a cap on district and COE reserves, not to exceed 15-20%.

Rationale: Districts are holding large reserves while cutting programs, increasing class size and decreasing teaching staff. Funds allocated for use in a given year should be used to provide high quality education and not rolled over year after year. Lack of adequate supplies and texts and diminishing professional development opportunities for teachers negatively impact our students' learning. Decaying physical plants compromise health and safety.

[Dawn Turner (CPD)/Lauren Bishop (CPD)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-7

That CTA work to pass legislation to amend section 17388 of the California Education Code to mandate that school districts appoint committees to advise the governing board in the development of district wide policies and procedures governing the use or disposition of school buildings or space in school buildings which is not needed for school purposes.

Rationale: Currently 17388 of CA Ed Code states "The governing board of any school district...may appoint a district advisory committee to advise the governing board in the development of district wide policies and procedures governing the use or disposition of school buildings or space in the school buildings which is not needed for school purposes." Since the appointment of a school district advisory committee or 7-11 committee is optional, some school boards have closed schools without any input from stakeholders. In many instances school boards have closed schools without first examining the impact of such closures; such as disproportionately impacting students and families of color and poverty. Only through a transparent and thorough process can the negative repercussions of school closures be reduced.

[Carlos Rico (CRE)/Joseph Barnett (COM)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-8

That CTA create a best administrative practices curriculum and/or administrative credentialing program, made available to members through workshops, conferences and other appropriate venues.

Rationale: A certain number of members will become administrators and will be trained within traditional programs that concentrate on topdown management styles. CTA has a potentially excellent opportunity to help rethink and reinvent the role of school administrator as the leaders of truly collaborative, effective educational teams.
[Jackie Carlson (PIC)/ Sue Holland (AST)]

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

NBI 6/13-9

That CTA make the following policy: That CTA believes school district governance should have the option of selling or leasing surplus district property at or below fair market rate.

Rationale: Passage of SB 1016 made mandatory district surplus property designed for instruction must be first offered to charter schools at the cost of the property to the district plus inflation. School districts shouldn't be forced by law to sell or lease their surplus property to charter schools at below market rates.
[Nathan Dawson (C&I)/Seyem Loeffler (NEG)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-10

That CTA President write a letter to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges expressing our concern with the Commissions' sanctioning of California Community Colleges.

Rationale: Currently, in the latest round of sanctions, the ACCJC has sanctioned 21 out of 112 community colleges around the state, largely due to the effects of state budget cuts. The commission has sanctioned schools in its region 16 times more than other commissions have targeted schools in their regions across the nation. Loss of accreditation can have a detrimental effect on students and staff. CTA needs to join our brothers and sisters in the CFT in protesting this commission's cavalier attitude towards giving out sanctions to our community colleges.
[Mark Murray (STL)/ Lynette Nyaggah (STL)]

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

NBI 6/13-11

That CTA hold a forum at the October 2013 State Council to discuss and debate the pros and cons of the Common Core State Standards. (CCSS)

Rationale: The CCSS are being launched around the country, yet there was little or no input from teachers, parents or students in creating them and there has been little discussion on what the impact of national standards could be. Where will the funding come from for additional technology? Will CCSS result in clearer assessments or just increase the emphasis on high stakes testing? Who stands to benefit from CCSS – our students or for-profit publishers? We need to have venues for full discussion and debate on these and other issues related to CCSS.

[Betty Olson-Jones (BUD)/Mike Jones (AST)]

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

NBI 6/13-12

That CTA Negotiations Committee report on dependent charter schools.

Rationale: Since dependent charter is not referenced in charter school law, there is a need to clarify and define the concept.

[Jim Mordecai (STL)/Rodney Brown (NEG)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-13

That CTA publish in CTA's *California Educator* magazine the story of the American Indian Model Charter Schools scandal and audit report of diversion of charter school funds to founder's businesses.

Rationale: American Indian model charter schools, one of the highest scoring charter schools in the state, had its charters revoked by its authorized Oakland School Board. Important that tricks employed to divert money for students are understood so that the same tricks are not employed elsewhere.

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

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

NBI 6/13-14

That CTA Board of Directors report to State Council on a strategy for changing current law to allow school districts the option of selling surplus school property at market rate.

Rationale: Current law, SB 1016, requires closed schools declare surplus property by a district to be sold to, or leased to, interested charter schools at a special price. The special price is the cost to the district plus inflation. Districts are ,under current law, prevented from selling their property at prevailing market price.

[Jim Mordecai (STL)/Betty Olson-Jones (BUD)]

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

NBI 6/13-15

That CTA create a standing committee on charter schools.

Rationale: The contradiction between public schools and privately managed charter schools creates ongoing problems that need to be addressed. The charter school lobby at times creates changes in law that can have negative impact. There is a need for a continuing study and focus of the impact of charter schools.

[Jim Mordecai (STL)/David Lyell (PRR)]

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

NBI 6/13-16

That CTA leadership direct our Legislative Advocates to support an adjustment to the proposed concentration grant and increase the base grant in order to provide more equitable funding for all school districts.

Rationale: All of California's students deserve a high quality education. The proposed Local Funding Formula would create substantial inequities among school districts similar to the inequities that exist from state to state across the nation. California has long suffered from that inequity. The supplemental grant will provide much needed resources for our students in poverty and our English Language Learners. Increasing the base grant with funds from the concentration grant would provide more equitable funding for all districts so that resources would be available for all California's students. This would prevent the same inequity in funding in California that exists nationally.

[Linda Manion (FPE)/Deborah Myers (PIC)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-17

That CTA make available information about how the template for bylaws was created, is updated and State Council's role in the process.

Rationale: The current process does not create a living document within our locals because of the rigidity of the template. We would like to create a more fluid process for assuring compliance and autonomy.

[Janet Thornhill (REP)/Hank Mollet (ACT)]

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

NBI 6/13-18

That CTA lobby the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to call for State performance audits of charter schools by the politically neutral California State Auditor.

Rationale:

1. Charter schools pull students from traditional schools with the promise of new and more effective educational programs. CSA audits can demonstrate whether or not charter schools are implementing those programs and whether or not those programs are effective,
2. Charter schools use public funds for those unproven programs. Pulling students from traditional schools leads to cuts in funding for what actually may be more effective programs at traditional schools. Charters making poor use of those funds adversely affect the working conditions of our members in those charter schools. At least one case even involved inappropriate use of member retirement funds. Only a few charters have been closed due to mismanagement.
3. Well run charters will not be harmed by such audits.

[Mike Patterson (ACT)/Dana Dillon (RET)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-19

That CTA submit the following referendum to active members: "CTA believes competition between public and charter schools is destructive to public education and separate sources of funding should be provided. CTA believes the full cost of administering charter schools; assessing, approving, revoking and oversight, must be paid from separate school funding."

Rationale: CTA's active members need the opportunity to vote whether a separate funding stream for public schools will reduce unfair competition and make the total cost of charter schools transparent to the public. School closures due to enrollment loss to charter schools have created instability and have harmed existing public schools. The harmful impact of charter schools needs to be made transparent. Having our active members vote on this issue will both educate and make the harm done by charter schools evident.

[Jerry Eaton (STL)/Corey Penrose (COM)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-20

That CTA stand up for EVERY student when supporting the LCFF. With the current proposed formula, many suburban districts will not have funding fully restored. This discrepancy denies members, students and communities to reinstate RIF'd teachers and ensure that all ELL students are granted equal access to funds.

Rationale: CTA has implemented the motto "We Are One." The current CTA supported proposal creates winners and losers. During these difficult times, students have been impacted by funding cuts, RIF'd teachers and now LCFF. How can districts ever become whole? Since 2007, Torrance has lost 55 million in funding and 497 teachers. We ask you to restore state funding levels before the redistribution of funds to other districts. We are all in need. An injury to one is an injury to all!

[Deborah Tabush (LNG) Teresa Brown (TEAF)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

NBI 6/13-21

That CTA investigate the impact of California participating in Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium in the following areas: 1) Costs, 2) Impact on student learning, 3) Time spent on test preparation and testing and 4) Readiness of districts to implement. If investigation proves not to be beneficial to public education, CTA will seek the quick and urgent withdrawal from SBAC.

Rationale: There are many costs to being a participating member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. The cost of technology infrastructure and support, professional development and textbooks and instructional materials is estimated at \$1.6 billion. We have already experienced the impacts of a test prep classroom environment on our students, both in terms of stress and time. This will only increase with the additional SBAC mid-year tests. In addition, many districts have neither the necessary infrastructure nor the money to obtain it.

[Debbie Resnick (TEAF) Jennifer Guerra (SSM)]

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

NBI 6/13-22

That CTA seek legislation to amend the 39 month rehire rights for RIF'd teachers to a longer period of time.

Rationale: With the economic downturn over the past 5 years, RIF'd teachers have run out of their 39 month rehire rights. Experienced teachers are then put on the same level as brand new teachers as far as hiring rights. Districts have placed RIF'd teachers on temporary contracts instead of permanent contracts long enough to cause the teachers loss of their 39 month rehire rights.

[Deb McKenzie (COM) Joe Paluba (STL)]

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

NBI 6/13-23

That CTA demand that the 2013-2014 State budget include a plan to repay owed monies to districts. Further, in order to address the injustices of concentrated poverty and challenges facing ELLs CTA supports the concept of providing concentration grants to districts with a high number of our most needy students.

Rationale: While the motion reflects current policy adopted this year in the "CTA Pre-K-12 Budget Principles," it is time to specifically state our support for the concentration grants. While only a step towards mitigating the effects of poverty we must take this step now.

[Trish Gorham (ECE) Dan Reynolds (STL)]

THE ABOVE ITEM WAS REFERRED TO THE FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE.