



NEWSBREAKER

Volume 6, Issue 7

March 2011

Calendar



- 3/13 D.S.T. Begins**
- 3/21 Rep Council 4pm
F-SUTA Officer
Elections Open**
- 3/21 César Chavez Day**
- 3/28 – 4/8 Spring Break**
- 4/11 Eboard 4pm**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- President's Corner 1
- President's Corner 2
- Cont'd
- State Council Article
New CTA President
- F-SUTA Elections 3
- Dec. of Cand. Form 4
- State Council & NEA 5
- Actions
- Effective Teachers & 6
- Teaching Article
- Eboard Contact Info.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Melanie Driver

We have a busy three weeks before spring break. Elementary teachers will soon be preparing report cards and conferencing with parents. It always seems like this time of the year is packed with activities. Remember to take time for yourself.

The FSUSD Governing Board passed the PKS Resolution at the March 24 Governing Board meeting. This is one of the first steps in the RIF process. Ron Hawkins and Mariann Andronico will now use this information to identify the particular individuals that will receive the RIF notice.

The Resolution also includes the skipping criteria. There were seven areas listed for skipping. They were:

1. Special Education
2. Dual Immersion Program
3. IB
4. Advanced Placement
5. Instruction of English Language Learners (CLAD)
6. Elementary teachers teaching at Title 1/PI schools
7. Matt Garcia

The skipping criteria for these areas stipulate that the individual is currently teaching in these areas and may include other requirements. Anyone interested should look at the February 24 Board Agenda to read the full resolution.

Use of skipping criteria often requires double notification. For example: the District would notify the person that doesn't have CLAD certification along with the person that would have received the RIF notice. The person who doesn't have CLAD certification would need to follow the procedures for Requesting a Hearing. At the Hearing, the administrative law judge would determine if the District is allowed to lay-off individuals that do not have CLAD certification. If someone who does not have CLAD certification does not follow the Request for Hearing procedures, he or she would subsequently be laid off.

I am recommending that any elementary teacher that receives a RIF get a copy of all professional development. When I turned in my buy-back to Cara Mendoza, I immediately received a copy of my professional development record. This would be helpful in challenging the skipping criteria for Elementary teachers teaching at Title 1/PI school. Many elementary teachers at other sites have attended an incredible amount of professional development. This information would be useful in challenging the claim that the special training at Title 1/PI sites qualifies for the skipping criteria.

Anyone that receives a RIF notices should follow this timeline:

- School District Notifies You That You Will Be Laid Off (On or before March 15)
- Within **7 Calendar Days** of Notification, You Must Submit **REQUEST FOR HEARING**
- District Sends Accusation
- Within **5 Calendar Days**, You Must Submit **Notice Of Defense**
- Settlement Or Hearing Occurs On or Before May 7
- You Are Notified Of Final Decision By School Board- By May 15

I encourage you to use the CTA forms for the request for a hearing and notice of defense. When you turn in the forms to HR, **Get A Time and Date Stamped copy from HR** and submit one to us.

(President's Corner cont'd on page 2)

(President's Corner Cont'd...)

Reminder: You must be a member of F-SUTA/CTA/NEA at the time you receive the RIF notice to receive representation from a CTA attorney. If you have questions regarding your membership status contact the F-SUTA membership secretary, Stephanie Wall, at (707) 864-6193.

As soon as we have the list of individuals receiving RIF notices, we will get the packets out to the recipients. Please use the CTA forms in the packet for the RIF process. They already have some of the information filled in for you.

F-SUTA Eboard and Bargaining team members are currently setting up meetings to discuss bargaining. Please plan on attending the meeting at your site if it hasn't happened already. We are listening to our members to determine the direction that we need to go in bargaining. We need all members to be involved in this discussion.

Three more weeks and then we will all get a much needed break. Let's continue to support each other during this difficult time. We can get through it if we work together.

Council Decides, February 4-6, 2011 Electing Brown, Torlakson Are Huge Wins For Our Students, Sanchez says

In the first State Council since the November elections, CTA President David A. Sanchez praised delegates meeting in Los Angeles for their hard work in electing Jerry Brown governor and Tom Torlakson as state superintendent of public instruction.

"You made recommendations, you approved a plan and resources, you showed up to the polls in record numbers – and our students won," Sanchez said. "All your hard work around the election is paying off."

He cited the governor's willingness to meet with CTA and teachers as a good sign. And he praised Brown's quick appointments to the State Board of Education of real educators as a breakthrough. "This act alone will put an end to the teacher-bashing and blaming that the past State Board participated in."

He noted that one Brown appointee – Sacramento County educator and CTA legislative advocate Patricia Ann Rucker – will also represent California on the National Common Core Standards Commission.

The governor's budget proposal is a balanced approach of cuts and revenues to resolve the state's \$25 billion deficit, in part by extending certain taxes, Sanchez said. "We recognize the governor's attempt to limit cuts to K-12 schools as our students have suffered a majority of the state's budget cuts in the last few years," he said. "Extending current revenues is critical to having any hope for maintaining a quality public education system in this state."

Electing Torlakson means students and educators have a true advocate in Sacramento. "He has already declared a state of financial emergency for California's schools and urged Californians to come to the aid of schools across the state," Sanchez said.

He pointed out Torlakson's public distress over a recent Education Week study that gave California's education system a C-grade overall – and a D-minus in education spending, ranking the state 43rd in per-pupil spending.

Torlakson, as a legislator in 2006, also authored the landmark, CTA-sponsored [Quality Education Investment Act \(QEIA\)](#). The largest education reform of its kind, QEIA provides \$3 billion over eight years for proven reforms in nearly 500 of the state's lower-performing schools. Thanks to funding for smaller class sizes, more counselors and quality professional development for teachers and administrators, QEIA schools are succeeding, Sanchez said. Council delegates received a 40-page CTA report by an independent researcher that documents the steady preliminary progress at QEIA schools.

Academic Performance Index (API) scores are rising at QEIA schools, but so is collaboration among all stakeholders, Sanchez said. "Learning and working together have taken center stage."

To read the entire [Council speech of President Sanchez](#), log in to the Members-only section of www.cta.org and see the [State Council section](#).

Council Names Dean E. Vogel CTA President-Elect

Council unanimously named [CTA Vice President Dean E. Vogel](#) as president-elect of our 325,000-member union.

Vogel was unopposed. His education career spans 37 years. CTA President David A. Sanchez remains president through June 25, when Vogel's term begins. "President Sanchez and I are more hopeful for the future of public education now that we have a governor who understands that state budgets should not be balanced with more devastating classroom cuts," Vogel said. "Jerry Brown's balanced approach of cuts and revenues are what teachers and all Californians need to help resolve the budget crisis and get the state back on track."

Delegates will elect the new CTA secretary-treasurer and vice president at the April 1-3 State Council meeting. Read the [CTA news release](#) about Vogel's background and election.



2011 F-SUTA OFFICE AND**STATE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The following F-SUTA leadership and State Council positions are open for nomination:

President	2-Year Term
Vice President	2-Year Term
Treasurer	1-Year Term
Executive Board Member-At-Large (3 Seats)	2-Year Term
State Council Representative-Alternate	3-Year Term

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD MAY 2-MAY 13, 2011

- ★ Nominations may be made on the floor at the Representative Council meetings held on March 21 and April 18, OR may be sent through District Mail to F-SUTA, or faxed to 864-6284.
- ★ Declaration of Candidacy forms, including a 50 word (or less) Candidate Statement, must be submitted before a candidate may be nominated. (State Council Alternate must be 25 words or less.) Mail to the SEC office at 4735 Central Way, Fairfield, 94534, or fax to 864-6284, or bring to the March 21 or April 18 F-SUTA Rep. Council meeting.
- ★ Ballots and Rosters will be prepared by the Election Committee and distributed to all sites prior to May 2, 2011. Site Representatives have the responsibility of running site elections and returning all ballots and election materials by Monday, May 16, 2011 no later than 5 p.m. at the SEC office, 4735 Central Way, Suite C.
- ★ The Elections Committee will count ballots on May 16th at the F-SUTA office starting at 9:00 a.m. and the results of the election will be announced no later than May 20, 2011. Elections results will be posted at fsuta.org immediately and sent to Site Reps. via email to post at sites.
- ★ F-SUTA Leadership must be elected by a majority vote (a number greater than half of the total legal ballots cast). Alternate State Council Representatives shall be elected by a plurality vote (a number greater than another).
- ★ Run-off elections will take place May 25-June 3 in the event a candidate does not receive a majority vote.
- ★ Challenges must be in writing, using the official CTA Challenge Form within ten (10) calendar days after the announcement of election results. Challenging party(ies) must notify the unit president and elections chair of the challenge.

2011 F-SUTA
STATE COUNCIL & OFFICER ELECTIONS
DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FORM

I hereby declare that I intend to be a candidate for the office of:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | 2-Year Term |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | 2-Year Term |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | 1-Year Term |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board Member-At-Large
(3 Seats) | 2-Year Term |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Council Rep. – Alternate | 3-Year Term |

I certify that I am a member in good standing of F-SUTA/CTA/NEA.

Date

Signature

Print your Name as you wish it to appear on the ballot.

School Site

School Phone

Home Address

A Candidate Statement of 50 words or less must accompany this declaration. (Statements for State Council and State Council Alternate must be 25 words or less.) All Declaration of Candidacy forms and statements must be received at the SEC Office at 4735 Central Way, Suite C, Fairfield, 94534 by 5 p.m. on April 18, 2011 or be brought to the CTA building at 4751 Central Way, by 5 p.m. on April 18th. *Declaration of Candidacy form must be submitted before candidate can be nominated at Representative Council meeting.*

State Council Takes

Other actions taken by Council include:

- State Council recommended the following candidates for the February 15th Special Primary Election: Senate District 17, Darren Parker; Senate District 28, Ted Lieu.

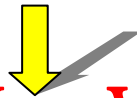
The following other leadership elections occurred at Council:

- Doreen McGuire-Grigg elected NEA Director - District 1
- Sue Cirillo elected NEA Director - District 6/14
- George Sheridan elected NEA Director - District 12
- Gayle Bilek elected NEA Alternate Director - Seat 3



Council was informed about a [new section of the CTA website](#) that allows anyone to monitor progress on legislation affecting students and educators. Select the option: "Making the Grade: A Progress Report on Legislative Action." Council delegates took positions on many pending bills, including these:

- A support position on State Constitutional Amendment 5 by state Senator Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, to lower the threshold for voter approval for a local parcel tax from a two-thirds vote to a 55 percent majority.
- A support position on Assembly Bill 124 by Assembly member Felipe Fuentes, D- Los Angeles, to establish an English Language Development (ELD) Standards Advisory Committee to align ELD standards to the State Board's English Language Arts common core standards and present their recommendations to the board by August 31, develop and present to the Governor and Legislature an implementation plan to integrate the ELD standards.



NEA Advocacy: Your Values In Action



From Capitol Hill to the classroom, your voice AND your membership matter! Thanks to you and your support, the entire NEA family and Public education made historic gains in 2009 and 2010. The 111th Congress of the United States:

- Dramatically increased education funding-the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act doubled pre-K spending, provided a \$25 tax credit in GPO/WEP states, preserved jobs, and more.
- Improved learning conditions-secured \$4 billion to modernize public schools.
- Kept more than 550,000 educators working and millions of students learning-the Recovery Act saved 400,000 jobs and the Education jobs Fund an additional 150,000 to prevent ballooning class sizes, cuts in after-school programs, and shorter school weeks.
- Helped make higher education affordable-invested an unprecedented \$2 billion in community colleges, increased Pell Grants, streamlined student loans, and more.
- Addressed the needs of the whole child-expanded the school lunch program, set new standards to improve the quality of school meals with more fruits and vegetables and provided professional development for food service workers.
- Expanded access to health care for children and adults-added 4 million poor children to current programs, created new programs for 32 million uninsured Americans, enabled children to stay on a parent's policy until age 26, ended abuses such as lifetime coverage limits and dropping people when they get sick, and more.
- Stopped multiple efforts to fund voucher programs-in the District of Columbia and as part of the Department of Defense appropriation.
- Fought for social justice-passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and won extended benefits for unemployed parents to ensure they can provide food, shelter, and clothing for their children.

For more information, contact NEA Government Relations.

COMMISSION ON EFFECTIVE TEACHERS AND TEACHING

The Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching: What, Why and You

The National Education Association refuses to sit on the sidelines and witness the erosion of the teaching profession. The current policies and processes that govern teaching have failed to create a system that supports a high quality profession. Those with little understanding about our profession have been allowed to establish programs, set standards, and shape policies that impact teaching and learning. Absent a new approach to teacher policy, it is unrealistic to expect schools and teachers to prepare all students with the skills and knowledge necessary for the 21st century and beyond.

The Commission of Effective Teachers and Teaching announced in President Van Roekel's keynote address at the 2010 NEA Representative Assembly has become a reality. The Commission is for and about the profession. This independent and autonomous group of accomplished educators has been tasked by the NEA President to address a set of challenges related to the roles of teachers and the union in defining the future of the profession.

The Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching will:

- Study and analyze existing standards, definitions, policies, and practices related to teacher effectiveness and effective teaching and craft a "teachers' definition" of an effective teacher and effective teaching.
- Craft a new vision of a teacher profession which is led by teachers and ensures teacher and teaching effectiveness.
- Craft a comprehensive set of recommendations for the National Education Association about the union's role in advancing and promoting teacher effectiveness and the teaching profession.
- Craft a comprehensive set of recommendations for education leaders and policy makers about the future of the teaching profession and the role of teachers in control and governance.

Please help us by visiting <http://www.nea.org/teacherquality> to fill out the survey on Effective Teachers and Teaching. Click on the Feedback Form link at the top of the page.

2010 – 2011 F-SUTA EXECUTIVE BOARD & CHAIRS

POSITION	NAME	SITE	SITE PHONE	CONTACT #
President:	Melanie Driver	F-SUTA Office	864-6193	707-290-0153
Vice-President:	Earl Handa	Anna Kyle	421-4105	707-372-9277
Recording Secy:	Laurie Thompson	Anna Kyle	421-4105	707-425-9298
Corr. Secy:	Stacie Ryan	Anna Kyle	421-4105	707-334-4579
Treasurer:	Janet Robertson	Suisun Elementary	421-4210	
Member-at-Large:	Stephanie Cobb	Laurel Creek	421-4291	707-386-3110
	Steve Patton	David Weir	399-3348	707-372-5010
	Kathy Wiegand	Anna Kyle	421-4105	707-337-3959
	Kevin McNamara	Green Valley	646-7096	707-310-3971
	Orawin Juntanamalaga	Cleo Gordon	421-4125	510-863-2968
	Debra Back	Nelda Mundy	863-7920	863-7920 ext.109
State Council:	Laurie Thompson	Anna Kyle	421-4105	707-425-9298
	Melanie Driver	F-SUTA Office	864-6193	707-290-0153
	Shari Salomon	Wilson	421-4225	707-246-8165
State Council Alt.	Keitha Bryan	Laurel Creek	421-4291	707-592-1464
State Council Alt.	Bill Hendrix	Armijo	438-3425	707-631-8499
Past President:	Mike Oxley	Fairfield High	438-3033	707-422-8672
Bargaining Chair:	Stephanie Cobb	Laurel Creek	421-4291	707-386-3110
Comm. Outreach:	Stephanie Cobb	Laurel Creek	421-4291	707-386-3110
Elections Chair:	Liz Osburn	Cleo Gordon	421-4125	707-372-3105
Grievance Chair:	Art Aronsen	Armijo		707-694-5114
Health & Safety:	Joan Gaut	Crystal Middle	435-5800	707-399-9566
Membership Chair:	Regina Williams	Fairfield High	438-3000	707-330-6915
PAC Chair:	Kevin McNamara	Green Valley	646-7096	707-310-3971
SEC Office	Stephanie Wall	F-S/SEC	864-6193	Fax: 864-6284
SEC Address:	4735 Central Way, Ste. C Fairfield, CA 94534 Email: soeducoal@sbcglobal.net			