

# CTA Berryessa News

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May 1, 2008

**District/CTAB Rally May 2nd  
Assemble at 3 PM at the  
Berryessa Youth Center at Morrill  
MS**

**State-wide CTA Action  
May 14th Location TBA**

**Please get updates online at our  
new and improved association  
website at:**

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

## **Reduction In Force Update**

**Thank you so much** to all certificated members, parents, CSEA members, CTA Mount Hamilton Council legal, the CTA Mount Hamilton staff and directors, the CTAB Organizing Team, and all the CTAB Reps and Executive Board, who worked so hard to help our members in need and who protested the cuts to our programs, services, and members. Our hard work has and is paying off. On March 15, the district issued 80 RIFs. More than 55 RIFs have been rescinded so far. Unfortunately, the struggle continues for our other members who have not had their RIFs rescinded. Of course, any RIF that becomes official is too many! Let us all continue to take up the charge to pressure our policy makers and legislators to stop the cuts. No one of us can do it all; however, when everyone does something we become a swell of voices that must be heard.

-by Joe Hermann, CTAB Vice President and State Rep.

## **CTAB EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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## **Negotiations Update**

**Our Negotiations Team will be meeting with the district on April 29<sup>th</sup> and again on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Additional days will be announced as needed.**

**Please wear our solidarity pins on those days, which the Site Reps received at the April Rep Council.**

**Our Negotiations Team members are:**

**Dave Singh (Chair) of Sierramont MS  
Joe Hermann of Brooktree Elementary  
Lina Prokopchak of Toyon Elementary**

**Kris Clarke CTA Executive Director**

TOGETHER WE CAN: by Joyce Singh, CTAB President 2004-2008

I would like to say a big THANK YOU for all your support.

I won't say good-bye but "hasta la vista and be seeing you". This is my last year as President and I have learned a lot and I have been able to do many things on your behalf. We were strongest when we did things together.

NUMBERS COUNT in politics. We still have a fight to get stable funding for our schools. We will need to continue to pressure our local legislators through the summer and until they get the message that schools cannot be cut. We have already cut the fat and meat and we are down to the bone in the amount of funding for our schools. We need stable funding.

I attended the Silicon Valley Education Foundation Budget Cuts Educational Forum where Liz Hill who has served over 20 years as the Chief Legislative Analyst for the State of California spoke and gave her views about the Governor's proposed budget. She gave her views on dealing with this budget. Her proposal still suspends Prop 98 though at a lower level.

I attended the rally at Silver Creek High School with Eastside. They had the press, students, school board members and others present. I went with Eastside to Sacramento on April 15<sup>th</sup> and helped deliver 4000 letters to the Governor and legislators. We also visited legislator offices as a team and told them they must stop the budget cuts. Their Supt. two Associate Supts. Admin, Unions, and two School Board Members attended. Eastside intended to take 11 buses and 650 students but their permit to rally on the steps of the West Capitol was pulled in the last minute. On April 15, Eastside was told they could use the North steps but the bus trip couldn't be reorganized. Eastside's goal is to write 20,000 letters to send to the Governor and legislators.

I will be going to Sacramento for Lobby Day on May 20th with the Santa Clara presidents. If we write letters, I can take it then.

Let's work together to get stable funding for our schools!

Yours in solidarity,  
Joyce Singh

**Editorial Note:**

**CTA of Berryessa salutes Joyce for her decades of service to our Association and we wish her all the best to her and to all of the other teachers in our district as they contemplate retirement.**

**Exceptional Legislative Bunch for Brunch!**  
**Written by: Liz Karzag, CTAB Middle School Representative**

On Saturday, March 8, 2008 CTA/NEA and the Santa Clara County Service Center Council sponsored a Legislative Brunch. This affair featured a “Tea Party” fare about shrinking California state revenues, white rabbits holding ticking clocks showing time running out and Cheshire cats meowing omens of hard times ahead for the students of our Golden State!

We munched on nutritional fare for the body and listened to woefully ominous California State budget speeches by 11 Congressional, California State Senate and California Assembly members that left one with a “brain freeze” over this state’s serious budget problem.

Each legislator gained my respect by adding a perspective upon another’s perspective with cold hard analysis of the state’s fiscal status.

Collectively, nearly all representatives agreed that revenues must be increased in the State of California in order to balance the budget and continue providing services and education for our population. State Senator Elaine Alquist, who is a member of the Education Committee and on the Health and Human Services Committee, stated that our students are 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation of 50 states in per pupil funding. We have one of the lowest investments in our students’ education in the country. She also stated that we need to change the situation for a majority of legislators to change funding as it now stands or we don’t have a democracy in the state because there needs to be a 2/3 majority to pass legislation.

Zoe Lofgren of the U.S. Congress stated that the U.S. government spends 8-12 BILLION a month in Iraq but we can’t take care of educating or giving our own people adequate medical care. Others, like Ira Ruskin of the North Bay who is in the California Assembly, stated that the state needs to be more efficient and suggested ideas that I heard at meetings with teachers in Berryessa: consolidate testing, curb textbook adoptions, reduce reserves, use outside consultants instead of paying for high priced administrative positions in districts and rally Republican representatives in California state districts to recognize that we need to raise revenue for the state! Many Republican representatives signed a statement that they would never raise taxes!

Senator Joe Simitian really wants an answer to his question from Republican legislators “What is it you don’t want us to do for children that we do today?” ....and “will Proposition 98 be sustained?” It is currently a constitutional guarantee to support our educational programs in our schools...what will happen without it?

Assemblywoman Sally Lieber stated that we need Proposition 13 reform and that major corporations are not carrying their load of taxes in this state!! She stated that we need to set clear goals and to send letters to editors, write to Republican legislators and express our ideas and goals for education.

U.S. Congressman, Mike Honda warned that any changes to Proposition 13 may end up hurting senior citizens or those at the low end of the economy. He stressed that we need relief for Special Education, more parent involvement in the classroom and a partnership with industry to encourage “career oriented instruction”. Honda’s best recommendation was that we must be “creative” in the way we handle this crisis for “change” and deal with the “issue of equity” for all citizens and the population.

Personally, I think that all Berryessa teachers would agree with that statement even without sharing a “cup of tea”.

# CTABOT

By Jill Bohn CTABOT Chair

**You don't know what that is? We're your CTAB Organizing Team. We're a new group that helps you and the Executive Board organize activities. It may be support during bargaining, helping organize for picketing at the Board Meetings, rallies for School Funding and helping with public education events.**

**Bargaining – We have given your Site Reps ribbons for each of you to wear on bargaining days. This shows our support of our Bargaining Team. Please mark April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendar and wear your ribbons on those days.**

**Rallies – The next big one is *May 2 at Morrill Middle School*. It will begin at 3 with as many of you as possible marching in front of the school. At 3:30, we will go inside the Youth Center and hear from Board Members, our local Assembly and Senate people and some CTA people.**

**You will be receiving fliers this week and next week to pass out to parents for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Rally. Encourage them to attend the rally and to keep those phone calls and messages going to Sacramento.**

**If you have your children write letters (Language Art Standard), please bring them to the rally to present to Assembly members and Senators.**

**On May 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a statewide rally of CTA members. You will receive T-Shirts from your Site Rep on May 13. The plan is to meet after schools and walk/stand at major intersections and be highly visible. We encourage all of you and your families to turn out and show the Governor and Legislature how we feel about the Budget Cuts.**

**Member Rights - Your CTABOT Team will be receiving training on this and will be bringing the information back to the sites.**

**CTAB Educating the Public – We will be having a booth at the Berryessa Art and Wine Festival and will be looking for people to spend some time talking to the public and encouraging phone calls, letters and visits to our representatives in Sacramento.**

## Did You Know...

**Did you realize that the members of the Executive Board are full-time teachers who all have full adjunct duty responsibilities? A few teachers were recently surprised that your Executive Board members were not full-time union leaders. Although they have received a \$200 per month stipend (the President gets \$350), the many hours they spend representing the membership is above and beyond their daily workload as teachers. While other locals have full-time release Presidents, our CTAB President has only 1 day per week release from the classroom.**

**Please consider running for Executive Board. See your site rep for the needed filing materials.**