

Report of Vince J. Rosato, CTA Council of Education meeting, Los Angeles, October 25-27, 2013

In the Board of Directors report, all recommendations were ratified, except the one asking to ratify Michael Bilbrey position as the CPERS Member at Large Board after UTSF President, Dennis Kelly, recommended against the vote due to past voting record. Some approvals included Lily Eskelsen-Garcia for NEA President, Becky Pringle (technology, engagement and partnerships) for NEA Vice President and Tim Sbranti/D for Assembly District 16.

The Council approved the CTA Board Recommendation to dissolve one District J board member seat and along with it reduce the number of ABC members by one.

The Long Term Strategic Plan was presented with the following salient points:

CTA Strategic Plan 2014-2018 was presented at 10:30, 10/27, after weeks, months and thousands of conversations. There are three categories in which the eight goals are nested. The three categories are (A) quality public education and our profession, (B) building a strong union, and (C) structure and governance. The eight goals are: (1) Advocacy on Education Reform (2) Transforming our Profession (3) Building an Organizing Culture (4) Leadership Development (5) Community Engagement and Coalition Building (6) Social Justice, Equity, and Diversity (7) Organizing Unrepresented Education Workers (8) Structure and Governance Implementation involves a bottom up process of listening, planning, acting and then evaluating our progress. The majority of the action will take place in the locals and each of the goals are broken down into even further detail in the plan booklet provided us. In support of these efforts Service Center Councils and other Regional Structures act in support for the eight goals. In addition, statewide goals list the same goals and each level: Locals, service centers and regions and statewide have timelines for further evaluation and action. The history and names of those involved in leading the work to gather maximal voices and participation of the membership are located in the Strategic Plan booklet for full transparency.

Reporting on Major Policy changes (provided with a page #) in The Organizational Handbook and Informational Items your representative filtered as of prioritized importance from the Committees:

NEGOTIATIONS: Charter school employees should be organized as union members. (page 35, paragraph 2)

SPED: Kindly make your input known on the survey entitled, "CTA Education Survey on Special Education Services" at www.cta.org/CTASpeEd2013. It takes about 8 minutes.

TEACHER EVALUATION AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM: Classroom teachers and other educators must have the responsibility for developing curriculum and selecting educational materials and methods to meet the goals of curriculum. (page 204)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: Strong support continues for CTA sponsored legislation will change the compulsory age of attendance from 6 to age 5 making kindergarten mandatory, resulting in mandatory state funding.

SCHOOL SAFETY/SCHOOL MANAGEMENT: Positive Behavior/Restorative Justice Web resources were provided such as <http://www.fixschooldiscipline.org/> and

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/behaviorialintervention.asp>
<http://www.pbiscaltac.org> and <http://www.cceb.org/programs/youth-communtiy-violence-prevention-program.htm> and
<http://www.cacej.org/> The committee reminded everyone that CTA has a Traumatic Events Assistance and Management Cadre (Crisis Team) accessible through our primary contact staff person. A Tri-fold Guide to School safety is available for download via the Document center on the CTA Go! Phone application.

CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION: mentioned Counselor ratios pending and hosting of "Alternatives to Suspension and Expulsion" with extensive forum handouts.

CREDENTIALS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: presented and received a Council oppose position to NBI 1/13-25 that would request the CTC to develop preparation programs leading to a single subject credential in Dance and Theater. All are encouraged to participate in the online Teacher Preparation and Support Survey at www.cta.org (takes about 12 minutes). Encouraged reading the California Quality Professional Learning Standards at <http://www.schoolsmovingup.net/cs/smu/view/rs/28586>.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION: The State Board of Education (SBE) is requesting applications for currently practicing teachers with experience an expertise in science for appointment to the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) DEADLINE IS November 15, 2013 at

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/cc/ab/index.asp> In addition CDE is requesting input on the Science Framework through participation in focus groups K-12. Apply at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf> One more reminder to complete the Teacher Evaluation Workgroup Survey at

www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeacherEvaluationWorkgroupSurvey.com

RETIREMENT: Fiscal year ending June 30th, 2013 reported gains of 13.8% at CalSTRS. Defend, maintain and protect the defined benefit plans was priority of goals and objectives for the year, followed by repeal of WEP and GPO Social Security Offsets and provide medical, dental and vision care for retirees.

THE BIG ONE IS THE PENSION REFORM ACT OF 2014: AN initiative submitted to the Attorney General via Mayor Chuck Reed of San Jose and a cadre of mayors may be eligible for signatures soon. The initiative would amend the CA Constitution to allow government employers and voters to modify pension and retiree healthcare benefits as well as increase employee contributions. If no agreement in collective bargaining is reached in 180 days the government employer may unilaterally implement desired changes. The Legislature is deemed the government employer for members of the CalSTRS system. This opens pension and benefits to amendment for future service and if this initiative goes out for signatures we will be asked to shed light on the matter. Resources to do so will come

forth, when necessary action needs to occur.

ASSESSMENT AND TESTING: Vernon Gettone, consultant confirmed February 20th SSC training for the District. Teachers are asked to come and bring their community leaders. LCFF and LCAP template was discussed in showing how supplemental and concentration grant funds used to improve services for those at risk students may enable increased support services as part of the LCAP plan, thus possibly restoring support services. School nurses are encouraged to enroll in CTA's EEL additional liability coverage in their role of supervising non medical personnel performing the voluntary administration of insulin.

State Legislation: Approved SB516 Steinberg (D-6) 8/29/2013 requires school district spend money of LCFF at schools site in lieu of district wide.

QUOTABLE QUOTES OF THE WEEKEND:

"The whole labor struggle gets its sense of solidarity past, now in the future from the collective imagination and effort that make things go forward," Governor Jerry Brown, 10/26/13 9:30 p.m. Westin Bonaventure Hotel 150 Anniversary CTA Gala

"We are teachers and we grow dendrites."

"A good organizer is a social arsonist who goes about igniting people on fire."

A Budget Survey for the 2014-2015 Budget is presented for input Respectfully submitted, VJRosato, CTA State Delegate representing NHTA/NTA locals, 10/30/13