



February 2015

# TANLA TALKS

The Teachers Association of the Norwalk-La Mirada Area, 11310 Firestone Bl., Norwalk 562.868.6251



## ***STEP UP YOUR ADVOCACY...FOR STUDENTS!***

As No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is being reauthorized, remember: YOU are the education expert. Federal and state leaders need to hear your perspective. Consistent communication and a positive approach will make our lawmakers strong advocates for our students, our schools and ourselves!

**YOUR STUDENTS CANNOT VOTE YET, BUT YOU CAN SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF!** Remember the power of a personal story. It is one of the best ways to show lawmakers how their decisions affect our students. Don't be afraid to draw from personal experiences and be specific. Inform lawmakers how funding cuts create overcrowded classrooms and lack of support staff for our students. Tell them how TOXIC TESTING takes away from teaching. Points to keep in mind when contacting federal and state leaders; do not personally attack legislators and never write them off based on their party affiliation. You are one of your students' strongest advocates. It's time to speak up.

Here's what you can do at each level of government:

### **LOCAL:**

1. Keep up with key issues through TANLA.
2. Attend schoolboard meetings and speak on issues that matter to students.
3. Pen a letter to the editor on key issues as an educator and perhaps as a parent.
4. Vote in your local school board elections for teacher-endorsed candidates.

### **STATE:**

1. When CTA holds a local rally, SHOW UP!
2. Write a letter to Governor Brown on issues identified by TANLA or CTA.
3. Make sure your state legislators hear from you on education issues.  
Go to [www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov) to find your legislators in the Senate and Assembly.
4. Vote in state elections.

### **FEDERAL:**

1. Go to [EdVotes.org](http://EdVotes.org) and make your story heard. There you will find links which make it easy to contact your members of congress and share with them your experiences with your students.
2. When your lawmaker returns home (usually on weekends) make an in-person visit or find out where they will be appearing and share your experiences.
3. Vote in national elections for candidates who support public education.

**LEVEL UP! :** Ready to take it to the next level? Ask others at your site or in your community to share their stories with elected leaders. Invite elected leaders on all levels to visit your classroom. Time spent on your turf will teach them a lot and help them understand how to stand up for our students. The answer is no until you ask!

### **STAY INFORMED:**

- Subscribe to the EdVotes.org weekly newsletter for coverage of state and national politics, legislation, and events that affect our students, plus ways to make your voice heard.
- Sign up for NEA's Education Insider for federal legislative updates on the topics of most interest to you. You can sign up at NEA.org.
- **Like** TANLA Educators and Speak Up for Education & Kids on Facebook. Follow EdVotes on Twitter and share pro-public education news and stories with your social media networks.



*From the Desk of the Executive Director*  
**Mark A. Miller**

## ***GREAT NEWS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION REVEALED WITH GOVERNOR'S STATE BUDGET PROPOSAL!***

The Governor's Budget proposal released recently includes significant increases in funding for our public schools. This is incredibly good news for public education, particularly when compared to the past several years where we have had to endure significant cuts in funding. Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District weathered that storm, thanks to the commitment of the School Board, District Administration and the Associations representing the employees of the District. Now it would seem that the storm is over and clearer skies lie ahead.

Having recently attended a School Services Workshop highlighting the various elements of the budget proposal, I would like to share a brief synopsis of several of the areas where we should see increased revenues. As stated in the *Pocket Budget 2015-16 – A Summary of the Governor's Proposed 2015-16 State Budget for California's Schools*:

**Proposition 98** – For the current year, the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee is now estimated at \$63.2 billion, \$2.3 billion above the level adopted in the 2014-15 Budget Act. For 2015-16, the Governor's budget proposes a minimum guarantee of \$65.78 billion, an increase of \$2.5 billion, or 4%.

**Local Control Funding Formula** – The Governor's 2015-16 Budget continues implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) with an infusion of \$4.048 billion in additional Proposition 98 revenues.

**Deferrals** – The Governor's Budget proposes \$900 million in one-time Proposition 98 funds in 2014-15 to eliminate all remaining outstanding deferral debt for K – 12.

**Special Education** – The proposed State Budget provides \$59.1 million for an estimated 1.58% COLA and \$15.3 million for enrollment growth.

**Discretionary Funds** – The Governor's Budget Proposal includes more than \$1.1 billion in prior-year mandated funds as discretionary one-time Proposition 98 funding to further investments in the implementation of Common Core.

**Adult Education** - The Governor proposes \$500 million to establish an Adult Education Block Grant to fund programs in basic skills, citizenship, English as a Second Language, and CTE programs that provide pathways to high-demand jobs.

**Proposition 2 and Proposition 98 Reserves** – With California's improving economic conditions and the passage of Proposition 2, the state's "Rainy-Day Fund", the Governor proposes an additional deposit into the state's reserve and anticipates that, by the end of the year, the "Rainy Day Fund" will have a balance of \$2.8 billion.

**Technology Infrastructure** – The Governor proposes \$100 million to build on last year's investment to assist those local school districts most in need of securing internet connectivity and infrastructure to administer the computer-based assessments called for under Common Core.

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### ***Get to Know Your TANLA Contract***

Our TANLA contract covers a wide range of job-related issues—from wages and health care to working conditions and evaluations. You can find our Master Agreement on the TANLA website: [tanlaeducators.com](http://tanlaeducators.com)

### ***School Board Elections:***

TANLA is beginning the process to reach out to potential candidates. We will be hosting an informational dinner for interested community members on March 25<sup>th</sup>. If you know someone who may make a good school board member contact the TANLA office so that we may invite them to the dinner.



## ***President's Message***

### ***Kelley Rush***

I was recently given the opportunity to meet with the Superintendent Search Consultant, on behalf of TANLA, to discuss the skills, qualities, experience, and abilities we desire in the next Superintendent to lead our District. After getting feedback from our Site Reps, Executive Board, and my own experiences over the last several years, I felt very confident with this task.

Since September, I have been reminded about the power of true stakeholder input. One of the first things that Ginger did when she took over as Interim Superintendent was to reinstate Superintendent's Cabinet. This forum brings together representatives from all stakeholder groups to learn about and discuss current district issues and upcoming issues/programs that have yet to be started. The group meets monthly and the minutes of the meetings are sent out to all employees. Our members are actually reading these minutes and the feedback has been very positive. We appreciate being informed.

Ginger also wanted to learn more about the implementation of the Common Core Standards and felt to do so she needed to hear directly from the teachers in the classroom who are doing this important work. In September she held forums for teacher representatives at each site to share how it was going so far, discussing roadblocks, successes and support they felt was needed. Ginger is meeting with these groups again this month to follow up.

When employees feel heard and their opinions are valued, morale is positively affected. Does this mean that every problem is solved or that all the changes we want to happen occur? No, but we've been a part of the process. This transparent communication promotes a positive climate.

You see, Ginger Shattuck is family. Like any other family member we sometimes disagree and see things differently, but there is never a doubt that she loves our District. She KNOWS us. Who we are, where we've been, and where we're heading. She is loyal and dedicated to US.

We want and need a leader who values the voice and needs of the employees. We want and need a leader who has a track record of loyalty and dedication. We want and need a leader who sees our District as not a stepping stone to something bigger and better, but someone who will be committed to our District for a long time. Let's hope that our voice is listened to this time...

***Thanks for your commitment and dedication to our students and our profession.***

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## ***We Are TANLA***

Our membership includes 1,000+ educators in NLMUSD. TANLA membership includes: **classroom teachers, nurses, TOSAS, adult school, speech and language pathologists, counselors, and preschool teachers.** We are all members of the same bargaining unit and play a significant role in educating our students.

***Unsung Heroes-*** Our District serves over 1,100 students in our Preschool program. Head Start, State Preschool, and LAUP are programs that are found on 11 campuses in Norwalk, La Mirada, and also Downey. There are 64 dedicated teachers, nurses, and TOSAs working with these young students. This is not the preschool program we remember from our childhood. These teachers provide comprehensive services to our neediest of populations. Educationally, they are going through many changes like the rest of us. They are currently implementing new curriculum, follow units of study, are responsible for multiple assessments, collecting data, and make home visits. Although they are part of our District they are funded by LACOE and governed by federal and state regulators, which are very strict.

In 2016 our Preschool program will be celebrating 50 years of service to our District. We thank each and every one of you who work so diligently to give our preschoolers the foundational skills they need to be successful in future years.

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## ***Great Things Are Happening In Our Schools: La Mirada High “Lend A Hand” Youth Program***

*Article submitted by Ken Yoshioka Green Construction / Alternative Energy Program*

The LMHS “Lend A Hand” youth program was created to allow students to make a positive impact in the community and on their campus. Working together with our sponsors, Habitat for Humanity and CTA, youth program students are given a chance to help solve problems for the people in the community and their high school.



In December, “Lend a Hand” program advisor **Ken Yoshioka** (LMHS teacher) took students to a Habitat for Humanity home repair in Long Beach. Members lent a hand to retired Army Sergeant David Lowe. The night before the trip it had poured rain all night long. The mission was to grade and level all the dirt areas on the property. The dirt areas had become a mud pit. Five inches of standing water had to be drained on one side of the house. After lunch, Mr. Lowe gathered members in his yard to tell his personal story and to thank each and everyone for helping out. At 2:00 pm the job was completed. The application of gravel to the yard was for the next crew. All members went home with tired bodies and warm feelings in their hearts for lending a hand to a person in need.

“Lend A Hand” students also made 10 wooden teddy bears for the kids at Children’s Hospital. The wooden teddy bears were delivered to the hospital in time for Christmas. Students Nick Padilla and Israel Lopez also helped out a community member over Christmas break. The homeowner had broken drawers in her kitchen. Nick and Israel fixed her drawers and showed her how to easily fix it herself.

A second Habitat for Humanity trip will be taken during the second semester. All are eagerly ready to lend a hand again. The next trip will hopefully be to a build site.

### ***TANLA Members in Action***

- At the NCUEA Conference in December, TANLA was awarded a \$5,000 grant from NEA for the work we’ve done with community engagement. The \$5,000 award will go directly to our "Caring Beyond the Classroom" event this August.
- The following members applied for and received CTA Conference Grants: Issues - **Laura Ancira, Sergio Amaro, Jackie Nguyen,** and **Denise Daguimol.** Equity and Human Rights – **Marcella Cueto-Sanchez** and **Marissa Silva.** Good Teaching – **Andrea Wooldridge.**
- Congratulations to **Jenny Kim** who recently received her Nation Board Certification.
- Congratulations to **Shannon Cruz** and **Salvador Villagomez** who both recently earned their masters degrees from Concordia University.



*CTA Director Tyrone Cabel, NEA President Lily Eskelsen-Garcia along with Kelley Rush and Gerri Gandolfo accepting the NEA grant.*

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## ***Communication - Stay in touch with TANLA to get the latest updates and information.***

Visit our TANLA website. Go to ***Tanlaeducators.com***

**EMAIL** - Contact TANLA with your personal email address and receive emails on information.

Join the **TANLA Phone Tree.** Contact TANLA with your home or cell phone number and receive messages on important information and reminder.

TANLA President Kelley Rush is on **Twitter.** Follow her @tanlapres for updates and news on TANLA, district, and education issues.



Members can friend us on Facebook. Look for **TanlaEducators.** Please use this forum to ask questions, address concerns and/or comment.

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