



ACE ON TASK

President's Message by Karen Houck

March 4th was a busy day for our Association. We started the day for students and I was impressed with the turnout at the sites I helped out at. I also heard from parents and teachers that they had a good turnout at their sites. A couple of schools couldn't make the morning work and held their rally after school. Some sites reported that CSEA and administrators were very supportive and helping out. Our thanks to all who passed out flyers and let our parents know what the educational cuts are doing to the schools. More importantly, they now have a phone number to call to let Sacramento know that the cuts to public education cannot continue. I know many of you are spending most of your disposable income on your students and that should be coming from tax dollars and not your wallets.

Later that evening Robert Lemoine, Dan Bartlett and I had the opportunity to present at a meeting with the district and the school board budget subcommit-

tee made up of Mel Albiso, Frank Ibarra and Robert Armenta. We listened respectfully when Mr. Ayala spoke about the financial situation of the district and didn't debate or argue with him during his presentation. The same cannot be said when it was our turn. While we expected the board members to ask questions, it was inexcusable when Mr. Ayala interrupted and talked over Robert Lemoine's presentation. There was time at the end of the agenda for question and answers and if there is a next time, clear ground rules will be established. Apologies after the fact do not make it right. How can the district expect any group to meet and try to explain their position when they are not respected enough to present uninterrupted?

The ACE Executive Board will be having our annual planning retreat in late May. At that time we will be setting our goals and filling vacancies on all of our committees. We will have vacancies on Budget, Communications, Grievance, Organizing, Sick Leave bank, Calendar, Elections,

Member Involvement, Scholarship, Negotiations, PAR, and Community Outreach. If you are interested in serving the Association and your fellow members, please send in your name. Training is provided.

ACE is once again planning a retirement celebration. Save May 14, 2010 on your calendars now. You won't want to miss this night of dinner, dancing and honoring your colleagues. More information will follow.

Congratulations to the delegates for the NEA/RA and the newly elected members of the Exec Board. There were a few schools who didn't get their ballots in on time and could have influenced the outcome for the delegates. If you would like your ballot to be counted, make sure you are electing reps who will get the job done or offer to help out if you can. You don't have to be the site rep to put the ballots in the mail.

Association of Colton Educators ACE/CTA/NEA

Issue 8

March 2010

ACE Executive Board

President	Karen Houck
Vice President	Robert Lemoine
Secretary	Rebekah Acord
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Elem Dir	Arlene Roper
Elem Dir	Steve Villa
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Sr, High Dir	Marcella Cook
PPS Dir	Georgene Dixon
State Council	Paul Lucero
State Council	Rebekah Acord
State Council	Dona Hines



Forgotten Fundamentals by Paul Lucero

As of late, I believe our district, county, and state to be in conflict with the ideals of public education. If you look back to the beginnings of our education system, you will find that its founders believed that it was not a simple right to have a free and equal education, but that was, and still is, a moral obligation of society to provide it. Now, when morality gets brought up in conversations, people tend to dismiss it as religious rhetoric. However, I believe morality to be more closely related to justice rather than religion.

The fact of the matter is that it is just to provide the best education possible for our future citizens. It is also just to ensure that

the needs of our future citizens far outweigh the bottom line of a district budget report. A district has a moral obligation to give students the best education possible. If that means having to dip into reserves and give an unbalanced budget report to a county, then so be it. The county has a moral obligation to see that a district has all that is needed to educate its students. If that means dipping into reserves and submitting an unbalanced budget report to the state, then so be it. The state has a moral obligation to the district, county, and students to provide for the best education possible. If this cannot be done then the public has a moral obligation to find leaders who will make

this happen.

I know that the districts need to, and can cut costs and save money. There are plenty of places where the public servant mentality can be improved upon in education. However, I do not see the logic in blanket layoffs of teachers to meet bottom lines if our education system exists to educate students. It is our moral obligation to stand up and keep education focused on our future citizens. Any cuts that directly affect the classroom should be refused by school boards, administrators, teachers, support staff, and most importantly communities. I hope that we all can stand firm on these principles and hold the line for our future.

Limit Distractions by Bernadette Pedroza

At the most recent DAIT Leadership Meeting, Dr. Linda Gonzalez made some very encouraging statements. She praised the hard work teachers have made in trying to get the district out of PI status. Dr. Gonzalez said, "Now is the time to let teachers teach. We need to limit distractions." The Association is appreciative of Dr. Gonzalez's vote of confidence in Colton teachers.

It is unfortunate that CJUSD School Board Members do not share the same sentiment as our DAIT provider. Dr. Gonzalez's encouraging words come approximately a week after Mel Albiso, David Zamora, Frank Ibarra, and Marge Mendoza -Ware voted to send pink slips to 141 teachers. What can be more distracting to a teacher than to be faced with the impending reality that he or she may not have a job or possibly be moved to another site and have to re-establish themselves at a new school.

Some Board Members and Asst Superintendents have made the comments that many of these teachers will be called back and CJUSD had to take action "just on paper." Undermining a teacher's job security and compromising their livelihood is not to be taken so lightly. Although, teachers do not go into the profession to become millionaires, our families depend on our income and benefits to maintain a modest standard of living.

As we enter into the CST testing season, many teachers WILL BE DISTRACTED! We will do everything we can not to let our worries about mortgages, medical / dental costs, student loan payments, food costs, car

payments, childcare expenses, etc. interfere with CST testing. Teachers will try to put their personal worries aside, just as we always do, and put our students first, just as we always do. Take note: When many sites meet their API and AYP Goals, our school board will be there with puffed chests and fat cat grins accepting the praise for the work that teachers have done...just as they always do.



Time by Erwin Schaeffer

I have enjoyed my time on the Board of Directors for ACE. However, I had to decide whether to continue as a High School Director or not run. As with all of you, I am swamped with demands for my time. I am also the assistant wrestling coach at BHS and am very fortunate to have my son as the head coach. He has allowed me to split my time between ACE and wrestling. However, I cannot serve 2 masters. If it were not for Gabe, I wouldn't have been able to attend the ACE functions from November to March. I still have many tasks as HS Director to fulfill before June. I reflected on the job I was doing as HS Director. It was not good enough; I need to do more as a

High School Director. Hence, I made the decision not to run as HS Director.

The past two years have been a revelation to me. I did not gain any special information; however, I have come to realize the effort put forth by our President Karen Houck, and the many tasks the Board of Directors do without being noticed and / or without recognition.

We all have great demands on our time. However, when you look to ACE for solutions and / or answers you are looking at your reflection. ACE is an association not a club. The entire group of members makes up

the association. All are welcome to the meetings, they are not held in secret. Read the information and if you wish to respond to it do so. If you have a question you can check the website or ask a site rep (if you're a technophobe such as I.)

We are all on this bus ride together. If you are happy with your place - ok. If not get up and change seats perhaps the view will be better.

Thank you for letting me be of service. It has been an honor and a privilege.

Class Size Issues AGAIN! by Marcella Cook

The district was informed on Dec. 31, 2009 that the association had won the grievance on class size for elementary sites. The grievance was originally filed in Sept. 2008. After going to mediation, the arbitrator found the district to be at fault and the district had violated our contract. What has changed since binding arbitration? **Nothing!** The district still is not correcting class size in 4-6 grade levels.

At the start of the school year, the high schools had class size issues. We filed a grievance and the district stated that they will bundle the secondary grievance with elementary and whatever the outcome, they will agree with the arbitrator. Secondary is now in second semester, the original students are now in different classes etc. Did they fix the class overage in 1st semester 2009-2010? The answer is **no!**

Again the association is discovering the district is unwilling to follow the contract and when binding arbitration states the association is correct, they are still unwilling to fix the problem. The district wants the teachers to be flexible, the district won't even follow legal mandates.

Get involved and stop the district from ignoring your contract.

Contact School Board members.

Best Doctors by Arlene Roper

Blue Shield members have an added benefit of second opinion organization called Best Doctors. In this program the unit member may call the number provided and arrange to get a second opinion of their treatment plan or even a referral to another doctor from the Best Doctors program. The unit member will talk to a nurse and arrange for medical records to be released so that they can be reviewed. The Doctors will confirm the member's

diagnosis and/or recommend changes to a treatment plan. In the cases that came from the High Desert Inland Trust in this last year, 86% received recommendations for a treatment change. Those changes benefited the member by helping them to recover sooner. The changes benefited the Trust because it saved us approximately \$211,000 in medical costs. Best Doctors report to us that "100% of

our survey respondents gave the highest rating for Best Doctors' overall ability to meet their need and would recommend Best Doctors services to their co-workers." (Best Doctors 2009 Impact report to the Trust) If you have a treatment plan or diagnosis that you are concerned about contact Best Doctors (866-904-0910) and get your second opinion.

ACE Calendar April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
	SPRING BREAK: March 29 - April 2					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Exec. Board Mtg.	13	14	15	16 Region IV Conf.	17
18	19 Rep. Council Mtg.	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Special Events

- March 29- April 2: Spring Break
- April 12: Exec. Board Meeting
- April 16-18 Region IV Conf.
- April 19: Rep. Council Meeting

School Board

Thank you to School Board President Mel Al-biso, Vice-President Frank Ibarra, and Board Member Robert Armenta for attending a special meeting on March 4, 2010 to listen to part of the Association's position on the current budget in CJUSD. We appreciate the openness to communication and we hope that further communication can happen.

Member Benefits

Your membership in CTA entitles you to a number of additional benefits. TSA, a subsidiary of First Financial Credit Union, offers discounted tickets to a variety of savings for Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Legoland, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, Pirates Dinner Adventure, Movie Tickets (AMC Cinemas, Regal, Edwards, United Artist and Pacific Theaters), SeaWorld, Universal Studios Hollywood, San Diego Wild Animal Park and San Diego Zoo. Also available are See's Candy Gift Certificates. For a complete list of availability, prices, and service charges, call (800) 537-8491 or visit their website at www.tsaspecialservices.com

CONTRACT CORNER

Article 9: Class Size

According to the contract, your class size average should be:

K-3 - 20.44 students

4-6 - 30 students

7-12 - 32 students

If your class size average is above these numbers, your rights are being violated. File that grievance!

ACE ON TASK is a publication of the Association of Colton Educators
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