

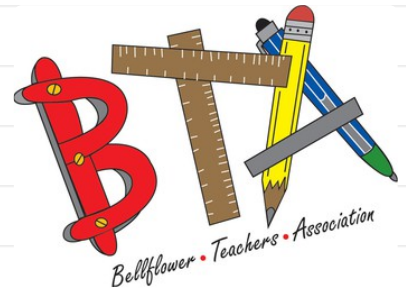
The Voice

Bellflower Teachers Association

From the President

Hello Members,

It's almost March. How can that be? It seems like the days are just flying by. It was good to see those of you who came to the BJs Mixer. It was a great afternoon. We will be having another mixer in May for Day of the Teacher, so keep watch for the announcement.



We have a new CTA staff person, Stephanie Tellez. You can read more about her below, but I wanted to share with all of you that the Executive Board had a retreat in February and we will be changing some of the ways we are handling business. More information will be shared at Rep. Council in the months to come.

The last few board meetings have been interesting. As you know, the first meeting in February the board decided not to renew Dr. Drati's contract and at the following special board meeting offered the interim superintendent position to Lisa Azevedo. The Feb. 22nd meeting covered an update to the LCAP process by Dr. Reyes, updates to two board policies regarding PE and ELLs, and the approval of the contract for interim superintendent Lisa Azevedo through June 2025.

The Bargaining team is working hard to compile all the requests from the bargaining survey. BTA will be ready to begin the bargaining process in March. Please keep a look out for bargaining updates in the next few weeks. If you haven't given input in the bargaining survey please use this link: <https://forms.gle/SLEgYcm6waG32d4e9>

The insurance committee is also working with Mrs. Holguin to acquire some information to help drive a conversation about cost of insurance. BTA has gotten several emails about the rise in cost, and we know it's frustrating. Insurance contribution by the district is bargainable and we are working on that as well.

NEA RA Local applications are due on Monday, March 4 by 5pm. See the attached application below. You can email the form to voiceofBTA@gamil.com or put it in the mailbox at the union office.

BTA wants your pictures! Please send pictures of your teachers on campus. I use them in the newsletter and now the board presentation. School Spirit wear, Dress Up days, Special events. Teachers only please. Email them or text them voiceofBTA@gmail.com or (562)525-4557.

Stronger Together,
Kari M.
BTA President

February Rep Council Raffle Winners

Mimi Cannizarro - MHS
Jackie Kimmell - ILC
BB Restore - Baxter
Sharon Morton - Pyle

School Board Meetings - Please send Teachers!

March 7-Foster and Lindstrom and Somerset
March 21-ILC, Whitewood and Williams, BAE, ATC
April 11-Jefferson and Ramona, DO
May 9-Las Flores, Pyle and Woodruff, Mayfair
June 6-Bellflower and Baxter



Board of Education Meetings - 2024.pdf

[Download](#)

36.1 KB



Declaration of Candidacy BTA Local NEARA 2024.docx

[Download](#)

20.3 KB

Our New CTA Staff Person - Stephanie Tellez

My name is Stephanie Tellez and I have spent the last 10 years engaged in union work. I am going into my 4th year as CTA Staff and look forward to supporting BTA.

On a personal note, I am a mother of 3 public school educated teenagers and my husband is a CTA member who works as a social worker at an elementary school. I believe everyone brings value to union work and I am excited to hear from BTA members on how I can best support.



TAP President runs for Long Beach Office

Paramount teacher April O'Connor is running for central committee in Long Beach.



California Casualty

California Casualty Grant Opportunities

Music and Arts Grants for CTA Members

California Casualty's Music and Arts Grant program is back and will award individual members with a \$250 grant for their classroom or program. Applications are accepted through July 2.

<https://www.just4members.com/musicarts/>

Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant

Give your athletes a sporting chance with a Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant. Apply to receive \$1,000 for your middle/high school's team.

The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets.

As an employee of the school and a member of a participating education association, you can apply for a grant award for your school's sports program.

<https://www.calcasathletics.com/>

Read Across America

Celebrate Read Across America (RAA) Week with your students. On March 1, CTA officers and board members will read to classrooms across the state from CTA- and NEA-recommended books, authors and teaching resources that promote diversity and inclusion. You can invite local

luminaries – firefighters, the mayor, your school librarian – to read to students as well. Shown here is Love Is Loud: How Diane Nash Led the Civil Rights Movement, a selection from NEA's RAA digital calendar. CTA's California Reads initiative also suggests books for all grade levels.

Did you know?

Schools First Summer Saver

Did you know that you can put up to \$2,000 in your summer saver? Schools First is currently offering 6.5% on their summer saver. The nice thing about it is that you can access the money if you need to at any time, but if you don't that interest can rack up!

Click the link below for more information

<https://www.schoolsfirstfcu.org/products/just-for-school-employees/savings/summer-saver/>

CTA Teacher Resources / Conferences

Classroom Resources

Inspiring our students and leading our profession. If you're looking for classroom resources for educators by educators, you came to the right place!

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/classroom-resources>

CTA Conferences 2024

Here are the upcoming CTA conferences. If you are interested in attending, click the link to register. BTA will reimburse you for your registration and parking. If the conference is out of town, please contact me for more information.

Good Teaching Conference

March 22-24, 2024

Hyatt Regency OC

<https://web.cvent.com/event/25e3e96f-e0be-474d-8b26-7969e5ff66f6/regPage:d4e29386-6c99-4a23-a66b-30a95d915e7d>

CTA Scholarships



23-24-Membership-Materials-071323-Info-Flyer-Scholarships_Final.pdf

Download
934.5 KB

Member Benefits



Member Benefits Poster 23-24 060723.pdf

[Download](#)

3.7 MB

Thinking About Retirement?

BTA strongly encourages you to check your Cal STRS report each year for accuracy and contact the district office immediately if there are any discrepancies.

<https://www.calstrs.com/>

CTA Retirement Workshops

- It's always nice to find out how the system is working and to plan for our futures. Click on the link below to make an appointment and attend a retirement workshop.



Meet virtually with Cisco Webex. Anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Simple, modern video meetings for everyone on the world's most popular and trusted collaboration platform.

cta.webex.com

Below is the PDF explaining retirement benefits. Please note: for the insurance cash out option you must be enrolled in the district medical plan for at least your last year of teaching. If you are on the opt out plan you will continue to get what you are eligible for, but there is no cash out option.



23 BGB Retirement Guide Certificated Revised 05.09.23 (busd) (1) (1).pdf

[Download](#)

644.5 KB

Things to Note

2023-2024 BTA Dues Schedule



2023-24 dues schedule.pdf

[Download](#)

51.4 KB

Pay Scales

You can find the new pay scales on the Business Plus site and also on our website bellflowerteachers.com.

Know Your Executive Board



BTA Executive Board 2023-2024.pdf

[Download](#)

509.9 KB

Know Your Teacher Rights

CTA members have the legal right to a safe and healthy workplace. A mini-guide to teacher's rights was placed in your teacher mailbox for your reference and review, but if you missed it or didn't get one, the link is below for you to visit and bookmark.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/your-rights>

Know Your Ed Code

When can you suspend a student? What are your rights as a teacher? Check out this PDF!

<https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-education-code/title-2-elementary-and-secondary-education/division-4-instruction-and-services/part-27-pupils/chapter-6-pupil-rights-and-responsibilities/article-1-suspension-or-expulsion/section-48910-suspension-of-pupil-from-class-by-teacher>

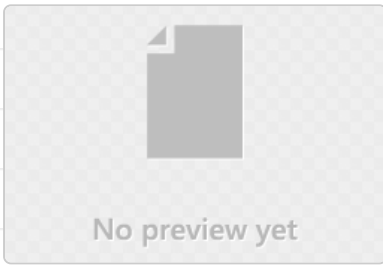
Contract Focus - Leave of Absence

If you have questions about Leave of Absence you can find - Article XI - Leaves of Absence on pages 33-44 of the contract.

Know Your Contract

www.bellflowerteachers.com has the most updated contract PDFs for your reference.

<https://bellflowerteachers.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2022-BTA-Contract-FINAL-for-printing.pdf>



Searchable BTA Contract

Searchable BTA Contract

docs.google.com

Have you joined PTA?

Did you know that you can still join PTA and support your school? PTA does a lot of great things for our kids, and teachers too, so if you haven't joined, please do!



www.bellflowercouncilpta.org/p/join-our-ptas.html

Get the Calm App for Free with CTA!

Free subscription to CTA members. To access your free subscription, you will need to log into the CTA Member Benefits site, <https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Life-Events/Calm>. This link will take you to our Calm site and you will follow the instructions on the page to create your Calm account. You will need your CTA member ID, if you do not know your member ID, you can call Member Benefits at (650) 552-5200. They can also help create your Calm account. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Email your Board Members

Please reach out to the board members and let them know your concerns, invite them to your classrooms, share the exciting things going on at your site.

Brad Carihfield (President) bradcarihfield@busd.k12.ca.us

Amie Stewart (Vice President) amiestewart@busd.k12.ca.us

Mayra Garza (Clerk) mayragarza@busd.k12.ca.us

Renita Armstrong (Member) renitaarmstrong@busd.k12.ca.us

Sue ElHessen (Member) Selhessen@busd.k12.ca.us

Event Information

School Board Meeting

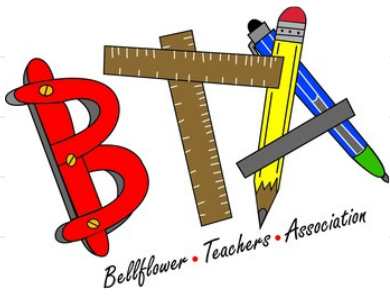
When?

Thursday, Mar 7, 2024, 06:00 PM

Where?

Bellflower Unified School District, Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA, USA

 [Open maps](#)



Bellflower Teachers Association

Email: voiceofBTA@gmail.com

Website: www.bellflowerteachers.com

Location: [17434 Studebaker Road, Cerritos, CA, USA](#)

Phone: (562) 525-4557

Facebook: Facebook.com/bellflowerteachers



Kari McDaniel

Kari is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters