After months of negotiations, we have a Tentative Agreement with TRUSD for our next three year contract. There are no new financial concessions in this Tentative Agreement. The climate of negotiations has been very difficult over the past few years due to extreme cuts to education funding, as well as the lack of certainty in the state budget. Luckily, this spring's state “trigger cuts” were not as large as anticipated. While that provided TRUSD with more money in their ending fund balance, districts are still faced with possible cuts depending on the results of the November tax initiative proposed by Governor Brown. We are well aware of the fact that the District has cried poor for several years now and we are all weary of the dire predictions that have happened every year since unification. However, the reality is that no one knows what education funding will look like next year. The fact that the “trigger cuts” were smaller than budgeted for, has allowed some positions for next year to continue to be either fully or partially funded at the District level, rather than by the school sites. This will result in more employees retaining positions and will help minimize lay-offs. As always, the TRUE Negotiations Team will closely monitor the State and District’s budget and will continue to make the best decisions we can for our members.

Highlights of the Tentative Agreement:

• We have reserved the right to have an article for Special Education as an opener for the next round (most likely starting in May)
• We preserved Prep Time for members teaching grades 7-8 at K-8 sites (District wanted to eliminate prep)
• The Friday before Labor Day is now a Minimum Day for ALL K-12 sites (Before it was Secondary only)
• Class size limits and overage payment exemptions will be eliminated by June 2013 (District wanted extension of date)
• Opportunity class size, went from 15 to 18
• EL class size for all Level 3 & under is at 24
• Members will be notified of their assignment for the following school year within 5 work days prior to the end of the school year (instead of June 1)
• Clarified Head Counselor stipend and added some Elementary stipends (webmaster & sports)
• Continued Y-Rating for ECE/CD members until June 30, 2013 (Y-Rating was due to expire June 30, 2012)

Copies of the Tentative Agreement along with more specific Article by Article information will be available at a General Meeting on Tuesday, March 13 from 4:30-6:00pm at the CTA office Natomas location.

TRUE Negotiations Team:
Chris Moran
Janet Schafer
Chris Bach
The month of February seems to be going by fast. My observation about the month of February in Twin Rivers is that there is not enough emphasis on Black History. There are many pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement living in Sacramento. There are Tuskegee Airmen, and men and women who marched with Dr. King, living in Sacramento County.

There are thirteen (13) weeks of school left, and fourteen (14) weeks until the June 5, 2012 School Board election. Everything is falling into place regarding this election. The TRUE Political Action Committee (PAC) followed a selection process to decide on which candidates to endorse. PAC met with community stakeholders; sent out questionnaires to candidates; solicited input from other Sacramento Labor groups, including CSEA; conducted candidate interviews; and then a motion was presented at TRUE’s Site Rep Council, for TRUE’s endorsement of candidates. That motion was unanimously approved. In this newsletter you can find information about the 7 endorsed candidates.

TRUE asked for additional Political Action Funds from CTA and we received 100% of what we asked for. In addition, CTA will pay to do polling for our election. These last 104 days to the voting day will be frantic, but interesting. This is a very important election for us. Get involved!

John Ennis
TRUE President

Governor Brown’s Tax Initiative

For more than 4 years, as ongoing state budget deficits have decimated funding for students, public schools, colleges, universities, public safety, health care and other essential services that California families count on every day, we have stood together with parents and community leaders and fought for additional revenues. This election year we have an opportunity to reach out to our fellow Californians to support a funding initiative that will keep deeper cuts away from education and other essential services and will address the growing budget deficit.

The CTA Board of Directors believes that the Governor’s initiative is the best initiative to achieve this goal. CTA and TRUE are supporting the Governor’s tax initiative. The Governor’s proposal would impose three new tax rates on very high income Californians, married taxpayers earning over $500,000 or above. The higher income rates would apply to 2012 through 2016.

Next, the proposal would raise the states sales tax rate by 0.5 percentage points on a temporary basis. This sales tax increase would be from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016.

These increases would raise an estimated 6.9 dollars billion toward the 2012-13 budget. The additional revenues would be earmarked for education, but would also count toward the Proposition 98 guarantee, therefore freeing up General Fund resources to help close the budget deficit.
“I spoke to several hundred teachers in Los Angeles, then to nearly 1,000 in San Francisco, on to Berkeley to speak to a packed house. My tour, punctuated by interviews on NPR stations, concluded in Sacramento, where the local teachers' unions, principals, district leaders, school board members, parent groups, and universities hired the Sacramento Convention Center for the most stupendous event I have ever seen: Some 3,500 people showed up in a driving rain on a Friday night to hear state Superintendent Tom Torlakson, our fellow Education Week blogger Anthony Cody, the great Linda Darling-Hammond, and me. (The event, by the way, was organized by the remarkable Erik Knudson of the Sacramento City teachers' union.)

The highlight of the week was Gov. Jerry Brown's State of the State message, in which he announced his intention to reduce the amount of testing across the state. Standardized testing in California has spun out of control. Children in 2nd grade spend five hours on mandated state tests, for no reason at all. And it is no better, even worse, in other grades! He also made this remarkable statement: "My hunch is that principals and teachers know the most ..." Can you believe it? He acknowledges that the people who do the work may know more than those who sit on the sidelines taking pot shots at them.

Governor Brown is a visionary. I met with him and his top staff for over an hour and, unlike the policymakers in Washington, D.C., and other state capitals, he understands that over-testing distorts the purpose of education. He understands that Washington has gotten arrogant and has no idea about how its mandates are warping education. He has a deep understanding that education must liberate the minds of students, not chain them to a format that demeans thoughtfulness and punishes independence and divergent thinking.

California's Tom Torlakson is the wisest and most experienced state superintendent that I have met in my travels.

I was inspired by my visit. First, because there are so many thousands of teachers who have absorbed budget cut after budget cut, yet continue to do their best despite rising class sizes and lack of basic resources and the public obloquy heaped on them daily by the media and pundits. Second, because the state has leaders like Cody and Darling-Hammond, who insist on telling the truth about children, learning, and the needs of the schools.

But I was inspired above all because California has courageous, wise, and bold leadership that is prepared to stop the insanity that has undermined education across the nation.

Governor Brown and state Superintendent Torlakson are on the side of children and teachers. They are on the side of learning, not testing. They are on the side of thinking, not parroting. They are on the side of supporting educators, not punishing them for daring to choose a low-wage profession that serves the needs of children and society. They have taken a stand against the ruinous, heavy-handed mandates from Washington that will stamp out the creativity of children and the idealism of teachers.

Not only in his State of the State address, but in his much earlier broadside against Race to the Top, Governor Brown made clear that the great state of California will not bow to those who know only carrots and sticks and know nothing of learning and education. The state has asked for waivers without preconditions or mandates from Washington. This makes sense. Education is a state and local function, not a federal one.

California gives me hope. Its current leadership may provide the spark that ignites a national revolt against the current tide of bad ideas.” ~Diane

This letter is an excerpt taken from Education Week
TRUE ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Michael Baker----Area 1
Michael believes we need to educate students and parents on school bullying and have zero tolerance in our district
▶ He feels the District needs to work with communities to create a better support system between parents and the school for students who get into trouble
▶ Born in Sacramento lived in the area for 33 years
▶ Attended Strauch Elementary and Rio Tierra Junior High, graduated from Foothill High
▶ Has a Bachelors in Economics and Masters in Business Administration from University of Nevada
▶ Has vast experience with budgets
▶ Current Director of Business and Finance for a million dollar Ambulance Company
▶ Presently coaches basketball and football at Foothill High

John Dexter ---Area 2
John Dexter believes that we can improve our schools and help students to over come challenges of today, if everyone works together, parents, teachers, administrators and classified
▶ Served in the US Army, Graduated from Sacramento State
▶ 27 year resident in the Foothill Farms area.
▶ Has four children who attended Rio Linda Elementary School and graduated from Grant and Twin Rivers school Districts
▶ Manager for the Department of Public Health for the State of California

Christine Bush Jefferson----Area 3
Christine Jefferson says her priorities for Twin Rivers Unified School District are to improve public safety, strengthen education, get parents and the community more involved in the schools
▶ She is a Sacramento native, graduated from Grant High School
▶ Worked for over 30 years as an Audio Visual Materials Technician for Grant District
▶ Worked for the City of Sacramento as a Community Public Relations Representative
▶ Believes community outreach is important has many years of contributions to the community
▶ Volunteered in Public Relations for the TLC Soup Kitchen,
▶ Organized the Del Paso Heights Community Association
▶ Assisted with the organizing of the Martin Luther King March

Bob Bastian---Area 4
Mr. Bastian says the children of our hard working families deserve the best education. The involvement of parents, employees and community members is essential.
▶ Attended Rio Linda and Hagginwood Elementary Schools, graduated from Grant High School
▶ Associate of Arts degree from American River College, Bachelors in Education and Masters degree in Special Education from Sacramento State
▶ Past teacher in Del Paso and Rio Linda Districts
▶ Member for 12 years of Rio Linda Union School District Board
▶ Past Vice President of Twin Rivers Unified School District Board
▶ Past Vice President of Twin Rivers Unified School District Board
TRUE ENDORSED CANDIDATES (continued)

Cortez Quinn---Area 5
Cortez Quinn believes there needs to be equal opportunity for all youth and we must close the achievement gap.

- He says the priorities for Twin Rivers is to make sure our children have the best possible learning environment that is safe.
- Born in Vallejo, California, lived in the Sacramento community since 1986
- Graduated from UC Davis with a degree in International Relations
- Presently employed as the District Director for Assemblyman Roger Dickinson
- Would like to promote programs in our schools that teach children about being active in the community and how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Present Trustee for Twin Rivers Unified School district (TRUSD)

Rebecca Sandoval---Area 6
Rebecca Sandoval believes we need partnerships to achieve the social and educational goals of our schools.

- Born in Monte Vista, Colorado, moved to North Sacramento area at 6 months old
- Lived in the Twin Rivers area for 56 years
- Attended Strauch Elementary School, Rio Tierra Junior High, graduated from Norte Del Rio High School, graduated from Sacramento City College with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in Social Science, emphasizing Computer Science
- Worked as an Information Systems Analyst with the state, retired in 2007
- Volunteered in the community in many areas
- A few examples voter registration, phone banking, appointed by Mayor Joe Serna to the Parks and Recreation Task Force

Francisco Garcia---Area 7
Mr. Francisco Garcia believes students should be judged as individuals and not as a test score.

- He also believes more education needs to be given in this district on prevention of bullying
- He is a very active parent that participates in much of the campus life for his sons since they were very young. He knows how important parent participation is to a student’s success.
- Present member of School Site Council at Rio Tierra Jr High, past member at Strauch and Hagginwood Elementary
- Member of Sacramento Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- Member of North Sacramento Redevelopment Advisory Committee

March 22, 2012
Fundraiser for TRUE and CSEA Endorsed School Board Candidates
Lion’s Gate Hotel
Tickets $10
For Further Information Call 648-9791
It's that time of the year and we must all start working on preparing our tax returns. Remember that you should include your expense for membership dues for TRUE, CTA and NEA. To find the dues amounts you have paid, please visit the TRUE website (www.trueassociation.org), click on the Membership tab, and you will find the Dues Structure for this school year and the previous school years. Click on the year you want to see and on that page click inside the square that says Member Dues Payment, then the document will come up.

We need to clarify that on your paycheck statement under Deductions it only says Calif. Teachers Assoc. that amount actually includes the dues for CTA and NEA. TRUE’s dues are listed separately under Twin Rivers United Educators.

A reminder that the 2011 filing year is the last year you may use the $250 tax deduction for educators’ expenses. Items such as software, supplemental materials and any other educational materials that you purchase to use in the classroom. You can deduct purchases you have made related to your teaching profession up to $250. This deduction expired at the end of 2011. You will not be able to take this deduction for the 2012 filing year.
TRUE NEWS  

CALENDAR OF SCHOOL BOARD CAMPAIGN EVENTS

- **March 9th**…… Candidates will have filed all necessary paperwork in both Sacramento and Placer Counties

- **March 22nd**…… TRUE and CSEA (classified staff) fundraising event for endorsed candidates. Come out and meet our candidates while enjoying refreshments at Lion’s Gate Hotel (tickets available at TRUE office for $10 each) This is one of the times TRUE members can get to know the candidates up close and personal.

- **March 29th**…… A Gathering at Carpenter Hall, meet and network with locals who will help us with our campaign

- **March **……*(date to be announced)* Rock the Vote, Stomp the Vote, Get out the Vote. This event is sponsored by the community along with our candidates to register 1,500 new voters in our community. More information to come and yes, we will need volunteers for this event.

- **April **……In April the real work begins, we will be setting up phone-banking schedules and precinct walking with CSEA, labor groups, and endorsed candidates. Please look for these announcements as we prepare for these activities.

- We plan to hold a candidate forum in April for TRUE members to come and share their point of view and ask questions of our team of candidates. The candidates are our partners and they want to know what you have to say.

- Our endorsed candidates will be attending school open houses and fundraisers, school sporting and booster events. If your school has an upcoming event, please submit the information to Joyce Childs, TRUE PAC Chair, joyandmic@sbcglobal.com so she can make sure the candidates are there to meet educators, students and families. They really do care.

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**RALLY DAY**

**MONDAY, MARCH 5TH**

**OCCUPY THE CAPITOL RALLY!**

5:30 PM CAPITOL NORTH STEPS

For more information contact the Sacramento Central Labor Council at 916-927-9772
EXECUTIVE BOARD:

OFFICERS:
- President: John Ennis, true.office@yahoo.com
- Vice President: Kristin Finney, pazgirlk@yahoo.com
- Secretary: Christine Moran, rteacher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Rick Mau, rickmau@trueassociation.org

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  Joyce Childs, joyandmic@sbcglobal.net
  Sharon Reichelt, sreichelt23@gmail.com

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
- Committee Chair: Julieanne Neal, julieanneneal1@surewest.net

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)
- Committee Chair: Joyce Childs, joyandmic@sbcglobal.net

TRUE Reps on the Employee Relations Council (TRERC)
- Paul Le Francois
- Shirley Chambers
- Julieanne Neal
- Marias Gallegos
- Joyce Childs
- Jack Masters

CTA STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
- Janet Schafer
- Kerri Asbury
- Joyce Childs
  Wendy Gallimore
  Ann Murray
  Alternate: Catherine Roller & Lisa Gant

TRUE NEWS
- Editor: Ann Murray, annmurray456@gmail.com
- Editing Assistant: Evelyn Alvarado & Jen Turner

March
- 5 Lobby Day Capital Steps 5:30
- 6 TRUE Executive Board Meeting
- 6 TRUSD Board Meeting
- 13 Special Rep Council 4:00 Meeting
- CTA Natomas Office
- 13 TRUE General Meeting CTA
- Natomas Office
- 14 Organizing Meeting Closing the Achievement Gap–TRUE Office
- 20 Rep Council Meeting 4:00 CTA
- Natomas Office
- 24 TRUSD Board Meeting
- 30 Furlough Day #3

Happy St Patrick’s Day