

# CTA Berryessa



The Official Newsletter of the California Teachers Association of Berryessa CTA/NEA

Association Newsletter

April 2011

## NEA/RA Delegates Representing You in Chicago This Summer

*The 3 candidates running for the 3 spots as local delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly have been selected by the membership.*

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## New Website

The Association has a new website that will help save money and which will be updated weekly.

Check it out at:

[www.sjteach.org/ctab.html](http://www.sjteach.org/ctab.html)

## BUSD Board Meetings

*The upcoming BUSD School Board Meetings are:*

- April 25th (Special Meeting)
- May 17th (MMS, BT and LV)
- May 24th (Special Meeting)

## A New CTAB President

*Upon the recent resignation of the association's elected President, our Vice President, Maria Smith, has assumed the post of President, as required by the association's Constitution and By-Laws.*

*Maria, who works out of the district office as a TOSA (Teacher On Special Assignment) has worked hard in the weeks since to make sure that the association carries on its responsibilities. Maria will continue making contact with our members through direct member to member contact.*



## Special Election To Choose New Vice President

To replace Maria Smith, who has ascended to the presidency of our association, we will be electing a new Vice President. The nomination deadline was April 6th.

Since there is only one candidate, Rob Curry, there is no need for campaigning. The voting will take place April 13-28 at each site. The site reps must return the ballots to our Elections Chair, Lidia Segoviano, at Piedmont Middle School no later than 3P.M. on April 28th.

### Town Hall Meeting With Trustee David Neighbors

BUSD Trustee David Neighbors will hold a Town Hall meeting, open to the public, on Tuesday April 26th at 4 P.M. at the Piedmont Middle School library.

**KNOW YOUR CONTRACT**

**Language in our contract:**

Article 14.6.1.1 "Each site staff in collaboration with the site administrator shall...develop a daily and weekly schedule (with or without staggered sessions as defined in District Policy)..."

*--WE do have input.*

14.6.1.2 "Establish the frequency and length of staff meetings, and establish the guidelines for development of the agenda..."

*--Site leadership needs to let the site administrator know that we do get to make decisions about the staff meetings.*

14.5 "On days which students are released early, faculty meetings, grade level/department meetings, staff development, and other mandatory District or site directed activities shall be scheduled to commence as soon as practicable, but not later than 15 minutes after the student instructional day ends..."

*--No Thursday meeting should go beyond 2:45 or 2:50*

14.10.1 "Parent conferencing on student progress shall be scheduled and performed before or after the regular school day..."

*--4th and 5th grade teachers should not be forced to use their prep day (provided due to their higher class sizes) to meet with parents.*

14.10.2 "...Teachers shall provide all parents with an opportunity to schedule a conference..."

*--If a parent declines or does not respond to an offer to confer, we do not need to force a meeting*

View the current contract by going to our association's website at:

[www.sjteach.org/ctab.html](http://www.sjteach.org/ctab.html)

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Monday April 11th 7-8:30pm	BUSD Board Meeting @ District Office
Tuesday April 12 3:30-5pm	Rep Council at Mount Hamilton
April 13-28th	Voting for Vice President/PAR
Wednesday April 13th 3:30pm	Mt Hamilton Council Meeting CTAB Reps: Manny L./Ron A.
APRIL 18-25	Spring Break
Monday April 25th 7pm	Special BUSD Board Budget Study Meeting at District Office
Tuesday April 26th 4pm	Town Hall Meeting with BUSD Trustee David Neighbors @ Piedmont MS Library
Thursday April 28th by 3:00pm	Ballots for Vice President and PAR Panel due to Lidia Segoviano at Piedmont Middle.
May 9th - May 13th	CTA Week of Action
Tuesday May 10th 3:30-5pm	Rep Council at Mount Hamilton
Tuesday May 17th 7-8:30pm	BUSD Board Meeting District Office

CONTACT OUR SCHOOL BOARD

Khoa Nguyen, President [Khoa.Nguyen@berrryessa.k12.ca.us](mailto:Khoa.Nguyen@berrryessa.k12.ca.us)  
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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

We are once again facing uncertain budgetary times. This is very stressful for our members, especially for those who have received RIF (Reduction In Force) notices. It is especially important that we be unified and supportive of one another as this process plays out.

The district is mandated to make a balanced budget based on the financial information provided by the state. That information is far from certain and it may be unclear for months to come.

The state legislature is just 4 votes short of placing the tax extension measure on the June ballot. Unfortunately, all GOP members have been threatened if they vote to let the voters decide, they will be targeted by the big money interests for recall from office.

Our local bay area representatives are standing with us in favor of letting the voters decide. If you have relatives and friends in assembly and state senate districts represented by Republicans, please encourage them to lobby their representatives to simply let the people vote on the issue.

Stay positive and hopeful but be ready to mobilize if we need to do so to stand up for public education. Our students deserve a quality public education.

-R. Curry

## You Gotta Fight, For Your Right, To Rotate!

For many years, all 3 middle schools have had a rotating schedule. This allows students and teachers to experience the subject matter at various times of the day. It has been working well.

The administration has tried to dictate that we would not be able to have a rotating schedule for the 2011-12 school year. Teachers at some sites were told that the other 2 schools were agreeable to that plan. Nothing was further from the truth.

Did our teachers take this lying down? No. Instead we organized. We conducted a survey of the teachers at the 3 middle schools. We had a meeting on March 28th, open to all middle school teachers, to share information to dispel the mis-information the district was giving us. We strategized how we can maintain some sort of rotating schedule even with a 2 period block instruction for students needing intervention under our Program Improvement status.

As a result of this effort, the district has agreed that teachers will develop the schedules collaboratively with the site administrators.



## Unions Show Solidarity In Nationwide Rallies



To show solidarity with NEA and all public employee unions, CTA and our local CTAB members were encouraged to attend a rally on April 4th at Paseo de San Antonio. In the wake of anti-union legislation in several states, including Wisconsin, such solidarity is crucial.

Site Reps were asked to forward the information to their members a couple of weeks before the rally. Future events will be posted on the CTAB website at [www.sjteach.org/ctab.html](http://www.sjteach.org/ctab.html)

## CTA News Leads Educators legally must prevent GLBT bullying

By Priscilla Winslow, CTA Assistant Chief Counsel

Standing up for students who are harassed or bullied by their peers isn't just good policy and an ethical duty; it is required by state and federal law. Failing to do so can have dire financial consequences for both teachers and school administrators who ignore student hate crimes or harassment.

Read more at: <http://www.cta.org/Professional-Development/Publications/Educator-Mar-11/Educators-legally-must-prevent-GLBT-bullying.aspx>

## Contact Your Executive Board

President Maria Smith (TOSA - District Office)  
[mssmith619@yahoo.com](mailto:mssmith619@yahoo.com)

Vice President Vacant

Secretary Amy Swain (Teacher - Morrill MS)  
[akashu@gmail.com](mailto:akashu@gmail.com)

Treasurer Melanie Ontiveros (Teacher - Sierramont MS)  
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Elem. Reps.  
 Becky Hansen (Teacher - Laneview)  
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Rebecca Costello (TOSA - District Office)  
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Middle School Rep. Liz Karzag (Teacher - Piedmont MS)  
[ekarzag@gmail.com](mailto:ekarzag@gmail.com)

State Council Rep Joe Hermann (Brooktree)  
[j.hermann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j.hermann@sbcglobal.net)

CTA Executive Kris Clarke [kclarke@cta.org](mailto:kclarke@cta.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Summer Institute at UCLA July 31- August 5

This summer, several members of our local will have the opportunity to learn a great deal about how CTA works and how to make our local more effective. This intense yet fun week of learning and fellowship is held at the UCLA campus every summer. There are several spots open and provided free to each association. For information, go to our website at [www.sjteach.org/ctab.html](http://www.sjteach.org/ctab.html) Contact treasurer Melanie Ontiveros to sign up.

Comment from first-time attendees in 2010

*"The experience, environment, and amount of learning were amazing! Everything was provided- no need to leave the campus. Even if you are not serving on the Executive Board, as a site rep, or on a committee, I recommend for any CTAB member to go and leave informed."*

*"I attended a five day session in which I learned about being in a PI district and/or school and was given the opportunity to talk to others facing similar situations. Also heard speakers who were able to energize an audience dealing with today's educational dilemmas."*

### **3 CTAB Members Representing Us at NEA Representative Assembly**

Among 10,000 educators from all over the United States gathering in Chicago this summer will be three of our members who we elected during the NEA/RA local delegate election on March 31st-April 1st. These three veteran Berryessa teachers will be spending a week of their summer vacations in all day meetings and sessions from June 30-July 5.

The 3 local delegates are Manny Lopez, Gary Gairaud and Rob Curry. We are still waiting for the results for NEA RA state delegate, chosen by the votes of our union and the other smaller sized locals in Santa Clara County.



Manny, and Rob, shown here at the 2010 NEA RA will once again be representing CTAB, joined this year in Chicago by Gary Gairaud,.

The theme of this year's Representative Assembly is NEA Standing Strong: for our Students, our Schools, for America. Rob will once again have a blog of the NEA RA linked to our website, [www.sjteach.org/ctab.html](http://www.sjteach.org/ctab.html)

NEA coverage can be seen at <http://www.nea.org/grants/1357.htm>

### PAR Panel Election April 26-28

#### What Exactly Is PAR?

Peer Assistance Review is the system mandated by our contract to assist those members who need assistance to strengthen their teaching methods. The election in mid-April is to select one of the 3 teachers who serve on the PAR Joint Panel, a committee of 3 CTAB members and 2 administrators. The PAR panel oversees the Peer Assistance Program, primarily to match teachers with an unsatisfactory evaluation, with consulting teachers. The election will be April 13-28. The results of this election will be posted by May 2nd on our website at [www.sjteach.org/ctab.html](http://www.sjteach.org/ctab.html)