

PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

April 2013

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Building Visits

I am in the process of making my second round of building visits. So far questions and discussions have focused on issues related to benefits, the new evaluation requirements, and workload. The conversations vary greatly from building to building. Some of this is probably related to the timing of the visit. When something worrisome is coming out of the state, such as legislation that takes away “due process” rights, that dominates the discussion. At other times the focus seems to be more around local concerns and issues, such as collaboration activities.

The primary purpose of these visits is to hear from members who are not serving as Building Representatives and are not otherwise involved in the Association’s activities. Occasionally a visit results in someone deciding to get involved in some capacity. That is particularly exciting, because this is supposed to be a member driven organization. If you have reached the point in your career that would allow you to become more involved, there are always opportunities that accommodate a wide range of commitment. From a committee that meets only once a year for a specific task, to being an elected Executive Board member requiring at least four meetings a month, there is something you can do.

Steve

WEA Representative Assembly

The WEA Representative Assembly is an annual meeting of elected delegates from locals over the state. There are about 1000 delegates that conduct the business of the RA. New business items and resolutions make up the bulk of the work. The Assembly meets Thursday evening, usually until 9 or 10 o’clock. They continue all day Friday, again until late, and all day Saturday until business is completed, which sometimes lasts until the wee hours of Sunday morning.

The RA is being held in Bellevue at the Meydenbauer Center, April 25 through 27. The CVEA delegates this year are:

Steve Lalonde

DM Freed

Heather Graham

Scott Knowles (WEA Board)

Monica Larson

Cheryl Sampson

Bradley Thew

Wally Watson

Please contact any of these people if you have a particular concern that you want to make known to your representatives. Look for an article in the May newsletter that will review the actions taken by the Representative Assembly.

Next year’s RA will be held in Spokane, but unfortunately is April 3-5, which is during our Spring Break. We will need to find some truly dedicated delegates.

Legislators

Some legislators understand that they don’t know what it is to be a teacher in the public school system, but others seem to believe that they know better than the professionals what works in educating our students. From the first group mentioned above we generally get support and inclusion in legislative input on education issues. From the latter group we get illogical and counterproductive “solutions” that punish educators and do more harm than good in the classroom. The general consensus among our members that have spoken to me about this issue is that these legislators wouldn’t last a month...a week... or for some a day in the classroom should they try to show us how it is to be done. Yet they feel fully justified to legislate without due consideration or seeking appropriate input from those of us who have dedicated our lives to educating our students.

We have repeatedly invited our local legislators to come into our schools, even to the point of having a schedule for their visit, only to have them cancel at the last minute. This leads us to the conclusion that we must encourage our members to be proactive in dealing with the legislative actions being taken by our legislators, and why we ask you to contact them with your thoughts and concerns.



Retirement Event

(...the bells, the bells)

June 13th is the date for the district retirement function. This function is a celebration of the careers of CVEA members, PSE members and administrators as they enter into retirement. It is a semi-formal event held for the retiree and a guest. CVEA gives each retiring member a bell with their name and years of service engraved on it.

Invitations will be delivered in May. Our thanks to those retiring for the service they have given to the children of Central Valley School District. We hope that you have a long and happy retirement as you have certainly earned it.

NEA Representative Assembly

The National Education Association's Representative Assembly is the largest democratic meeting in the United States. Each year more than 10,000 NEA members meet to discuss, debate, and become more educated about the issues that affect individual members, locals, and our states. The National Education Association is the nation's largest professional employee organization. NEA's 3.2 million members work at every level of education—from pre-school to university graduate programs. NEA has affiliate organizations in every state and in more than 14,000 communities

across the United States.

This year Steve Lalonde, Monica Larson, Brad Thew and Scott Knowles are scheduled to attend the RA in Atlanta, GA from July 1 through July 6. Next year it will be in Denver, Colorado.



Curriculum/Behavior

Interventionist Roles

Elementary (Pre-5)

Marci Haynes

mhaynes@cvsd.org 228-5515

Secondary (6-12)

Susie Giesa

sgiesa@cvsd.org 228-5514

In 1995, the CVSD Curriculum/Behavior Interventionist positions were initiated as a result of a Central Valley Education Association (CVEA) bargaining survey from certificated staff. The survey indicated a need for staff support in the area of behavior and curriculum to better meet the needs of our diverse student population. Originally, there were four positions, later reduced to two positions in 1997. These positions were designed to support teachers, administrators and students.

Today, our role as Interventionists includes:

- Consultation with individual teachers, building teams, and administrators to problem solve specific behavioral situations through: classroom observation of students and offer ideas based on research-based strategies that promote student success; provide student specific materials and incentives for reinforcement; assist with the development of daily behavior checklists, positive support plans, functional behavior assessments, and behavioral intervention plans.
- Providing information on disabilities-specific characteristics, teaching strategies and accommodations/ modifications to individual teachers and building teams (SST/504/IEP)

• Providing training/in-service opportunities

* Bridging the Gap (5 class series offered for clock hours)

* Beginning Teacher Assistance Program (BTAP) on “Inclusive Classrooms” and district support services available

* Section 504 district processes and procedures, information and development of 504 plans

* Mandt Training to certificated, classified, and administrative staff on behavioral outburst prevention and effective de-escalation strategies

* Training requests from buildings (Disability information, Social Skills Instruction, Positive Reinforcement, Para-Educator Role in the Classroom, Behavioral Strategies, Data Collection)

• Managing the Professional Resource Intervention Library (located on the second floor of LTC - available to all CVSD personnel) with over 8,000 resources to support curriculum and behavioral needs, staff development, and assistive technology equipment

* Supplemental math, reading, writing, science, and social studies resources to meet diverse student needs such as high interest, low vocabulary reading materials

* Behavior and Social Skill teaching resources

* Alpha Smarts, Time Timers, calculators, bean bag chairs, spell checkers, white boards, CD players, headphones, audio novels, book sets

We can be contacted to answer questions or assist with resources. If you need direct services regarding a specific student an interventionist referral can be accessed through your building administrator.



Intervention Library

Housed in the CV Teaching and Learning Center is a library full of special materials to address the needs of students with learning challenges. These materials are available to be checked out for use in classrooms across the district. CVEA members Marci Haynes and Susie Giesa can help you determine materials that can help students that may need these resources.



CVEA Executive Board

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Keith Hoekema

Broadway Elementary

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Evergreen

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High School Rep -

Vicky Jensen

University High School

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