TRUE NEWS

Twin Rivers United Educators’ Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 1 • August 2009

DON’T MASK THE CUTS!

“It will be up to TRUE - that is you - to make sure the District hears about how class size is affecting our classroom this year... It will also be up to TRUE - that is you - to let our community know how the cuts are affecting our classroom this year.”

Kristin Finney

Where’s My Regular Sub?

“If you would like to request a specific sub, you may enter the sub number now.” This is a phrase that you will no longer hear when you call Sub-Finder.

There is a new procedure for substitute assignments. Teachers will continue to call Sub-Finder to report an absence and put in the reason for the absence, but Sub-Finder will take care of who is assigned to your class. The program will automatically call substitutes from a seniority list of RIF’ed teachers, and then place the top person into a substitute position.

Subs not on the RIF list will be called if a job cannot be filled by a laid-off teacher. This may be inconvenient for those who have had a specific sub that they called on a regular basis, but the new change will help our fellow RIF’ed colleagues to have the opportunity to earn a living. This procedure for choosing subs will continue for the next 39 months, or until all the RIF’ed teachers have been rehired.

Ann Blow-Murray
Director of Communication

Summer Vote on Tentative Agreement

This summer, TRUE held a summer vote on the Tentative Agreement. Members were asked to approve or reject the agreement between TRUE and TRUSD.

Close to 300 Teachers attended a summer General Membership Meeting. After the meeting, ballots were mailed to individual homes. Completed ballots were returned to the TRUE office by July 17th to be counted.

Over 60 percent of TRUE members took part in this summer vote. With 772 yes and 131 no votes, TRUE members voted to accept the contract between TRUSD and TRUE.

The Elections Committee would like to thank all educators who participated in this summer voting process.

Julianna Neal
Elections Committee Chair
Let me be frank about the contract we recently approved. As I enter my twenty-first (21st) year as a teacher, it will be the worst contract I have ever worked under. The Negotiations Team did a great job, but the economic reality results in our current contract. I look at this contract as a foundation; one that can be corrected over time. We will be back negotiating in January 2010. The issues of class size and management rights may be the areas that need immediate fixing.

We believe the theme we need to keep in mind for all of 2009-2010 is “DON’T MASK THE CUTS”. Teachers will be asked to work harder, spend more of their own money, and absorb the burdens of the budget cuts. We believe that parents need to see and hear, be fully aware of, the cutbacks in materials, observe large class sizes and participate more in the education of their children. TRUE wants to know immediately of large class sizes, Williams Act violations and lack of materials. Please e-mail us your stories to true.office@yahoo.com. DON’T MASK THE CUTS!!! We will report those stories to the School Board and Superintendent and demand timely solutions.

John Ennis
TRUE President

CTA Delegates Elect Chuck Denonn to NEA Resolutions Committee

At the third business session of the California Caucus, CTA President David Sanchez announced that the 900 California delegates attending the NEA Representative Assembly elected Chuck Denonn as a one of the California representative to the NEA Resolutions Committee. A Highlands Academy teacher, Chuck was one of six TRUE members sent to San Diego to attend the 147th Annual Meeting of the National Education Association (NEA). Each member of the NEA Resolutions Committee represents a geographical region. Chuck represents the teachers and educators in District 12, which includes all public schools in the greater Sacramento area and large portions of Placer County.

Resolutions are formal expressions of opinion, intent, belief, or position of the NEA. Broad in nature, they set forth general concepts in clear, concise language. These statements express the positions of the NEA positively and without ambiguity, consistent with the goals of the NEA. NEA resolutions are annually adopted by the Representative Assembly.

The Preliminary Report of the NEA Resolutions Committee represents proposed amendments to resolutions and proposed new resolutions prepared by the committee at its winter meeting in Washington D.C. Prior to the RA, each delegate receives a copy of the preliminary report. At the RA, the Resolutions Committee conducts an open hearing to discuss the preliminary report, and after a supplemental report, containing amendments to the proposed report, additional proposed amendments and new resolutions, is distributed to delegates. After considering all amendments and proposed new resolutions, the RA delegates adopt the final report.

As part of his duties, Chuck Denonn will join NEA Resolutions Committee members from around the nation to prepare the Preliminary Report of the NEA Resolutions Committee. The 2009-2010 committee chairwoman has tentatively assigned Chuck Denonn to the subcommittee on Section F, which contains resolutions to “protect the rights of education employees and advance their interest and welfare.” The section includes five subsections which incorporate resolutions concerning pay equity and comparable worth, the collective bargaining process, bargaining issues, the protection of education employees, and retirement and social security matters.

Members can contact Chuck Denonn with their recommendations for changes to the NEA Resolutions Report. To prepare for the Winter Meeting he will conduct hearings in the local area as part of the Capitol Service Center program. Formal hearings will be conducted at selected CTA conferences including the Region 2 Leadership Conference in Reno in October 2009. He will use the input from the educators he represents to guide his actions on his subcommittee and in general discussions and votes on other sections of the resolutions report. He can be contacted at: cdenonn@peoplepc.com.
TRUE Officers Attend CTA Presidents Conference

This summer the four officers of the TRUE Executive Board attended the week-long CTA Presidents Conference. On the first day, Kristin Finney, Joyce Childs and Rick Mau attended sessions for new leaders. In the following days, together with John Ennis they attended multiple leadership and budget workshops. All four officers also had the opportunity to individually attend different seminars with a more specific focus. John Ennis attended workshops on State Budget History, Changing Laws & Regulations for 403B and 457 plans and our Capital Service Center. One message TRUE tried to convey to the CTA Leadership there was stick to plans and our Capital Service Center.

One of TRUE’s goals has been organizational strategies, but working together effectively as a cohesive group has not been completely mastered. There are four stages of team development: “Forming, Storming, Norming and Performing”. Last year TRUE spent a good deal of time forming and storming. The leadership has established agreed-upon procedures (Norming), which will now help TRUE achieve better performance. Most importantly, for the above aspects to occur, a well-trained group of participants is necessary. TRUE depends on volunteers to accomplish most of the functions of a strong association. We want to be proactive rather than reactive. We are the association and we need to establish a culture of participation rather than be seen as just a service to members. To achieve this, we know we need to recruit interested members and provide appropriate training. We need volunteers. We look forward to hearing from members who would like to participate.

Kristin Finney attended a workshop on how to recruit and better support Site Reps and how to use them as our strongest way to communicate with our members. TRUE will be implementing ideas and strategies derived from this important workshop to help make our Association even more effective and stronger.

Kristin and Rick Mau attended together a very interesting elective workshop titled “Fighting Take-Backs and Tear-Downs”. The extraordinary State budget crisis has created a need to strategize on how teacher unions can organize membership during these difficult times. The key point is that members should not “mask the cuts” that have been occurring to education. Lay-offs, increased class sizes, furlough days, and reduction in salaries are just some of the take-backs and tear-downs we have seen in our own area. It is important to make sure TRUE uses “power” and “strategy” when conducting association goals. Because of our current State budget, it can feel like a David vs. Goliath battle, and union leadership needs to ask for increased member involvement to help promote parity in power between TRUE and TRUSD. Developing alliances with School Board members is a key strategy to achieving power parity with the District.

Joyce Childs focused on workshops about union communication, how groups can work effectively and how to get more members involved. Most of the recommendations for communication and technology TRUE is already doing. We have a monthly hard copy newsletter, a web site, a discussion forum, and more recently, we have also added a TRUE Facebook page. At the workshop it was also suggested that locals use phone trees and their modern counterpart: robo-calls. TRUE already reaches out to members through Survey Monkey, regular e-mails and robo-calls, and by flyers delivered by the Site Reps.

As I look at the challenges that face us this year, I am reminded of something I have learned while attending trainings and being involved in the union for over 10 years: you are the union – you are TRUE – you are CTA. If we are going to make it through the next few years of economic crisis and the effects this will have on education, we need to remember this. If we want education and our school district to move in the direction we want it to go, we need to remember this. It will be up to TRUE - that is you – to make sure the district hears about how class size is affecting our classroom this year. It will be up to TRUE – that is you - to let CTA leadership know what is important to us as educators and what direction we want them to lead us. It will also be up to TRUE –that is you – to let our community know how the cuts are affecting our classroom.

As the year progresses and we get caught up in our teaching day, we should not forget this message because the District will forget what we are going through as soon as we stop reminding them, the community will forget and our state government will forget. Don’t mask the cuts. You are the union and you have the power to keep the spotlight on this issue. If we close our classroom doors and forget, so will they.

Kristin Finney
TRUE Vice President
TRUE Members Attend the NEA-RA

The 147th Annual Meeting of the National Education Association (NEA) met in San Diego from July 2 thru July 6, 2009. The Annual Meeting includes a day of hearings and the four-day Representative Assembly. About 9,000 elected delegates assembled from around the nation, including nearly a thousand from California. The TRUE delegation included three previous attendees: Janice Auld, Chuck Denonn and Wendy Gallimore, and three first time participants: Joyce Childs, Ann Murray, and Kerri Asbury.

TRUE NEA Representatives: From left to right: Joyce Childs, Ann Murray, Wendy Gallimore, Chuck Denonn and Keri Asbury (not pictured: Janice Auld)

In various actions during the four days of the NEA Representative Assembly delegates amended the Standing Rules and Bylaws, adopted the Legislative Program, approved revisions to the NEA Resolutions report, and adopted business items that direct specific actions for the next fiscal year. With the amendments to the By-Laws and Standing Rules, procedures will be developed for challenging the election of directors, executive committee members and officers.

After considering amendments to the Legislative Program, the delegates established guidelines to direct NEA’s efforts to “strengthen public schools, colleges, and universities through federal and state legislation and policies.”

After analyzing proposed changes to the Resolutions Report, the RA delegates adopted the report that reaffirmed the following:

- NEA’s voice on the public perception of education, financing of public education, and quality in education. Other resolutions weigh in on issues affecting lifelong learning, educational equity, programs for individuals, curriculum content, and other learning issues. NEA Resolutions also seek to promote the health and welfare of children, promote professional excellence, recognize the role of teachers in the learning process, protect the rights of education employees, support professional autonomy, unite education employees for effective citizenship, and protect human and civil rights.

Annually, the discussion of New Business Items (NBIs) consumes the greatest share of the time of delegates. This year, delegates introduced 87 NBIs, referring several for committee action and passing most of the remaining items. Among the actions approved at the 2009 RA, NEA will develop recommendations and responses to the possible spread of H1N1 virus and other communicable diseases, help affiliates oppose funding for charter schools that do not meet NEA criteria for support, strengthen the campaign to repeal Social Security’s Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision, aid in the restoration of teacher control of the curriculum, defend ethnic studies, advocate for adult education programs, publicize best resources for character education, develop materials to promote the teaching profession among middle school students, study the decline in male achievement, and promote union pride.

Chuck Denonn
NEA-RA Delegate

TRUE NEWS
August 2009

Save the Date!

TRUE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 15, 2009

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Aviator Room at Holiday Inn
5321 Date Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95841

- Discussion of Union Issues and Focus for this Year
- Back to School Concerns
- Question and Answer Session
- Door-Prize Drawings

Save the Date!
Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women

Prior to the NEA Representative Assembly each year, the National Education Association holds the Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women. For two days, participants hear speakers and learn in depth information about minorities and women in the educational field. This year, Joyce Childs and Wendy Gallimore attended this conference.

Disturbing facts were addressed about the portrayal of women in the media and how those portrayals really set a course for our society. Images of women in advertising have evolved over the years, but maybe not for the best. An interesting thing for you to do, is to look for advertising images. You will definitely be surprised at what you find. Everyone should become aware of how the media portrays minorities and women and help our society demand better for ourselves, our families and students.

An interesting workshop on achievements of African American students in higher education was also featured. We hear a lot about the negative aspects of the achievement gap, but this workshop gave us the positive aspects. Many students of color do attend college and many graduate at higher numbers than traditional college students. Remember teachers educate the future and we do a good job. Educators are told to raise scores and look at how to do better. We should remember to give our students the dream that anything is possible if they work hard, and they can be successful. We need to celebrate the positive and work within that realm rather than consistently dwell on what is missing.

Overall, the conference was a positive experience that helps us remember why we teach. We all have different answers, but buried somewhere in almost everyone’s answers is the core value of making a difference. Go to www.NEA.org and learn about members making a difference in the lives of women and minorities.

Wendy Gallimore
NEA-RA Delegate

The National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA-RA) took place this summer in San Diego, California. This is the 10,000 member body that sets NEA’s yearly agenda. Educators from all over the United States meet in one place to discuss potential focal points for the NEA to put forward in Washington DC this year. It is truly a democratic process.

At this year’s Assembly Arne Duncan, United States Secretary for Education, addressed the Assembly in a town-hall meeting. He outlined his goals for U.S. education, including his ideas about merit pay, charter schools, and “The Race to the Top” program. Teachers attending the RA were invited to ask him questions. This interaction is available at the NEA web site.

While NEA Representatives from around the country were in San Diego, the California politicians were in Sacramento working on a solution to the state’s budget crisis. One of the Governor’s choices was to suspend guarantees to education as outlined in Proposition 98. The nation’s educators attending the Representative Assembly signed more than 10,000 postcards asking the Governor to honor his promise to give education a fair budget. These cards were hand-delivered by a group of 100 California teachers. Joyce Childs was honored to be one of the teachers chosen to walk with David Sanchez in this demonstration across San Diego to Governor Schwarzenegger’s office.

The NEA-RA is a wonderful event to attend. Next year’s NEA Representative Assembly will be in New Orleans, Louisiana. All TRUE members should consider running next spring to become one of TRUE’s NEA-RA Representatives.

Joyce Childs
TRUE Secretary and NEA-RA Delegate
School Funding - How Bad Will It Get?

One of the CTA Summer Institute elective sessions was “State Budget Primer 2009-2010” presented by Dom Summa. This session provided an overview of the latest state budget.

According to Summa, “California school funding is on a race to the bottom.” Without changes, additional cuts can be expected in the 2009-10 school year and beyond. Class sizes will increase, vital programs will be eliminated, and public education as we know it will be further jeopardized.

Categorical programs will face additional cuts, but districts will have increased flexibility, as in class size reduction. Districts may avoid a negative or qualified or fiscal certification due to a substantial loss of federal stabilization funds in the 2011-12 and 2012-13. The budget also changes the minimum requirement for reserves for economic uncertainty to one-third of currently recommended level in 2009-10. Additional cuts added to the February state budget include additional revenue limit cuts of 7.6 percent until the deficit is reduced and a one time cut of approximately $250 per Average Daily Attendance. The basic Aid districts’ categorical funding will be cut by the amount of the revenue limit cuts.

What can we do? CTA/TRUE members should organize to fight for changes needed to improve education. That includes becoming educated about the issues, telling your story to the community, and building support for future elections. Finally, don’t mask the cuts!

Ann Murray  
Communications Director

Julianne Neal,  
K-3 Director-at-Large

Remember pink Friday and the energy of the movement? As we head back to school, it’s time to refocus our message to bring awareness of what is really happening to students in California schools. This year there will be fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and less money for our schools. At the CTA Summer Institute, CTA President David A. Sanchez encouraged members to plan events to show the public how the cuts are hurting our students. “Organizing for power is how we build a strong local chapter, a strong CTA, and a better California.

CTA is re-launching its website www.standupforschools.org for planning events and social networking. On the website you can:

• Share real-life examples of how budget cuts impact California’s Schools, and share your story.
• Explore resources and materials to help get the word out about the devastating cuts to education.
• Receive text updates about events near you.
• Network with other members.
• Add your voice to a forum blog.
• Load or browse through photos of statewide activities.
• Load or watch videos.
TRUE NEWS

CTA Summer Institute

This summer, four TRUE members attended the CTA Summer Institute at U.C.L.A., which offers workshops in a variety of areas to assist Associations in their day to day representation of their members. Laura Bingham, from Regency Park Elementary, attended the Healthcare Benefits and Issues Track, focusing on member education of current local, state, and national medical healthcare trends. Karen McVey, from Highlands Academy, attended the Community Outreach Strand where local chapters were provided tools for getting an outreach project underway and for engaging members, leaders, and community organizers. Julieanne Neal, from Castori Elementary, and Ann Murray, from Village Elementary, attended the week-long Communications Strand, taking the Chapter Newsletters from A to Z track and It’s News to me: Effective Communications track. The week of training ended with a town hall meeting with CTA leaders and Assembly Speaker Bass.

Community Outreach Training

While at the CTA Summer Institute, Karen McVey attended the session called “Community Outreach Strand.” It was a great strand, and the organizers made it wonderful.

The strand started with a welcome by David Sanchez, who expressed his concerns about community outreach. Next Chris Gabriele, a Community Outreach speaker, explained about community outreach and shared some of his personal experiences. He spoke about finding the smallest person on the totem pole that can help solve problems, and how to win on issues.

All members participating in this session were given a tool kit. Participants were split into five rotating groups to explain the tool kit. Attendees first learned to get a group of people together, to build relationships, and decide what one wants to change in the school or community. Next, participants learned to make a sequential plan and set times and places to meet. Further meetings are to see how successful part 1 of the plan went and make changes as needed to the rest of the plan. Participants were asked to make a sample action plan, learn about the association structure, have our questions answered, finding out about financial resources, and finding out who to contact in our communities.

Committed to Communications

One of TRUE’s major goals is to improve communications with our members. This summer two TRUE members, Ann Murray (Director of Communications) and Julieanne Neal (K-3 Director) attended the Summer Institute Communications Strand. The week-long session included training in writing articles for a newsletter, using Microsoft Publisher to create newsletters, strategies for talking with the press, planning events that will interest the press, and public speaking. The presenters stressed the importance of developing a relationship with the media near individual Associations. All of these skills will help the Communications Committee to better communicate with our members.

As part of the Communications Strand, Julieanne was required to attend the press panel. She was able to listen to a television news programmer, two newspaper education journalists, and two radio journalist. The panel discussed the elements that make situations press-worthy and shared strategies to lure the press to union and education events.

Karen McVey, HAAD Librarian

Julieanne Neal working with other participants at the media training.
Elections Update

The Elections Committee is once again busy planning an election. Currently, the TRUE Executive Board has four vacancies for Director-at-Large: one representing the Specialty Groups, two representing grade level K-3 and one representing grade level 4-6. All four positions complete terms ending in May 31, 2010. The election timeline is included in this publication. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, you can download a Declaration of Candidacy form from www.trueassociation.com. Declaration of Candidacy forms are due at the TRUE Office by September 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the latest.

Julianne Neal, Elections Committee Chair

Membership Committee Update

TRUE’s Membership Committee needs volunteers to put together “Beginning of the Year” member packets. These packets include calendars and other CTA information. The Membership Committee will be meeting at the TRUE office on Wednesday, August 19 from 3:30 to 5:30 and Wednesday, August 26 from 3:30 to 5:30. Food will be provided. Please contact Lisa Gant (lisasring@sbcglobal.net) or the TRUE office if you can help.

UPCOMING CTA CONFERENCES

- Region 2 Leadership Conference - Reno, Nevada, Oct. 9 – 11, 2009
- Good Teaching Conference North - Burlingame, Jan. 22 – 24, 2010
- Urban Issues Conference - San Jose, Feb. 26 – 28, 2010
- Summer Institute - UCLA, August 1 -6, 2010

All conference participants who will be attending at TRUE’s expense, will need to write a report for the newsletter or make a presentation at the Delegate Assembly. Handouts should be attached to the report or presentation.

If you are interested in going to any of these conferences, please notify the TRUE Office (true.office@yahoo.com).

Why should you become a TRUE Delegate to the NEA-RA?

Every summer, nearly 10,000 delegates from across the country meet to set policy and give direction to the National Education Association. It is the largest democratic body functioning in the entire country and you can be a part of it. It is an awesome sight to see and be a part of through voting, speaking and just experiencing the feel of the days. This past year in San Diego, delegates met with Arnie Duncan, Secretary of Education, heard from Lind Darling-Hammond, a leading educational expert and proponent of teachers, and even heard a special address from President Obama.

For six days, delegates meet to hear the financial position of the association, vote on policy and learn what is happening across the country in education. It is a huge responsibility, but one where you can really contribute to your profession on a larger scale than you do daily in your classroom. As a member of the nearly 1100 member delegation from California, this year was an opportunity to rally the rest of the delegates in a fight for our state budget and we told the governor not to suspend Proposition 98. It was an amazing experience to be part of this movement for what is right in education. Since California is the largest delegation at the RA, our plight is heard throughout the entire assembly. Many know that what happens in California often ripples through the rest of the nation.

Too often, as teachers, we let things happen to us. As a delegate to the Representative Assembly, you have the ability to start your own change or the chance to help a cause you already believe in. Teachers can be the agents of change rather than the victims of it. Mark your calendars now and plan to run for one of the TRUE delegates next year. The NEA RA will be in New Orleans, LA in 2010 from July 1-6. Get involved and represent your TRUE on the national level.

Wendy Gallimore
TRUE NEA-RA Delegate 2009
Announcement of Special Election of
Two (2) Directors-at-Large for Grade Level K-3
One (1) Director-at-Large for Grade Level 4-6
One (1) Director-at-Large for Specialty Groups

Two positions for Director-at-Large for Grade Level K-3, one position for Director-at-Large for Grade Level 4-6, and one position for Director-at-Large for Specialty Groups on the Twin Rivers United Educators (TRUE) Executive Board are now open for nomination. According to the TRUE Bylaws, a Special Election must be held to fill their vacancies; this Special Election will fill the remainder of the two-year seats with terms ending May 31, 2010.

For each office, TRUE members can nominate as candidates any TRUE member, including her or himself, as follows:

- for the Directors-at-Large for Grade Level K-3 and Grade Level 4-6: any classroom teacher of each grade level,
- for the Director-at-Large for Specialty Groups: educators with no classroom assignments, such as: counselors, speech therapists, psychologists, librarians and nurses).

The winners will be elected by a simple majority of votes cast.

**NOMINATIONS:**

Anyone wishing to run for office must file a Declaration of Candidacy form so that it is received no later than **5 PM on September 9, 2009** at the T.R.U.E. Office at 3318 Howard Street, Suite 10, McClellan, CA 95652. Declaration of Candidacy forms can be downloaded directly from the TRUE website: www.trueassociation.org. Forms will also be made available through the Site Delegates, or at the T.R.U.E. Office (true.office@yahoo.com). A candidate statement of no more than 50 words may be submitted along with the Declaration of Candidacy. Candidate statements will be published with the ballots.

**SPECIAL ELECTION TIMELINE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 19, 2009</td>
<td>Announcement of Special Election for two positions for Director-at-Large for Grade Level K-3, one position for Director-at-Large for Grade Level 4-6, and one position for Director-at-Large for Specialty Groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9, 2009</td>
<td>Declarations of candidacy due by <strong>5 PM</strong> at: <strong>TRUE Office, 3318 Howard Street, Suite 10, McClellan, CA 95652.</strong> Post-marked date not accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9, 2009</td>
<td>Acknowledgement of declarations of candidacy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 11, 2009</td>
<td>Starts distribution of ballots and other voting material to all schools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14-24, 2009</td>
<td>Voting takes place at all sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 24, 2009</td>
<td>Ballots and voter lists are due by <strong>5 PM</strong> at: <strong>TRUE offices, at 3318 Howard Street, Suite 10, McClellan, CA 95652.</strong> Post-marked date not accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24, 2009</td>
<td>TRUE Elections Committee counts ballots, starting at 5:05 PM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25, 2009</td>
<td>Announcement of election results. If a run-off election is needed, the timeline for it will be included in the announcement of results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 8, 2009</td>
<td>Challenges to the election are due by 5 pm at the latest. Challenge must be in writing and received at the TRUE office by this date. Post-marked date not accepted.</td>
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District Partners With Business, Nonprofit To Increase Algebra Preparedness.

The St. Petersburg Times (8/11, Winchester) reports that "the Pinellas school district will have a trio of allies this fall as it increases its efforts to get middle school students fired up about math." A "half-million-dollar" collaboration between the district, "SRI International, the Helios Foundation, and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg" aims to "get more kids ready for Algebra I by the end of seventh grade." The project incorporates interactive software, "cutting-edge curriculum, and top-notch teacher training." A project in Texas "used SimCalc, a digital software similar to the kind used in Pinellas. ... When the software was bolstered by professional development and a curriculum geared to the state's math standards, Texas students saw a 46 percent improvement in their math scores, according to SRI data." The company "hopes to produce similar results in Pinellas." The Helios Education Foundation has "agreed to provide $400,000 for the first year of the five-year project."

NGA Pilot Project Spurs Growth In Number Of Minority Students In AP Classes.

Education Week (8/10, McNeil) reported that a two-year effort by the National Governors Association (NGA) "to expand Advanced Placement programs in six states resulted in a 65 percent increase in student enrollment" in AP classes and even bigger gains among minority students, find a new study finds. The NGA Center for Best Practices in 2005 "awarded six states $500,000 each to target one urban and one rural school district" with the goal of boosting the number of minority students taking AP classes. Two years later, according to the NGA Center's report, the number of minority students in AP classes "had jumped 106 percent."


Kim Severson wrote in a "Diner's Journal" blog for the New York Times (8/10) that the School Nutrition Association is expected to release its bi-annual State of School Nutrition report today. The survey, "based on information from 1,207 school food service directors in 49 states, shows that school food is slowly changing for the better," though nearly all districts "rely on highly processed commodity meat and dairy products." Nearly 60 percent of districts "have increased the price of lunch." Also, the "number of meatless offerings have increased by 12 percent since 2007," and this year, 64 percent of districts "will offer vegetarian food regularly."

Pennsylvania Governor Refuses To Cut Education Funding.

Pennsylvania's Patriot-News (8/10, Murphy) reports that "while calling on legislative leaders to get to work on finalizing the 2009-10 state budget, Gov. Ed Rendell (D) went to bat Saturday for funding his highest priority in the 2009-10 state budget: education." Rendell refused to veto "258 budget lines" in the "$23.9 billion state budget that the Legislature sent him last week" that "would have resulted in $21 million less than the $407 million he wants for state tuition grants, no increase in basic education and $93 million less for early education."

Bloomberg Wants To Make Grade Promotion More Difficult For Lowest-Performers.

The New York Times (8/11, A14, Hernandez) reports that New York City "Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I) said on Monday that he planned to make it harder this year for fourth and sixth graders who score poorly on standardized tests to move on to the next grade." Bloomberg proposes that students in "grades three, five, seven, and eight... who perform at the lowest level on state tests in English and math" be required "to repeat the grade unless they can master the material in summer school." The city teachers' union called the move a "step in the right direction," adding, however, that "better support" should be provided for struggling students.
### TRUE Elementary Site Delegates (Site Reps)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Delegate 1</th>
<th>Delegate 2</th>
<th>Delegate 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aero Haven Elementary</td>
<td>Tom Bothwell</td>
<td>Allison Elementary</td>
<td>Babcock Elementary</td>
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<td>Danalynn Zacharias</td>
<td>Amy Berry &amp; Malissa Byrd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castori Elementary</td>
<td>Barbara Banholzer &amp; Karen Maxwell</td>
<td>Creative Connections Arts Acad.(CCAA) (K-8)</td>
<td>Del Paso Elementary</td>
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<td>David Evans</td>
<td>Lorraine McBeth &amp; Irma Herrera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dry Creek Elementary</td>
<td>Azikiwe Ayo</td>
<td>Fairbanks Elementary</td>
<td>Foothill Oaks Elementary</td>
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<td>Casey Bartlett</td>
<td>Marilee Marsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frontier Elementary &amp; Charter (K-8)</td>
<td>Nancy Nazoki &amp; Cara Downey</td>
<td>Garden Valley Elementary</td>
<td>Hagginwood Elementary</td>
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<td>VACANT</td>
<td>Dan Hirschfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillsdale Elementary &amp; Eastside Charter (K-8)</td>
<td>Aaron Chan</td>
<td>Johnson Elementary</td>
<td>Joyce Elementary</td>
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<td>Kerry Shelton</td>
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<td>Kohler Elementary</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td>Larchmont Elementary</td>
<td>Madison Elementary</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Jo Ball</td>
<td>Cathy Mapes</td>
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<td>Morey Ave ECDE</td>
<td>Jeanie Stockton</td>
<td>Noralto Elementary</td>
<td>North Ave Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwood Elementary</td>
<td>Jackie Leymaster &amp; Janet Kouzel</td>
<td>Oakdale Elementary</td>
<td>Orchard Elementary</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Pratt</td>
<td>Diana Franklin-Schultz &amp; Jacqueline Howard</td>
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<td>Pioneer Elementary</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td>Regency Park Elementary</td>
<td>Ridgepoint Elementary</td>
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<td>Laura Bingham</td>
<td>Mary Chilcote &amp; Joan Mayhew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rio Linda Elementary</td>
<td>Ben Crago-Schneider</td>
<td>Sierra View Elementary</td>
<td>Smythe Academy (K-6 Campus)</td>
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<td>Barbara Moses</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strauch Elementary</td>
<td>Shirley Chambers &amp; Lindsay Hester</td>
<td>Village Elementary</td>
<td>Vineland Elementary &amp; Pathways Community Day School</td>
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<td>Kerri Asbury</td>
<td>Paula Ramsay</td>
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<td>Westside Elementary &amp; Charter (K-8)</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td>Woodlake Elementary</td>
<td>Woodridge Elementary</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kent Kohler</td>
<td>Patty Azevedo</td>
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</tbody>
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### TRUE Secondary Site Delegates (Site Reps)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Delegate 1</th>
<th>Delegate 2</th>
<th>Delegate 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foothill Farms Junior High School</td>
<td>Denise Retter &amp; Karolee Smiley</td>
<td>Foothill High School</td>
<td>Grant High School (Main Campus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Chris Back &amp; Nicole Pinto</td>
<td>Catherine Roller &amp; Dave Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant High School (West Campus)</td>
<td>Robert Wadman, Carol Wheeler,</td>
<td>Highlands Academy (Main Campus)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diana Perkins &amp; Kathleen White</td>
<td>Karen McVey, Shelly Olson,</td>
<td>Tony Arreguin</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>&amp; Alicia Cruz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keema High School</td>
<td>Maria Elena Gallegos</td>
<td>Las Palmas Skill Center</td>
<td>Miles P. Richmond</td>
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<td>Beth Gaddess</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Megan Hagelis &amp; Tina Mischke</td>
<td>Victor Umeh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lucinda Halter &amp; John Kreutzer</td>
<td>Craig Green</td>
<td>Kate Purrington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smythe Academy (7-8 Campus)</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td>Vista Nueva High School and Nova Community Day School</td>
<td>Winona Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brian Bartholomew</td>
<td>Norm Zack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRUE TEAM:

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Officers:
President .................. John Ennis - true.office@yahoo.com
Vice-President .......... Kristin Finney - pazgirik@yahoo.com
Secretary ................. Joyce Childs - joyandmic@sbcglobal.com
Treasurer ................. Rick Mau - RickMau@trueassociation.org

Directors-at-Large:
For Pre-K .................. Dawn Walker - dwalker@lincolnxing.org
For K-3 ..................... Julieanne Neal - julieanneneal1@surewest.net
                                  -- vacant seat --
For 4-6 ..................... Kristi Thiem - kzappen@yahoo.com
For 7-8 ..................... Paul Le Francois - lefrancois1@earthlink.net
For 9-12 ..................... Chuck Denonn - cdenonn@peoplepc.com
                                  Nona Boyd - nonahob@hotmail.com
Specialty Groups .......... Kerry Kelly - sauserc@surewest.net
                                  -- vacant seat --

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT (Grievances)

Chuck Denonn - cdenonn@peoplepc.com
Paul Le Francois - lefrancois1@earthlink.net
Ann Murray - annblowmurray@earthlink.net

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair .......... Julieanne Neal - julieanneneal1@surewest.net

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair .......... Karen Mix - kemix@msn.com

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

Committee Chair .......... Lisa Gant - lisasring@sbcglobal.net
Committee Treasurer ...... Kerri Asbury

TRUE Reps on the Employee Relations Council (TRERC)

John Ennis Chuck Denonn Mark Hales Kristi Thiem
Paul Le Francois Bob Wadman Laura Bingham

TRUE NEWS

Senior Editor .............. Ann Murray
Associate Editor .......... Julieanne Neal
Editing Assistant ........ Evelyn Alvarado

Calendar of Events:

Sept. 01 ........ TRUSD School Board Meeting.
Sept. 08 ........ TRUE Executive Board Meeting.
Sept. 15 ........ TRUE General Membership Meeting.
Sept. 15 ........ TRUSD School Board Meeting.
Sept. 22 ........ TRUE Site Delegate Assembly.
Oct. 06 ........ TRUSD School Board Meeting.
Oct. 09-11 .... CTA Leadership Conference at Reno
Oct. 13 ........ TRUE Executive Board Meeting.
Oct. 13 ........ TRUSD School Board Meeting.
Oct. 9-11 .... CTA GLBT Conference at Palm Springs
Oct. 27 ........ TRUE Site Delegate Assembly

Twin Rivers
United Educators

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Evelyn Alvarado - true.office@yahoo.com