THOSE WHO SHOW UP

BUSD School Board

It is said that those who show up to vote are the ones who determine the outcome. It is with disappointment that I announce that the BTA endorsed school board candidate, Brian Smith, did not win a seat. However, together we will continue to advocate for responsible BOE leadership and stewardship. Changing the district’s culture is not a sprint but a marathon; however, crossing the finish line is still the optimal goal. Those who run for office have to be held accountable for their actions and/or lack of action.

As BTA president, I have long advocated for less perfunctory and more meaningful business to be conducted at the BOE meetings. These occasions should be used for transparent, meaningful discussions leading to authentic solutions to real classroom and school issues. Regrettably, perfunctory is generally all the public gets. Constant organizing and member involvement is one way for BTA to facilitate a change. This almost always means electing leaders who advocate for, and then follow through on, real change.

Statewide

In statewide elections the results for public education were resoundingly positive. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond was re-elected and all five of CTA’s endorsed positions on the state propositions were successful.

Students and teachers can rejoice that Proposition 28 returns show that the public agrees there should be more funding for the arts and music in schools.

Californians also said no to Lyft and no to Proposition 30, a misleading funding measure that would have set a bad precedent for tax increases that bypass the minimum school funding guarantee. CTA President Toby E. Boyd said on election night, “Californians support green energy but were not willing to foot the bill for a private corporation and a deceptive measure.”

Educators running for election to school boards across the state were widely successful, with at least 20 CTA members and staff currently winning seats in districts throughout California. One educator will likely be moving from the classroom to the Capitol - San Luis Coastal Teachers Association member Dawn Addis is handily winning the race to represent Assembly District 30.

BTA

There are two elections in the spring. The first one is for those interested in running for a delegate seat for the NEA Representative Assembly which will be held July 2-6, 2023, in Orlando, Florida. BTA has 5 spots open with our own two state council delegates who run as state delegates. CTA sends us the dates in March, and we put the information out in The Benchmark and on our website.

In addition, BTA Executive Board elections begin with the filling out of a declaration of candidacy. Positions that will be open are President, Elementary Director, and Secretary. The declaration form will be available March 13, 2023, and due April 12, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. Elections will take place April 16-19. I have heard from some sites regarding site visits from
Welcome to BTA

- Justin Black (JBHS)
- Sandra Davis (Emerson)

Organizing
I want to share a short note to show you the value of organizing. Ventura Unified Educators Association’s organizing strategies have moved them from a 1% to 10% salary raise. So, when people say what is BTA doing at the bargaining, BTA is not me, nor you, but it is all of us and it is our united voices that will effect change. I hope that when the time comes if needed, that we can count on you to organize and rally if needed. We still have some potential members who have not joined BTA. Sadly, they reap the benefits of our hard work. I will be asking the Directors to reach out to Reps, so they can approach our colleagues and hopefully, they will prevail and get them to see that it takes all of us to make the difference.

Know Your Rights
When a Student Threatens or Assaults You

At some point, a student might threaten you or your colleague. If you know what to do before the threat, a potentially traumatic event may be less stressful. Remember that BTA and BUSD are here to support educators who receive threats and we have developed a process to rapidly respond to the threat. Consider following these steps when you are threatened:

Step 1: Suspend the student from class for the rest of the day and the next day.
Article 15.6 gives you the right: “A teacher may suspend any pupil from the teacher’s class, for good cause, for the day of the suspension and the day following.” Further suspension will be determined by site/district administration.

Step 2: Fill out the District Threat Protocol form.
The District Threat Protocol states, “Workplace violence and physical or electronic threats of violence by employees, students or others toward BUSD employees will not be tolerated. Violators may be prosecuted under California Penal Code §422 and student suspension or expulsion from school may result under California Education Code §48900 (a)(l).” After you fill out the form, your administrator will contact the police and high-level District administration. Within 24 hours, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources will reach out to you to offer support. The District will work with the police to determine the credibility of the threat.

Step 3: Contact BTA leadership.
BTA leadership will work with you and the District to come up with a safety plan so that you are safe and feel safe after the threat.

Step 4: Utilize the Employee Assistance Program.
The District’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is free for all employees. You can use it to obtain free counseling and to identify other resources that may be helpful in coping with the threat.

Web: www.myCigna.com  Employer ID: burbankusd
**Erin Berich, JBHS Teacher, Wins CTA Institute for Teaching Grant**

The Independent Living Skills program at John Burroughs High School is excited to begin a new project this year. Thanks to the generous grant awarded through CTA's Institute for Teaching, we are able to implement our JBHS Cultivators of Growth project.

As JBHS Cultivators of Growth, students in our Independent Living Skills Moderate/Severe Special Education program will establish a container garden at our school site. Using raised garden beds our students will plant, grow, and harvest a variety of herbs and vegetables. This experience will provide unique opportunities for hands-on learning in daily living skills as well as development of essential job skills to increase independence.

Another goal of the program will be to foster an understanding of sustainability and caring for our earth, participate in real time lessons in life sciences, and provide the opportunity to participate in farm to table experiences through growing and harvesting food that can be used in our twice monthly cooking lessons.

Beyond our students' development, we will be able to increase community awareness of our program by being more visible on our school site, bringing in community members as guest speakers, and reaching out to local businesses for future charitable support. By exposing our students to these important lessons and activities we are also giving them functional skills and knowledge that they can carry with them beyond our program and into adulthood.
BTA HAPPENINGS

MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

Are you working on getting your clear credential? Are you pursuing an advanced degree in your teaching area? Then we have a great deal for you!

Applications for BTA Member Scholarships are now being accepted. A total of eight (8) scholarships for $500 each will be awarded to members who are continuing their educational pursuits in their credential area to clear their credential, or who are pursuing an advanced degree or credential in their area of education and are continuing in BUSD in 2023/2024. This would not apply for any type of Administrative credential.

If you take classes June 2022 to December 2022, you can apply for one of 4 scholarships this fall. Please return your application by January 31, 2023. You will be required to show proof of attendance.

If you decide to take classes from January 2023 to May 2023, you can apply for one of 4 scholarships if you submit an application by June 1, 2023. You will be required to show proof of attendance.

A drawing will be held if more than 4 (four) are applications turned in. Only one scholarship per member per year.

Please contact the BTA office if you have any questions office@burbankteachers.org
WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S
by Diana Abasta

BTA participated in its fourth annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Saturday, November 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the LA Zoo. It was a cool, brisk day filled with inspiration and hope. The chimpanzees, giraffes, elephant, and flamingos were splendid to see in their habitats. Above all, the colorful flowers of yellow, orange, blue, and purple gave all walkers a sense of purpose and solidarity. As a team BTA raised $4000, but we also raised awareness. This awareness warrants some background as to how this all began, and it starts with my fellow BTA members.

Heather Good, ILA English teacher, has been walking for the cause for the past twelve years. Alzheimer’s claimed her wonderful grandmother while her grandfather watched the painful transformation. This was her first reason to start raising money and participating in the Walk to End ALZ. Unfortunately, that is no longer the only reason. Like those who walked, Heather is optimistic, as I am, that there will be a cure. She holds onto that hope and optimism because she knows she has a high chance of developing early onset.

Stacey Bowren is the other veteran walker. Her firsthand experience was watching her Grandpa Bowren forget everyone in their family. He was larger than life and Alzheimer’s robbed him of everything. In WWII, he was in one of the first class of frogmen, (first Navy seals), and is featured in the Navy Seal Museum back East. Stacey has been doing the walk for about 8 years.

Our own BTA elementary and middle school directors and sister, Amy Fuhr and Sarah Schwartz also walked in remembrance of their grandfather. This walk is perfect for their young daughters who usually walk with the BTA team. They carry the twirling purple flowers that represents the walkers who have lost a loved one to Alzheimer’s or dementia, or they ring the cow bells to encourage us to keep walking. Amy has walked for 6 years, and Sarah has walked for two. Both hope to continue walking until there is a cure.

When my father was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, it was an exceedingly difficult thing. Watching someone I love who had always been a pillar of strength and model of hard work was devastating for me and my entire family. With Alzheimer’s grief often strikes before death because the person we love is gone except for a few lucid moments that do not last. However, when I saw Heather and Stacey working hard to fundraise donations to the cause, it inspired me greatly. To date, they continue to inspire me to walk with them and I also believe the day will come when we all will hold a white flower that represents the cure. We hope more of you will join us next November 4, 2023.

CTA’s New Educator Weekend (N.E.W.) is a conference designed for educators in their first three years in the profession. The conference has everything that educators need to be successful in their first years of teaching, including sessions about classroom management, creating engaging classrooms, lesson plans and ideas, connecting with your union, student loan forgiveness information, member benefits, project grants and more.

BTA and BUSD are sponsoring up to 6 members to attend. Drawing will be held if more than 6 members apply. If you are interested, please contact BTA at office@burbankteachers.org by November 21st.
ALL DRESSED UP FOR HALLOWEEN

Who better than our colleagues to rock Halloween with their students! We had FACTS teachers Elayne Howitt, Debra Perlis, and Shery Ruback get in the spirit. Our FACTS teachers are on the Adult School campus. They work hard with the SPED young adult program.

Sports and Heroes was the theme at Huerta in the PE Department. Nicole Drabecki wears her home team Chicago, Jaime Griffith is Super PE teacher, Kenny Bess sports his San Francisco 49ers wear, and there to keep everyone in check is the referee PE teacher Jerry De Laurie.

Emerson second grade teachers Heidi Lavitt, Sara Bauer, and Nicole Diamond dressed cleverly as Rock, Paper, and Scissors. Who won the game?

How much honey did these bees, Debbie Riggs, and Shelley Zepeda and bee keeper, Diana Solorzano from Edison get? These second-grade teachers are kept buzzy every day.

Pretty Little Misses from Jefferson are second grade teachers Jennifer Timoney, Tracy Sorensen, Katie Gonzalez, Connie Struyk, and Natalie Keshishian. They are ready for any adventure.
Who are McKinley’s super first grade teacher heroes? None other than Dug Gutierrez, Lisa Fuentez, this year’s teacher of the year, and James Stinson. They are there to save the day!

Animal Crackers are none other than Jefferson’s first grade teachers Olivia Boyce, Rachel Raad, Zachary Doyle, Jill Pomfret, and Emily Phoenix.

Last of all, who rocks the psychedelic look at Muir? Greg Miller, principal, and the counselors, Shana Duran, Wendy Vargas, Catherine Celaya, Debbie Madigan, Samantha Robman, and Jaime Howard. Another Halloween goes into the books!

Burbank Teachers Association
3021 W. Burbank Blvd, Burbank
California 91505