

CTA Virtual State Council

April 2021

Report from Sarah Robinson, At Large Representative



This meeting was again held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee meetings were spread out over the week of April 5-9, culminating with our General Session on Saturday, April 10.

General Session

The General Session included a celebration of Dolores Huerta's 91st birthday with an observance by the CTA Hispanic Caucus as well as a Women's History Month presentation shared by the newly formed CTA Women's Rights Committee. We also honored our Teacher of the Year, Jim Klipfel, from the Hart District Teachers Association. Click [here](#) to read about how Jim helped his colleagues and students deal with the horrific shooting that occurred at Saugus High School.

Conferences

All conferences continue to be free of cost to members this year since they are being held virtually. Conference attendance has been at an all time high as members continue to refine their skills and learn new strategies to deal with our constantly changing environments. At the end of April, CTA is hosting its inaugural Special Education Conference. It will offer a variety of workshops focused on core special education topics including instruction, identification, IEPs, behavior, and more. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the conference.

Member Wellness

Based on a New Business Item (NBI) submitted at a previous State Council, CTA has created a hub for member wellbeing and mental health. Click [here](#) to access the resources available to use at home or in the classroom to take care of yourself.

Distance Learning Feedback

CTA's COVID Standing Committee needs your help to continue their work. Please take a moment to complete this [survey](#) giving your input on Distance Learning and Expanded Learning for next year.

Safety

As many schools are returning to in-person instruction or have already returned, it is important to maintain all safety protocols and to follow all COVID-related guidelines. If you feel like safety protocols are not being followed at your site, you can report it to the California Department of Public Health [here](#). If you see something, say something!

Committee Reports & Resources

- The Early Childhood Education Committee brought forth new language to add to the CTA Policy Handbook that recommends a full year of kindergarten be a prerequisite for 1st grade. This new language will allow CTA's legislative staff to support and advocate on our behalf in Sacramento since Governor Newsom has indicated that early childhood education is one of his priorities.
- A referral was made to the CTA Board of Directors by the Financing Public Education Committee to advocate that additional one time funds be used to provide mentoring and support for newly credentialed teachers who student taught during distance learning.

- Members of several different committees met as part of the CTA Revised Math Framework Sub-Committee to look at the over 900-page document which includes both math instruction components and a commitment to teach math with a focus on equity and engagement.
- Due to the virtual nature of this year's State Council, interim positions were already taken on legislation and were only ratified at this meeting. You can access the full list of positions in the complete State Council Report [here](#).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this report. I wish all of you a safe and healthy return to campus.

In solidarity,
Sarah Robinson
Redondo Beach Teachers Association
At Large Representative