

BTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2013-14

PRESIDENT: COLIN DAVIS
voiceofbta@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: JOHN YOUNG
young.john.p@gmail.com

SECRETARY: RUSTY SEARS
coachrusty53@aol.com

TREASURER: SHELLEY ALLYN
shelleyistreasurer@gmail.com

ELEMENTARY DIRECTORS:
JAMES BROCKWAY
brockway1@verizon.net

JACKIE KIMMELL
jkywky@yahoo.com

SECONDARY DIRECTORS:
RAQUEL EDALATI
love2bpe@hotmail.com

BARBARA BOWLES
lbbowles@att.net

SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR:
SPECIAL EDUCATION
NANCY FRAILEY
phancigal@aol.com

SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR:
ALL OTHER PROGRAMS
TERRI TAYLOR
tkt4@aol.com

BARGAINING CHAIR:
MARK JOHNSON
MARKJOHNSON289@GMAIL.COM

CTA STATE COUNCIL:
LINDA ADKINS-ARNDT
lindaasail@gmail.com

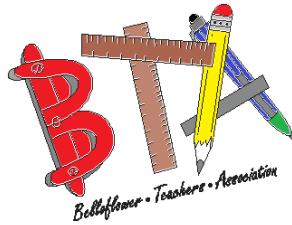
COLIN DAVIS
colinisateacher@gmail.com

MICHAELA O'NEILL
UniServ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BTA OFFICE 562-924-9311
17434 Studebaker Road
Cerritos, CA 90703
Fax: (562) 809-8791

Editor: Colin Davis

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The VOICE

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September 2013

A New Start

I hope you all have had a fruitful, relaxing summer. Having kids at home however means that I can get a little break now! Your Executive Board and Bargaining Team have been very busy this summer. The Bargaining Team has met with the district 5 full days. You'll get the skinny on that as a separate bargaining update.

I have 6 broad **goals** and objectives that we will be working on as an Association for the next two years.

- 1) Stronger Site Representatives
- 2) Chain of Command
- 3) Update the Union Wall in the Teacher's Lounge
- 4) Identify New Member Involvement
- 5) Website
- 6) Build Local Alliances

We're looking into the finances but it looks like we will providing **stipends** for your union involvement. That means that as a representative for your site, you should be elected. That also means that it is not an adjunct duty. We will be voting on this at our first representative council.

Our **school board election** committee has also met over the summer and has recommendations about who we are looking at to endorse. We will be bringing that to you at our first rep council as well.

Open enrollment for **insurance** is going on now. As you can see the premiums have increased. This was the only plan that was offered to the association. The plan was received in late May of 2013. The insurance team and Executive board were not happy with the lack of options provided by the district. It was more of take it or risk not having insurance for 2013-2014. We did not take this out for a vote. We will not wait until the summer to make these decisions. It is my plan to bring this issue up early and with member input and members deciding. We are looking into other plans for next year that will dramatically reduce the costs to members. The District has finally stated that they will attend a CECHCR train-

ing. The California Education Coalition for Health Care Reform offer's free assistance and training for management and unions in navigating the increased costs to California's public education arena. This is huge.

The Local Control Funding Formula (**LCFF**) is constantly changing and developing. CTA is on top of this and is constantly keeping our Staff person up to date. We want to pay close attention to this. Just like Common Core State Standards (**CCSS**), the LCFF is supposed to be a shared implementation. That means that we also have a seat at the table in determining what will help our students achieve.

A lot is going on in education right now. We will not be left out. If that means we have to fight for what we want...so be it. That takes member input. I know most of us have had it with the increased demands, every year, with no respite. The District disagrees with that statement. You all are happy and fine...yes? NO!

Stay tuned,

Rumor Rumor

According to the District, BTA polled you this summer regarding **PE specialists**. We did not. According the District we said we did not want PE specialists.

The PE specialist was a topic that was discussed last year. We loved the idea of giving teachers some additional planning time. That was to provide some breathing room for all the new requirements the district has been putting on us.

What they won't say is that there were some major strings attached. Best case scenario elementary teachers would have gained around 35 minutes of planning for the year.

Best case! However, you would have lost over half of your Wednesday planning days. If it's an early day and you have afternoon PE...gone. They can be pulled to fill in for another teacher...gone. Holiday...gone. Specialist out sick...gone. We also thought that a 45 minute block vs. 85 minute block was a no brainer. It really would not have been a 45 minute block anyway. How much time is wasted in transition and we all know the frustrations when our peers don't pick their class up on time! That is why we said no. We know how valuable our planning days are. We need more time, not less.

**Don't forget...first Rep. Council meeting of the new school year is
Monday, September 16th, 2013, 3:30
RCUT**