

TCEA NEWS LETTER

Temple City Education Association

[Union Members]

Website
www.tcea9.com

February
2020

President

Ellen Laughlin

Vice President

Kyla Hjertstedt

Secretary

Samantha Jennings

Treasurer

Christy Taylor

Membership

Maria Ioele

Monthly TCEA Meetings

At Temple City High School

Kyla Hjertstedt's Rm. 216

FIRST Monday every month

@ 3:30pm

Everyone is welcome to attend

our next meeting:

February 3, 2020

Upcoming Events

TCEA Union Meeting – February 3rd

Negotiations – February 4th

Burritos at the Boardroom! February 12th at 5PM

TCUSD School Board Meetings

2/12 and 2/26

3/11 and 3/25

Closed Session 6 pm

Open Session 7 pm

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Contract piece -

ARTICLE XIX EARLY RETIREMENT

I. The District and TCEA mutually agree to offer a retirement plan for unit members who choose to retire and who meet the following criteria:

- I.1. Must be at least 55 years of age by September 1 of the year they retire.
- I.2. Must have been employed in the District for a minimum of ten (10) years.
2. Retirees will receive a health benefits package, capped at the District's yearly contribution, for five (5) years or until age sixty-five (65), whichever occurs first.



Featured
Member

Hello! My name is Samantha and I have been teaching for TCUSD for the past sixteen years. I started my teaching career at Longden (go Tigers!), where I taught sixth grade for nine years before moving to La Rosa (yay Rascals!) to teach third grade for one year. I've been back at Longden for the past six years teaching third grade; Longden has always felt like home to me. Several years ago, I decided to become more involved in TCEA so that I could help new teachers and learn more about the role of our union. Today, I feel honored to serve as your TCEA Secretary. Outside of teaching, I have a passion for animals. On weekends and in the summertime, I volunteer at a sanctuary for farm animals and animals that were once used in laboratory testing. Just like teaching, it brings me great fulfillment and joy. On the weekends, I enjoy hiking with my dogs, watching old movies from the 30s and 40s, volunteering, and spending time with friends and family.

[Samantha
Jennings]



Donate two hours of time to giving back to the community.
TCEA's "Book Booth" at the Camellia Festival
February 21st, 22nd, 23rd

Sign up through your site Building Representative to staff the booth.
It's simple to do!

Engage festival goers as they stop at the booth.
Help children choose a book to take home.
Hand out "FAIR SETTLEMENT NOW" buttons.

CalSTRS offers workshops designed to meet your needs at different stages during your career. Learn more about your benefits by attending a workshop to prepare for your retirement.

https://resources.calstrs.com/workshop_registration/index.aspx



[A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT]

January has been a productive month for our union as we sent emails and wrote postcards to our dedicated school board members. Together we rallied at the board meeting, gave passionate speeches, and ate a few pizzas. Your solidarity to our union and to one another is commendable.

Together, our march toward a fair salary settlement continues. The district has been able to build a 37% total reserve because unfortunately, you have not been paid fairly.

Our union survey results have shown that TCEA members are willing to do the work it takes to receive a comparable salary. Therefore, an organizing team was established to formulate a concrete plan for our members to follow in the coming month. Our team members, Leila Herman, Kyla Hjertstedt, Maria Ioele, Crystal King, Kristen McClure, and Reggie Rios were led by CTA's Region 3 lead organizer, Arleigh Kidd.

I'm grateful to this team and for the role they have taken on as organizers during our contract dispute. The organizing team will work in conjunction with our building representatives to lead us all through the month of February. They devised a plan with YOU in mind. Be assured that ALL of TCEA's organizing actions have been vetted by the Public Employees Review Board (PERB) as within our right.

February's plan:

Place a "FAIR SETTLEMENT NOW" poster in your car and park in the school lot

Wear your "FAIR SETTLEMENT NOW" button

Wear RED every MONDAY

February 4th, Tuesday – gather together at your site and hold a poster on the sidewalk for 15 minutes before school; Take pictures

February 12th – Wednesday, 5 pm please come out for "Burritos at the Boardroom", bring your posters out and into the boardroom; 6 pm speeches

February 21,22,23rd Pass out "FAIR SETTLEMENT NOW" buttons at the Camelia Festival

Historically, Temple City Unified School District has been a stellar district and it's important to TCEA to keep it that way. The future of TCUSD is at stake. Having salary parity with our comparable districts is paramount to attracting great educators to the district. As you know, a salary increase that makes current TCUSD educators comparable to surrounding districts is necessary to keep us from falling further behind. A fair salary settlement is a WIN for the present and the future!

Our community and students deserve the best and brightest educators.

See you in the boardroom,
Ellen

TCEA Grant Recipient Write-up

A warm greeting from Michael Liu, Natalie Quintero and Scott Sherman goes to our fellow TCEA members! Recently, all three of us had the pleasure of attending the CTA New Educator Conference in San Diego in December. TCEA completely covered the costs of this conference and we benefited enormously. We would like to share some of the new information we learned about educator health, creative lessons, and personal finances, and we hope that it's helpful for you to peruse.

It has been said time and time again, self-care is key in going for the long haul in education. At the New Educator TCEA Weekend Conference, we discussed all of the important areas of personal health including: sleep, physical fitness, nutrition and STRESS! Once these areas of self-care are addressed, it is surprising to see what other areas of health are impacted. From appetite to immune system, emotional well-being and even attention span, taking control of and respecting sleep is crucial in getting up every day and feeling ready to tackle anything that comes our way. By the same token, foods that we ingest can impact how we feel. Dan Wold, Superintendent from Nevada and speaker at TCEA, knows first-hand that eating the right foods and even considering vitamins/supplements can be super beneficial. Physical fitness should be varied which means implementing strength training, endurance and flexibility in your daily routines. And lastly the biggest question that I think everyone in the room had ... how the heck do we deal with stress?? Stress can become chronic and grow to the point to where we worry about things that are beyond our control. Mr. Wold shared tips like prioritizing, being kind rather than right, focusing on now, not procrastinating, creating order and pursuing your passion. By actively building these habits into our daily lives with consistency, we can work towards an overall healthier outlook on our lives and our careers as educators.

Unconventional methods of teaching were the focus of two of the seminars. The presenter, Jon Pearson, encouraged high energy teaching so that students can learn faster and retain material longer. He promoted the idea of using visual thinking techniques like pictures and stories to activate the mind. I tried this type of story telling technique in my classroom at Oak. My goal was to teach students about the Texas Revolution and my first attempt had limited success with the potential for greater use in the future. My students loved the silly images that I put on the white board to visualize the story of the Texas Revolution. Though I wish I had dedicated more time to the activity, students retained much of the story because of the storied images. Another seminar that we attended was about gamification. The presenter, Kalonji Saterfield, expressed his passion for fun and learning. He had us participate in some of the games that he has his students play. What I found fantastic was that he modified game shows and board games that many of us have seen on television or have played ourselves. For instance, in the seminar, we participated in a review game based on pictionary. In all honesty, we (Michael and Scott) did not perform very well, but we had a lot of fun and I still remember a lot of the answers I got wrong. Thus, through these seminars, we learned that tapping into the imagination of students, demonstrating our own fun in the classroom, and gamifying lessons are ways that we can potentially be more effective for our students.

Along with working on self-care and new strategies for the classroom, the conference provided useful seminars regarding an area in our lives that often becomes low priority for teachers: personal finances. As our country struggles with the fact that student debt continues to compound, it was helpful for the CTA to present informational meetings that help teachers (who often carry similar amounts of educational debt to other professionals but are underpaid by comparison) manage their bank accounts. Furthermore, they included tools to try and help relieve some of that burden. Did you know that there is a tool that NEA members can use to gauge their potential for loan forgiveness? Go to www.NEAMB.com/Loanforgiveness and find *Savi* an online calculator that can aid in determining how much of your student debt might be forgiven. There are

TCEA Grant Recipient Write-up - cont.

both free services as well as low-fee versions of the program that will suit whatever circumstances you may be in. What about saving on the restorative vacations that we so desperately need in order to pour ourselves out for our students? Though we may have heard of it, we might not always go to www.CTAMemberBenefits.org/access as the first place to search for deals on travel. By exploring here first, we might be able to save (on average) 10%-50% over "deal" websites like Expedia, Orbitz, or Priceline by getting wholesale prices on all our travel needs. Though both of these might be small tips to further along our financial path, in the long run they will add up to creating a more secure footing for our futures. Having a dedicated workshop at this conference to find out about these kinds of resources and facilitate questions we had was highly beneficial for us as new educators moving forward in our careers.

The CTA New Educator conference was a rewarding experience that helped us grow personally and professionally. These two aspects of our lives are not separated, and to be in San Diego for a weekend to learn about how to synthesize them in our lives was an experience that I hope more Temple City educators have the chance to explore. We three are grateful to the TCEA for caring enough to send us and we encourage you teachers that are early in your career to seek after these learning opportunities. As we learn to address our own needs, we are then better equipped to serve the precious community that is our great responsibility.

Upcoming CTA CONFERENCES go to www.ctago.org for more information

GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE - SOUTH (Sat and Sun \$195)
March 13-15; LOCATION GARDEN GROVE

2 - ALL DAY sessions on Friday

The Art of INclusion: Inclusive Practices, IEP Rights and Responsibilities, and Supporting Our Most At-Risk Student Population \$25
A Simple Plan For a Happy Retirement - FREE

CTA/NEA RETIREMENT CONFERENCE (\$100)
For those thinking about retirement and already retired.
February 27 and 28; LOCATION IRVINE

Apply for a TCEA grant to finance a conference, hotel, meals, and mileage.
<http://bit.ly/2Cs9tzcw>