TRUE ELECTION RESULTS

On May 15 all ballots were turned in and counted for TRUE Executive Board Officers. There will be a run-off for President and Secretary.

Run-off Candidates for President:

JOHN ENNIS: I am running for TRUE President. This will be my last election. I have been honored to be President for the last four years. I would be privileged to serve two more years. I think we have turned the corner financially, and the era of teacher bashing is behind us.

KRISTIN FINNEY: I am your current Vice President. I am running for president to move our union forward with transparency and inclusiveness. It is my goal to focus on creating a positive work environment for all TRUE members and holding the district accountable for supporting students by SUPPORTING YOU.

Run-off Candidates for Secretary:

MICHELLE DICE-HODGDON: I’ve served as negotiator for both TRUE and the Former Rio Linda District during my 18 years of teaching experience. It would be an honor to serve and represent the TRUE members on the executive board. My candidacy offers experience, knowledge and a desire to communicate and inform our members.

JOYCE CHILDS: We need to return transparency and communication between the TRUE E-board and membership. We need to act on the needs of the entire membership. We should not make decisions based on assumptions and then tell the membership what has been agreed upon with the district. Thanks for your support.

Elected TRUE Officers:

Vice President

CHRIS MORAN

Chris has been the Secretary for TRUE for the past 2 years. She is a Resource Specialist at Foothill Ranch Middle School.

Treasurer

RICK MAU

Rick has been the TRUE Treasurer for the past 4 years. He teaches 7th grade at Kohler Elementary.
TRUE Organizing Committee members, CTA, RTA, and Twin Rivers Unified School District worked collaboratively to plan and host three community conversations on closing the achievement gap in the Twin Rivers and Robla Districts. The conversations took place on April 20th at Norwood Junior High, April 27th at Highlands High School, and May 4th at Rio Tierra Junior High, and they were a huge success.

Teachers, parents, community members, School Board members, students, and superintendents from both TRUSD and Robla joined in on the conversations. Attendees were treated to a motivational speech by Kevin Bracey and a presentation of data by Uve Dahmen, Twin Rivers Director of Assessment and Accountability. After the two presentations, attendees were asked to join small groups in separate rooms for the conversation. Topics focused on three priorities: school safety, parental involvement, and accountability. With seven to fifteen participants in each break-out conversation room, each participant was able to contribute to the conversation. Participants discussed the priorities and shared potential solutions towards closing the gap. Next steps and an action plan were also collected from each participant group. The data collected from the three conversations will be reviewed and discerned, and a report will be drafted to present to both Twin Rivers and Robla School Districts and the community.

We would like to thank everyone who assisted with the conversation. We received invaluable support and guidance from Kenya Spearman and Donnell Jordan, both from CTA.TRUE members helped with participant registration, event set up, recording and moderating the break-out conversations and clean up. The conversations could not have happened without you! We would also like to thank all TRUE members who contributed to the conversations; your ideas and comments were important to the conversations’ success.

Julianne Neal
TRUE Organizing Chair
May 17, 2013

For some of us, June 3rd can’t come soon enough. I hope everyone enjoys their 10 1/2 week summer vacation. Let’s come back rested and ready to tackle new challenges.

Next school year will be different than the last three years. The 4.5 furlough days are gone, contractual class sizes are back in effect, and any student overages will be paid to teachers. Our District, being the poorest in Sacramento County, is in line to receive a large increase in ADA money. TRUE is in favor of building programs for students and reducing class sizes.

However, after four years of no pay raises and benefit increases, TRUE needs to Demand to Bargain the new monies the day after the State Budget is signed into law. TRUE has forewarned Rob Ball and the District of our plan. I believe they understand our position and we will be receptive to bargaining prior to starting next school year.

John Ennis
TRUE President

ELECTIONS UPDATE

The Elections Team just finished counting ballots for the TRUE Officer positions. More than 60% of TRUE members voted on this ballot. Congratulations to Chris Moran, TRUE Vice President elect, and Rick Mau, TRUE Treasurer Elect. Unfortunately, there will be one more ballot this school year due to a run-off for both the TRUE President and TRUE Secretary positions, for neither received majority vote.

Ballots for the run-off election will be available for pick up by the Site Reps from the TRUE office on Monday, May 20th or at the Representative Council on Tuesday, May 21st. Voting will take place from May 22, 2013 to May 30, 2013. The run-off ballots are due on May 30th at 4:30 p.m., at the TRUE office.

Thank you for your continued participation in the TRUE elections this year.

Julieanne Neal
TRUE Elections Chair
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Professional Issues Committee continues to focus its efforts on professional development and held a successful “School Safety” workshop on April 30th. With over thirty TRUE members in attendance, information was provided by Rudy Puente, Director of Student Services for Twin Rivers Unified School District and Andrea Price, Attorney at Law at Langenkamp, Curtis & Price, LLP. There is strong interest in follow-up workshops with a similar focus on school safety and we are currently exploring next steps toward providing such training.

This committee also met the first week of May and is planning several professional development opportunities for the summer and fall. We are in the midst of scheduling “I Can Do It!” and “I Have Done It!” workshops with a focus on classroom management for both new and veteran educators, to be held in August. Also in the planning stages are offerings on “Smarter Balanced Basics” which focuses on the assessment which will be used with the Common Core State Standards and a series on “Cultural Competence and Unconscious Bias” - both to be held once the academic year has begun.

All of these professional development opportunities are being created at the request of TRUE members, so if you have topics and areas of focus you would like us to provide workshops about, please do not hesitate to let us know at true.office@yahoo.com. The Professional Issues Committee will not be meeting over the summer, but please stay tuned for summer and fall workshop information as well as our meeting schedule for 2013-14.

Edna Shoemaker
Professional Development Chair

CTA Fights Tax Credits and Exemptions That Could Cost Schools Billions

California’s governor, educators, and other union members worked long and hard to secure voters’ approval of Proposition 30 in November to bring desperately needed new revenues to schools and other vital public services. But a flurry of bills in this legislative session threatens new budget gaps. There are many tax bills seeking tax credits and exemptions for corporations and wealthy tax payers. CTA and many other groups oppose all this bills as they undermine the tax fairness goals of Prop. 30 and translate into less funding available for public education, health care and seniors.

Our schools have endured $20 billion in cuts over the last several years. With the passage of Prop. 30 and a recovering economy, there is hope funding will be restored. These exemptions would be counterproductive and only hurt California students in the end.

Here are two examples:

- CTA-oppose AB286 by Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian (D-Van Nuys) would expand the number of movies in production that would qualify for income tax credits.
- CTA-opposed SB 376 by Sen. Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) creates a new billion dollar tax loophole for software manufacturers. According to the Board of Equalization, the exemption would cost the state $660 million in 2016-17 and an annual loss of $1.39 beginning in 2017-2018.

Look for details about the governor’s May Revision, his updated budget, which is slated for release on May 14. Built on updated estimates of state revenues, the Revision becomes the basis for the final budget deliberations in the Legislature. The constitution requires lawmakers to send the governor their approved budget by June 15. The governor has until June 30 to sign it into law ahead of the July 1 start of the new fiscal year.
EDSOURCE SYMPOSIUM

I had the opportunity to attend an EdSource Symposium: “Transforming Public Education. What’s next for students, teachers and schools?” The keynote speaker was Linda Darling-Hammond, professor of education at Stanford University and the chair of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. She identified three critical issues for an educational renaissance in California:

- rectifying funding,
- focusing on meaningful learning, and
- developing a strong teaching workforce.

She expressed a strong opinion that the State Department of Education should be a “hub of a learning system” rather than a compliance master (which is the model we are currently operating under). She also stated that we need to develop a strong Professional Development infrastructure in the state to support the teachers and schools as we move forward with Common Core State Standards. One fact that I am particularly interested in is that teacher collaboration is a better predictor of student achievement than anything an individual teacher can do, and collaboration skills need to be built into teacher evaluation. I really enjoyed listening to her speak and am very hopeful that we are at the edge of being able to move public education forward for our students.

While Linda Darling-Hammond was the highlight of the day for me, there were many other speakers and panels that were equally interesting and inspiring. One panel focused on the proposed Local Control Funding Formula and examining the strengths and vulnerabilities of Governor Brown’s proposal. All panelists agreed that something is needed to level the equity of education in the state. While it may create an unequal level of funding, equity means giving students what they need to be successful, which may be different levels depending on their needs. Another panel’s focus was: “Changing the Conversation-If We Want Higher Quality Teaching, Are We Talking about the Right Changes?” The focus of this panel was what it takes to achieve high quality teaching and what teachers need to be successful with their students. The overriding theme of this panel was that the focus should be to identify strong and effective teachers and empower them to become educational leaders. Teachers are the experts and they need to be honored as such. The last panel was called “Truth in Testing” and focused on the new Common Core assessments. There was diversity in opinion about the effectiveness of the tests and what is required to prepare for the assessments.

As most of you realize, public education is at a crossroads in the United States. There is a strong force that is attempting to take over public education under the guise of reform. Those of us in public education need to work together to disempower those who are a threat, by improving our educational system and moving it forward ourselves. It was wonderful to see so many allies join together to share thoughts and ideas on how to make it happen.

Chris Moran
TRUE Secretary

MEMBER BENEFITS

Provident Credit Union was established in 1950 to serve CTA. They have a New Teacher Loan available to teachers and school personnel that are new or have recently transferred to a new school system. Qualified members will receive an affordable loan that can be used for situations ranging from debt consolidation to major purchases or other unexpected expenses. This loan is also a great way to help establish or build credit history or to avoid financial trouble. With a fixed rate and term, this loan offers the following benefits:

- Loan amounts up to $3,000*  
- 2% rate discount with automatic payment set-up 
- Low monthly payments 
- Terms up to 36 months

To apply, call 1-800-632-4600, option 3, or visit a local community branch during business hours. To receive a loan application by mail, e-mail their Lending Department. (Applying online is currently unavailable.)
Defend Your Most Important Financial Asset: Your Income

May is Disability Insurance Awareness Month, and CTA and Standard Insurance Company (The Standard) are committed to making sure you understand the need for safeguarding your income and the opportunities you have as a CTA member to protect yourself and your way of life.

Here are some places you can learn more about the importance of protecting your greatest financial resource:

Visit [www.whatsmypdq.org](http://www.whatsmypdq.org) to calculate your own odds of experiencing an illness or injury that could force you to miss work for an extended period of time. The PDQ, or Personal Disability Quotient, calculator also helps determine your Earnable Income Quotient, which is how much you can expect to earn over the course of your working years – as long as disability doesn't end or interrupt your career.

Visit CTA's website – You can find out more about the Voluntary Disability Insurance coverage available to you as a CTA member by going to [www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard](http://www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard). These plans were created specifically to meet the income protection needs of California educators and education support professionals.

Take a moment to check your pay stub and benefits information to confirm that you have the income protection you need to safeguard your way of life. To learn more about the CTA-endorsed Disability Insurance plans, visit [www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard](http://www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard) or call The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406.

NEA News

Schools May Get All Of California’s Surplus Revenue.
The Los Angeles Times (5/13, York) reports California’s revenues for the first half of the year are about $4.5 billion higher than predicted, "and complicated budget formulas could direct nearly all of that money to public schools and community colleges" even as other interests could be asked to cut budgets. Proposition 98 entitles schools to about 40% of the revenue. Under Proposition 111, when, as now," revenues grow faster than personal income," the state must give new money to schools. Finally, Proposition 30's income tax increase was retroactive, requiring the 2011-12 and 2012-13 budgets be revised on the money owed to schools.

Educators Call For Greater Racial Diversity Among Teachers.
Diverse: Issues In Higher Education (5/13, Hawkins) reports on a recent forum at Howard University "to address the lack of diversity in the nation’s teacher workforce," noting that shortly after winning the landmark Brown v. Board of Education integration case, Thurgood Marshall warned that black teachers would be displaced by white job competitors after schools were integrated. The piece notes that forum attendee Dr. Leslie T. Fenwick said that the "elimination of Black teachers from the classroom would not only be an economic loss for those educators, but a disservice to their students and a detriment for the teaching profession."

Study Points To Racial Disparities In Suspensions.
USA Today (5/12, Kelman) reports that according to a new study from the Civil Rights Project at the UCLA, "black students are suspended more than three times as often as their white classmates, twice as often as their Latino classmates and more than 10 times as often as their Asian classmates" in US middle and high schools. While black students have a 24% likelihood of being suspended, the overall rate is only 11%. USA Today points to Florida, where the issue has resulted in a NAACP complaint to ED.
When you have plain beige portable walls and a bunch of artistic talent from two 8th grade students waiting to transform a portable wall into school culture, the results are magnificent! With the changeover of some PK-6 schools becoming PK-8 schools around the District, there was much construction in developing 7th/8th grade quad areas where the addition of 7th and 8th grade classes could call their own.

At Kohler PK-8, Vincent Cisneros and Carlos Torres, soon to be 9th graders, are leaving a legacy. They thought of and designed this mural as a gift to Kohler. They were snagged for their artistic talent and used time in their leadership class to put together a project that adds to our school. Funding of the wall mural paint came from T.R.U.E.. These very talented individuals decided on using the back side of the Science Room at Kohler School to help beautify and promote the concepts learned in the 7th and 8th grades. While they are expected to be completely finished with the wall mural after the printing of this article, you can see the wonderful collage of concepts in these pictures.

A great big thank you to Carlos and Vincent for their time and effort.

Rick Mau
Leadership Elective Teacher
Kohler School
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Go to www.trueassociation.org to see:
- Election Announcements
- Monthly Newsletters
- Calendars
- Catastrophic Leave Bank Forms
- Grievance Forms
- Current Contract
- Job Descriptions
- Seniority Lists
- NEA Common Core Toolkit
- Scholarship Information
- Dues Structure
- Helpful links

TRUE WEBSITE INFORMATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- May 21 TRUE Site Rep Council
- May 22 Kdgn Mtg @ TRUSD
- May 27 Memorial Day
- May 30 4:30pm Run-Off Ballots Due
- May 31 Last Day of School! Minimum Day
- June 3 - 1/2 Day Furlough & 1/2 work-day
- June 11 & 25 TRUSD Board Meeting
- June 30-July 7 NEA-RA, Atlanta, Georgia
- July 22-25 CTA Presidents Conference
- Aug 4-8 CTA Summer Institute
- Aug 13 PDD (K-12)
- Aug 14 Teacher Work Day
- Aug 15 First Day of School