

March 28, 2017 Rep Council Meeting Minutes

3:30-5:30 @ Jepson Library

Members present – Tracy Begley, Alyson Brauning, Brenda Hensley, Corey Penrose, Sylvia Aquino, Todd Blanset, Jenny Brown, Sofia Calderon, Megan Morris, Mike Ensley, Tammy Parker, Sharon Riehl, Navjot Kaur, Yvonne DiMichele, Russ Tucker, Julie McGee, Leslie Losberger, Mark Richardson, Cyndi Marshall, Jose Bermudez, Helen Blood, Janel Curtis, Becky Wylie, Marcus York, Rebecca Pinto, Glen Branaman, Andrew Bower, Jouli Jara, Chris Fickes, Greg Gmahling, Cindy Bray, Erin Gordon, Lindsay Richardson, Nina Foster, Nancy Anderson-Louie, Liz Meagor, Lisa Cusi, Becky Wylie

Members absent – Samantha Dubs, Annmarie Woehler, Allen May, Carolyn Thomas, Sylvia Shepard, Miranda Merino, Chris Wagner

1)- Approval of the minutes – the minutes were approved.

2) - Approval of the agenda – the agenda was approved, with flexibility.

Review of February “Site Rep To Do” list was done by Alyson. The list covered State Delegate Elections, VTA resolution, the pledge to support all of our students, VPEF grants, and day of the teacher events.

3) - President’s report – Tracy reported on the following:

- **Foss Survey** went out to 4th-6th grade teachers. Results will be discussed Apr. 12 with district staff
- **MOUs in place- Sierra Vista:** align 6th grade with 7th/8th instructional minutes, all contract language specific to 7/8 will apply to 6th grade. **ISP:** Working Conditions and Hours for Bargaining Unit Members at Ernest Kimme
- **PE-** Independent Study and Credit for Athletes was presented at the Mar. 16th Board Meeting. Discussions continue so that there is no negative impact to teachers in the PE Dept due to this option
- There will not be a **change in start time** for the 2017-2018 school year. The district continues to look at possible options for the 2018-2019 school year
- VTA is now officially on the **Board Agenda**. We will highlight all the great activities going on in our classrooms as well as our Educators of the Month. Hopefully, we can send this piece out to members in the newsletter (similar to what Corey did with Shawn Windhawn’s comment regarding sp ed.). We will have five minutes to speak in front of the board.

- **Special Ed.-** discussions continue with Kim Forrest. She is receptive to feedback from members. I will continue to meet with her and share member concerns and ideas/solutions for improvements. Contentious IEPs is the hot topic right now. A PowerPoint presentation should be shared with staff – either by site admin or Kim. Hopefully, communication is/will be improving from the sp ed dept
- **Special Ed.-** I met with Dawn Cova (CTA staff) to talk about a game plan for sp ed. There will be a survey coming out soon for special ed teachers to determine our next step(s).
- I'm continuing **site visits-** I went to Buckingham and Orchard. I have Hemlock and Browns Valley this week. For the week of Apr. 3- I will be at Markham, Cooper and Country High. I also have tentative dates Apr. 10 Fairmont and Apr. 13 Callison
- April 6 (4:30-6:30) is **Stand Up for All Students** at the CTA Cordelia office. The topic is Immigration Rights for students. For more information, and to register, [click here](#).
- **Elections for Exec Board** are here- 1) timeline: open up nominations at rep council today
2) send out email to general membership 3/29 including declaration and job descriptions
3) members have until 4/12 to declare candidacy (w/ 25-word statement)spring break falls
4) election materials handed out to reps 4/25 5) voting at sites 4/26-5/5 6) results 5/5 or 5/6
- **Displaced Pool Mtg** was held on March 22.
- Thank you all for keeping me updated on your site's 10-minute meetings.
- **Orgnizing Academy** – was discussed by Erin Gordon. The plan is to focus on solidarity and developing our collective power to address the impending loss of fair-share fees. Site handbooks were distributed to reps.

4) - Treasurer's report – after reviewing the treasurers report, and discussion the financials, the report was approved.

5) - Committee/Chair reports

- **Action** – Corey reported on the following:
 - **Take action** – rep council took the [pledge to support](#) our kids and added the [Vacaville Teachers Association on Facebook](#).
- **Bargaining** – Brenda reported that the retro and pay raise will be in this month's pay warrant, in two separate checks, but the medical expenses will not be showing up until

April. Her written report reported that Jennifer Lindsay has been added to the bargaining team, discussed the most recent updates, and reviewed the timeline for the 17-18 bargaining cycle. The report finished by reporting that we will be sunshining a three-year contract with re-openers for 18-19 and 19-20.

- **Grievance** – Sylvia reported on the displaced teacher pool, retirement health insurance, academic freedom with the yearbook and guidelines for effective advocacy for site reps. Sylvia went on to discuss that, if members are encouraged/pressured to change grades, please let Greivance know. The education code regarding the assigning of grades is listed below:

ARTICLE 3. General Provisions [49062 - 49069.5]

(Article 3 enacted by Stats. 1976, Ch. 1010.)

49066.

(a) When grades are given for any course of instruction taught in a school district, the grade given to each pupil shall be the grade determined by the teacher of the course and the determination of the pupil's grade by the teacher, in the absence of clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetency, shall be final.

(b) The governing board of the school district and the superintendent of such district shall not order a pupil's grade to be changed unless the teacher who determined such grade is, to the extent practicable, given an opportunity to state orally, in writing, or both, the reasons for which such grade was given and is, to the extent practicable, included in all discussions relating to the changing of such grade.

(c) No grade of a pupil participating in a physical education class, however, may be adversely affected due to the fact that the pupil does not wear standardized physical education apparel where the failure to wear such apparel arises from circumstances beyond the control of the pupil.

The report finished with a conversation about potential interactions between board policy and the law listed above

- **Equity Team** - Alyson Brauning, Tricia Cowen, Sofia Calderon & Maya Wildgoose reported on the May 1st actions and the following motions were made:

Motion – VTA participate in the May 1st Statewide day of action – seconded and unanimously approved.

The report finished with a conversation about potential actions and organizing opportunities for this event and the importance of standing together for advocate for high-quality schools for all of our kids.

- **Health Care** – Jenny reported that the health benefits committee is diversifying and that updated information on our health care will be provided at the next meeting.
- **Labor Council** – Corey reported that the Spring Salute is happening on March 31st at the Mare Island Naval Museum. For more information, or to buy tickets, [go here](#).
- **Member Engagement** – Alyson reported that the link to buy tickets for the VTA day at the River Cats on May 7th will be going live at our website very soon. The Redwood Educators Conference on April 21st and April 22nd is filling up fast, for more information, [please go here](#).
- **PAC** – Corey reported that the Grassroots Lobbying Campaign to support AB 1360, AB 1478 and SB 808 is underway. A group of educators will be meeting with Senator Dodd on Thursday to discuss the merits of these CTA co-sponsored bills. Meetings with Senator Glazer and Assemblymember Fraizer are also in the process of being scheduled.
- **State Council** – Corey reported on the following:
 - ***May 1 Day of Action*** - CTA is asking our local chapters and members to hold actions with parents and community members at their local school sites. Actions may include "walk-ins" with parents and community members, unveiling new safe zone policies and safe zone resolutions, taking the [pledge](#), hosting community meetings, and more. Please join our [Facebook group](#) and fill out our [form](#) to let us know how you are participating.

Why May 1st? May 1st has been historically linked to international worker' rights. On May 1, 1886, the U.S. Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions (including immigrant workers) ruled that an 8-hour work day, would be a full and legal work day. NEA and the [Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools](#) (AROS) are also holding a national day of action on May 1. May 1, or May Day, continues to be a national day of action to raise awareness about

immigration rights and the need to keep families together as they fight for a better life. There is a toolkit available on the CTA website, [go here to check it out](#).

There were 200 (!) bills on education and education-related issues reviewed for this legislative cycle. CTA has co-sponsored three of them. They are:

- ***AB 1360: EQUITY AND STUDENT ACCESS AT CHARTER SCHOOLS-*** Assembly Member Rob Bonta has authored AB 1360, which prohibits discriminatory admissions practices and ensures due process in pupil discipline at charter schools. [Read CTA's letter to bill's author](#) / [Details](#)
- ***AB 1478: ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AT CHARTER SCHOOLS-*** Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer has authored AB 1478, which expressly states that charter schools and the entities managing charter schools are subject to the Brown Act (open meetings), Public Records Act (open books), and two laws preventing conflicts of interest: Political Reform Act and Government Code 1090. [Read CTA's letter to bill's author](#) / [Details](#)
- ***SB 808: LOCAL CONTROL AT CHARTER SCHOOLS-*** Senator Tony Mendoza has authored SB 808, which requires that all charter school petitions must be approved by the school board of the school district in which they reside. [Read CTA's letter to bill's author](#) / [Details](#)

These are some of the bills we will be opposing

- **AB 20 (Kalra) D-27** Requires CalSTRS and CalPERS divest funds and refrain from making additional investments in a company constructing or investing in the Dakota Access Pipeline.
- **AB 950 (Rubio) D-48** Permits a charter school to bypass school boards in the petition process, submitting a petition for establishment of a charter school directly to the county office of education or State Board of Education (SBE) without reasonable justification for why the charter school could not be established locally and permits a charter school petitioner to skip the county board of education on appeal, filing directly with the SBE when a petition is denied by a school board.
- **AB 586 (Holden) D-41** Allows a tax credit for teacher professional development expenses paid or incurred.
- **AB 624 (Maienschein) R-77** Allows a tax credit not to exceed \$10,000, to a robotics club at a school in California during the taxable year

This is one bill we will be watching:

- [Senate Bill 807](#), introduced by Democratic Sens. Henry Stern of Los Angeles and Cathleen Galgiani of Stockton, offers an incentive for teachers to remain in the classroom. After teaching for five years, California educators would be exempt from paying a state income tax. The bill would also provide a tax deduction for the cost of attaining a teaching credential. The Legislature has not yet calculated the estimated loss in tax revenue to the state if the measure is approved.

Other issues you should be aware of:

- ***State Board of Education*** – The Dashboard metrics has not been finished. The Parent Trigger group wants one single score to be prominent, they would like more weight for Test Scores, CTA will be watching. California Dashboard is online and everyone needs to continue to advocate for a dashboard and not a single score for school accountability.
- ***Public Employment Relations Board*** - This agency is vital to the work of our locals in contract struggles and it is incredibly understaffed. This could result in a delay for getting rulings in ongoing disputes.
- **Special Ed** – Tammy reported on the following:
 - Susan Massey-Clover, Coordinator II, resigned her position in March.
 - The district has advertised for a Special Education Director
 - Kim Forrest is Special Education Contact person; if you have questions, contact her
 - Rise Revis has been hired for the remainder of the 2016/2017 School Year to act as administrative designee for Preschool Transition meetings.
 - There is a committee that will be meeting to discuss report cards for SDC students: if you have comments/suggestions, please forward them to Tammy Parker.
- **Leave Bank and Julie Davis Scholarship** – none
- **Membership** - none

6)- New Business -

- **Open Nominations for VTA Officers** – has been done. Interested parties are encouraged to fill out a declaration form and submit it Ali Eeds.
- **Proposed Special Ed Credential stipend modifications from VUSD** – were shared with rep council.

Motion – VTA oppose paying special education stipends to non-credentialed special education members –seconded and approved.

7) - Conference reports - none

8) – Other – An **amazing** general Rep Training was done by Dawn Cova.

9) – Raffle – a ten dollar mobile charger was won by Erin Gordon and Marcus York

10) – Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 5:40.

Respectfully submitted, Corey Penrose