

State Council Report /Oct. 22-23, 2011  
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Saturday, October 22 – General Session

In the opening message, our new CTA President, Dean Vogel reported that CTA has joined the “Occupy Movement.” We are, we teach the 99%. Members of the 1% such as Eli Broad and Bill Gates seek to profit from our struggling schools by pushing to privatize education. CTA continues to fight to keep billionaires and venture capitalists out of setting the agenda for education.

There are two major political issues on the CTA agenda this school year:

- 1) The Paycheck Deception Initiative (see attached)
  - 2) The Tax Fairness Initiative
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- 1) The Paycheck Deception Initiative looks like it will collect enough signatures to make the ballot in November 2012. It prohibits unions and corporation from using payroll deducted monies for political contributions. The truth is, **only unions** use payroll deductions to collect this money within our dues. Keep in mind that “political contributions” includes initiatives in the legislature, not just candidate support. There is an article in the September issue of the California Educator on page 40. See attached information as well.
  - 2) The Tax Fairness Initiative ~ CTA will rewrite (once again) an initiative to make sure that corporations and the top 1% pay their fair share of taxes. We are not giving up on this and the good news is that the governor is with us on this one. There are excellent resources for information such as flyers for parents, and inspiration on the cta.org website.

At the end of the day on Saturday, well over 100 State Council members marched with “Occupy LAUSD” to protest selling out our schools, overcrowded classrooms and devastating cuts to programs. Go to the cta.org website for pictures. KTLA covered it on the news. For more information on getting involved go to [www.occupytogether.org](http://www.occupytogether.org).

Sunday, October 23 – General Session

CTA Executive Director Carolyn Doggett spoke to the current Occupy Movement noting that **democracy, social justice and economic opportunities** are all connected to **education**. Ms. Doggett also spoke to the attack on public employee groups, pensions and voting rights. Ms. Doggett announced that the Board of Directors voted to participate in a strategic planning process. An independent consultant will work with the Board and CTA staff to identify what is working – and what is not working. The process will be transparent and inclusive. Stay tuned for more details.

One duty of State Council is to review and take action on the recommended endorsements for political office. The Board of Directors adopted a new five-tier system in response to statewide redistricting. Candidates for State and Federal offices are assigned to one of five tiers depending on: voting record, access to CTA’s Government Relations staff, access to constituents, communication and overall leadership.

Incumbents are assigned to Tiers 1-3 depending on (a) the above criteria and (b) responses to a questionnaire. Candidates in an “open seat” are assigned to Tier 4. There are some instances

now where two “friendly” incumbents are running for the same office. The incumbents are assigned to Tier 5; endorsements take place **after** the primary. State Council approved the new five-tier system, but did not take action to endorse any particular candidate at this time.

#### Committee Reports:

##### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Diastat Bill that requires school personnel volunteers to administer this rectal gel to treat seizures has raised much concern for certificated as well as classified. It is not being presented clearly by district personnel to members. It is VOLUNTARY. Teachers must be asked to volunteer via email, so there is no coercion. Training must be provided by a doctor or a Physician’s Assistant, not a nurse, nor a school nurse. Once you are trained it is assumed you have agreed to administer this drug if necessary. There are huge liability concerns for members.

##### TEACHER EVALUATION AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE

They continue to seek teacher input on teacher evaluation in order to make recommendations for CTA policy and subsequently the federal government. Go to <http://surveymonkey.com/s/CTAevalSurvey>.

##### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The focus is now on the implementation of Transitional Kindergarten. There is concern that many districts are plowing ahead without including teachers in the planning. Programs must start before the state regulations will have been completed. The committee did some research on tools and resources that already exist, being that there are some programs in operation. See the attached sheet for FAQ’s.

The following websites on Transitional Kindergarten were shared:

<http://californiakindergartenassociation.org>

<http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org>

<http://www.ckanet.org/>

[www.cde.ca.gov/transitionalkindergarten/FAQ’s](http://www.cde.ca.gov/transitionalkindergarten/FAQ's) (document attached)

##### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee Chair encourages members to take a *California Educator* readership survey to provide input for the next iteration of the magazine. You’ll find survey details on page 37 (October issue) or by following this link <http://www.cta.org/Professional-Development/Publications/Educator-Sept-11/Educator-Survey.aspx>

##### RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee Chair encourages members to access retirement information from the following websites:

<http://www.cta.org>

[www.ctainvest.org](http://www.ctainvest.org)

[www.CALSTRS.com](http://www.CALSTRS.com)

[www.calstrsbenefits.us](http://www.calstrsbenefits.us)

[www.CALPERS.ca.gov](http://www.CALPERS.ca.gov)

[www.nirsonline.org](http://www.nirsonline.org)

[www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

[www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)