TRUE NEWS

Endorsed School Board Candidates

2012 VOTE

For Area 1:
Michael Baker

For Area 2:
John Dexter

For Area 3:
Christine Jefferson

For Area 4:
Bob Bastian

For Area 5:
Cortez Quinn

For Area 6:
Rebecca Sandoval

For Area 7:
Francisco Garcia

Partnerships for Progress in Twin Rivers

Twin Rivers United Educators’ Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 9 • May 2012

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TRUE Endorsed Candidates

Partnerships that help teachers work with parents
Partnerships that help parents work with their children
Partnerships that make cooperation and communication the center of change

Chapter 1717
As I write this, there are twenty-two days until the election. Almost 12,000 door-hangers have been distributed. Over 1600 personal calls have been made. Nearly 20,000 mailers have been sent by TRUE and the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council. There are still many things to do, despite this great start. Many people in TRUE have stepped up, some have not. The candidates are working extremely hard, day and night.

At this point in time, we have ten laid-off teachers. That is ten too many, and wholly unnecessary. We will fight to get all ten back.

At the last School Board meeting, the Board voted to take applications for a Superintendent search company. The search will take place in California. The current Board will hire the search company, but the new Board will hire a Superintendent. The ambitious goal is to have a new Superintendent in place by September 1, 2012.

John Ennis
TRUE President

“Knowledge is the antidote to fear” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Letter From A Member

Tue, May 8, 2012

Dear Fellow Members;
This past weekend I joined Francisco Garcia and Christine Jefferson at Hagginwood Park in Del Paso Heights. It was a great neighborhood political rally. Both spoke well about the change needed in Twin Rivers. I was particularly impressed by Francisco Garcia. He was very motivating and inspiring. He is a good choice to represent his area. I then got the opportunity to get to know him better by walking with him in his precinct. I walked with a fellow teacher, Chris Moran, got some exercise, hung out with a friend, and did something proactive to start a change for our District. The bonus was meeting actor, activist Danny Glover at the rally.

If you are not happy with the current situation now is the time to be proactive. The precinct walks and the phone banks are great opportunities to get acquainted with the candidates, and those bonds can be your direct line to a Board Member next year.

As you know our School Board election is taking place Tuesday, June 5th. Right now phone banking is going on Monday through Thursday from 5:30 – 8:00 pm at our Union office on Howard Street. I'm there twice a week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I know we all have busy lives, but if all of you could just give 3 hours it would make a huge difference. Additionally, this weekend is the last opportunity along with the candidates and a few of the 1400 TRUE Members to precinct walk, walking around neighborhoods on Saturday talking to voters and handing/hanging door hangers. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Lisa Gant
TRUE Member and
Director-At-Large Grades Pre-K to Grade 6
## Elections Update

It has been a busy election season and I thank you for your patience with the multiple elections sent out in the past month. The Elections Committee has finished counting the Director-at-Large elections. The Pre-K to Grade 6 Directors-at-Large are Julieanne Neal, Sharon Reichelt, and Lisa Gant. The Directors-at-Large for Grades 7-12, Charter & Adult Education are Mysti Lingenfelter and Paul Le Francois. The K-12 Special Education Director-at-Large is Chris Bach. The Specialty Groups Director-at-Large is Bill Avery. And the Minority Representative is Ann Murray.

The results for the CTA State Council Representative will be counted on Friday, May 18th. We will have the results posted on the TRUE website.

Looking ahead to next year, we still have one vacant Pre-K to Grade 6 Director-at-Large seat. Look for the Declaration of Candidacy next fall.

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<th>Julieanne Neal</th>
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## Grievance Team Update

The TRUE Grievance Team for the 2012-2013 school year will be making some changes. Sharon Reichelt will be handling K-4th grade and Martin Luther King. Joyce Childs will handle Early Childhood Education (ECE), Special Education and grades 5-8. Paul Le Francois will still be in charge of all High School and Adult Education grievances.

Remember to call the appropriate Grievance Team Member if you feel that you have a contract violation. The Grievance Team will walk you through the contract to determine if your complaint is an actual grievance. It is imperative that you keep any notes, letters, emails, etc. of the actual grievance. Having the proper paperwork to support your case will make a difference in the event that the grievance goes to mediation.

<table>
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<th>Paul Le Francois</th>
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## End of the Year Check-out

During the last 2 years, we have had the issue that some school administrators request that teachers take down from their classroom walls all bulletin boards, number lines, ABC charts, etc. Although Assistant Superintendent Tom Janis has clarified before that this is NOT needed under normal circumstances, it is being asked of us again this year, on our check-out form. Tom Janis is once again confirming that it is not necessary to remove all material from the walls, if the items are in good shape. If your Principal requests taking down everything, please feel free to forward this e-mail to her/him.

From: Tom.Janis
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 3:28 PM
To: Sharon.Reichelt
Subject: RE: End of the Year Check-out

Hi Sharon,
I confirm that bulletin boards, ABC chart strips, other charts, etc., that are in good shape may stay up in the classroom as long as there is nothing significantly happening in the classroom, eg. construction or deep cleaning of walls.

Take care,
Tom

<table>
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<th>Sharon Reichelt</th>
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California Districts Cancelling Many Teacher Layoff Notices.
The San Jose Mercury News (5/14, Noguchi) reports that districts in California's Bay Area "will lay off fewer teachers than expected next year," though many positions are being eliminated through attrition as districts brace for "possible deep cuts next year. In advance of the Tuesday deadline to issue final pink slips for 2012-13, many districts scaled back the number of preliminary layoff notices they sent in March. San Jose Unified, for example, had warned 142 top staff members, including all principals and central-office administrators, that they might not have jobs next year," but has now withdrawn all of those warnings. The paper explains that the "dance of issuing pink slips then rescinding them is a complex and expensive process mandated by California law," which dictates that teachers must be notified of potential layoffs by March 15 every year despite the state budget not being released until later in the year.

Study: On Third Of Autistic Young Adults Lack Jobs, Training.
The AP (5/14, Tanner) reports that according to a new study published in the journal Pediatrics, "one in three young adults with autism have no paid-job experience, college or technical school nearly seven years after high school graduation. ... That's a poorer showing than those with other disabilities including those who are mentally disabled, the researchers said. With roughly a half-million autistic children reaching adulthood in the next decade, experts say it's an issue policymakers urgently need to address." The AP adds that the study found that over half of all autistic high school graduates had no work or technical education experience two years later.

Reading Programs Can Help Counteract "Summer Slide."
In an editorial, the Ventura County (CA) Star (5/17) touts summer learning programs as a method to combat the "summer slide" syndrome, in which students are said to fall victim to learning loss. The Star recommends, "To ensure your student is prepared to return to school, a summer reading program can act as a bridge between school years." Such programs are typically found in high school honors and AP classes, but can also be available at local libraries. Near the end of the article, the Star adds, "Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, has noted, 'A key step toward stopping the summer slide is the development and launch of high-quality programs that take advantage of time outside the school day and year to help children learn, grow and develop.'"

Schools Get Creative With Physical Education Programs.
The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (5/16, Gregorian) reports on the merits of physical education classes at elementary schools, and innovative ways that teachers are incorporating physical activity in classrooms. For instance, the Maplewood-Richmond Heights district, in addition to requiring "200 minutes a week of physical activity" for students, also "encourages teachers to incorporate brain breaks by having students stretch and run in place in the classroom." The Post-Dispatch also notes that health experts have "point[ed] out that physical activity is also beneficial to the brain," and as such goes on to report on a few studies connecting PE to higher test scores.

Website: https://members.mhn.com
Company Access code: sia
Teachers Deserve Special Appreciations

May 7, 2012

This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, and, as far as I'm concerned, they don't get nearly enough.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Education is hoping that people will take to Facebook and Twitter to thank a teacher who has made a difference in their lives. I want to add my weight to that effort. And I plan to thank a teacher who never taught me in a classroom but taught me what it meant to be an educator: my mother.

My mother worked in her local school system for 34 years before retiring. Then she volunteered at a school in her district until, at age 67, she won a seat on her local school board. Education is in her blood.

Through her I saw up close that teaching is one of those jobs you do with the whole of you – trying to break through to a young mind can break your heart. My mother cared about her students like they were her own children. I guess that's why so many of them dispensed with “Mrs. Blow” and just called her Mama.

She wasn't just teaching school lessons but life lessons. For her, it was about more than facts and figures. It was about the love of learning and the love of self. It was the great entanglement, education in the grandest frame, what sticks with you when all else falls away. As Albert Einstein once said: “Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.”

She showed me what a great teacher looked like: proud, exhausted, underpaid and overjoyed. For great teachers, the job is less a career than a calling. You don't become a teacher to make a world of money. You become a teacher to make a world of difference.

That's why I have a hard time tolerating people who disproportionately blame teachers for our poor educational outcomes. I understand that not every teacher is a great one. But neither is every plumber, or every banker or every soldier. Why then should teachers be demonized so much?

I won't pretend to have all the policy prescriptions to address our country's educational crisis, but beating up teachers isn't the solution. We must be honest brokers in our efforts to fix a broken system.

Do we need teacher accountability? Yes.

Must unions be flexible? Yes.

Must new approaches be tried? Yes.

But is it just as important to address the poverty, stress and hopelessness that some children bring into the classroom, before the bell rings and the chalk screeches across a blackboard? Yes.

Do we need to take a closer look at pay and incentives for teachers? Yes.

Do we need to lift them up a bit more than we tear them down? A thousand times, yes!

A big part of the problem is that teachers have been so maligned in the national debate that it's hard to attract our best and brightest to see it as a viable and rewarding career choice, even if they have a high aptitude and natural gift for it.

A 2010 McKinsey and Company report entitled “Closing the Talent Gap: Attracting and Retaining Top-Third Graduates to Careers in Teaching” found that top-performing nations like Singapore, Finland and South Korea recruit all of their teachers from the top third of graduates and then even screen from that group for “other important qualities.” By contrast, in the U.S. “23 percent of new teachers come from the top third, and just 14 percent in high poverty schools, which find it especially difficult to attract and retain talented teachers. It is a remarkably large difference in approach, and in results.” According to the report, starting teacher salaries in 2010 averaged $39,000 a year. Let's assume that federal, state and local taxes eat up a third. That would leave a take-home pay as low as $26,000. However, according to the Project on Student Debt by the Institute for College Access and Success, a college senior graduating that year carried an average of $25,250 in student loan debt. The math just doesn't work out.

Furthermore, jobs in education were slashed substantially from 2008 to 2011. According to an October White House report: “Nearly 300,000 educator jobs have been lost since 2008, 54 percent of all job losses in local government.”

If we want better educational outcomes, we need to attract better teachers – and work to retain them. A good place to start is with respect and paychecks. And a little social media appreciation once a year wouldn't hurt either.

So, on Tuesday, I plan to send this message on Twitter: To the teacher who taught me what it means to be a teacher: My mama. Everybody's mama.

Charles M. Blow
New York Times
TRUE TEAM

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Maria E. Gallegos  Joyce Childs  Jack Masters

CTA STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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Wendy Gallimore  Ann Murray  
Alternate: Catherine Roller & Lisa Gant

TRUE NEWS

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Editing Assistant: Evelyn Alvarado & Jen Turner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June/July/August

May 31: School Ends/Student Minimum Day
June 1: 1/2 Day Work Day & 1/2 Day Furlough
June 5: Vote!
June 12 & 26: TRUSD School Board Meeting
July 23-27: President’s Conference
Aug 7: Teacher Work Day
Aug 8: Professional Development Day K-12
Aug 9: First Day of School

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TRUE/CTA/NEA

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