

# sdta HOTLINE

March 18, 2015

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## Message from the President

Right now, both the Senate and the House are discussing bills to reauthorize the current Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, better known as “No Child Left Behind”). This bill, initially adopted 12 years ago, is the cornerstone of the federal presence in K-12 education, but as anyone who has taught under its auspices knows, it has made no significant progress in closing achievement and opportunity gaps for students and instead has perpetuated a system that delivers unequal opportunities and has made it more difficult than ever for teachers to reach students and deliver curriculum and a love for learning.

This is an opportunity to ensure more time for students to learn by reducing the number of federally mandated tests and shifting from a punitive “stick” model to a more inspirational “carrot” for school improvement. Our local legislators know what needs to happen, but they need to know they have your support to speak up in this key debate. You can show them that support by taking a moment to visit <http://educationvotes.nea.org/eseapetition> and sign the petition or by calling 1-866-331-7233 and entering your zip code to be connected to your Senator's office.

*-Edith Salvatore*

## CHANGES IN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In a Special Session held on March 11, the Board of Trustees interviewed five applicants interested in filling the vacancy on the board left by Trustee Olivia Martinez's departure: Woodside parent and former President of the Redwood City Education Foundation Georgia Jack, East Palo Alto Council Member and former mayor Laura Martinez, Former M-A Parent and Ravenswood City Schools volunteer and advocate Ellen Mouchawar, Former Las Lomitas School Board member Jay Siegel, and East Palo Alto community member Isaiah Vi.

Each applicant was asked five questions by the Board, followed by an open comment period in which members of the community spoke in favor of their preferred candidates. The board then discussed the applicants and their priorities in filling them, ultimately voting to appoint Laura Martinez to the vacant position. Trustees Thomsen and Sarver spoke in support of Martinez, pointing out that the district serves many Latino students and that this is a community that should be represented on the governance team. Additionally, Trustee Weiner spoke to Martinez's experience as the first person in her family to attend a 4-year college as a good perspective for the Board to have. The trustees who spoke in support of her also referred to Martinez growing up and returning to live and work in East Palo Alto as important, as that community has historically not been represented on the Board.

Unlike some of the other applicants, notably Georgia Jack and Ellen Mouchawar, Laura Martinez does not have experience specific to the Sequoia Union High School District, though she does work as the After School Program Director and Family College Resource Center Coordinator for Aspire Public Schools and Aspire Phoenix Academy in East Palo Alto. She told Palo Alto Online that she would resign her seat on the East Palo Alto Council if appointed to the SUHSD Board of Trustees and that she intended to seek election to the board this fall.

## SDTA CANDIDACY PERIOD OPEN

Nominations for SDTA officer positions and site representatives are open through the end of this week. Each comprehensive site is entitled to six representatives. Redwood and East Palo Alto Academy are entitled to two representatives each and members at the District Office, Middle College, TRACE, and other small programs are represented by one

person. Rep positions are two-year terms, so roughly half the spots are open every year.

An application was emailed to all members at the beginning of March. If you are interested in running, please contact one of the site reps or the SDTA Office.

## SDTA GOES BACK TO THE TABLE

At the March 18 meeting of the Board of Trustees, SDTA will “sunshine” its initial bargaining proposal. There will be a “public hearing” on the proposal at the Board’s April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. It is a legal requirement that both sides “sunshine” their proposals and that they stand for public hearing before negotiations can begin.

The last round of bargaining resulted in a successful settlement of a 2-year contract, with the provision for limited “re-openers”. This means that bargaining this year will be limited to the areas of salary, benefits, and one article chosen by each of the bargaining teams. SDTA chose to open Article XII, Class Size. This is a short article and while it is called “Class Size”, it actually has more to do with how classes are filled than it does with overall enrollment in courses. The District chose to open Article ...

## SDTA’s Proposal

Within the Class Size article, SDTA is proposing:

- Updating language about working with Department Chairs when registration and anticipated enrollment necessitate adjustments be made.

- Establish an individual class limit for laboratory science classes (30 students), Industrial Arts classes (25 students) and Physical Education classes (50 students).
- Establish a caseload limit for the various Special Education roles, as follows:
  - Speech and language: 55
  - Resource Specialists (Co-Teachers): 22
  - STARS 1 (ED): 14
  - STARS 2 (TDC): 12
  - ILS / TRACE: 12
  - Other SDC: 12
  - Psychologists: 1 per 1,000 total enrollment
- Establish a ratio of 1 school nurse per 2,500 students district-wide.
- Establish that Department Chairs be selected by an election among department members.

In the areas of **salary** of **benefits**, our proposal establishes that we are interested in maximizing the benefits and salary available to our members once information about the District’s finances are known.

In addition to the whole contract, SDTA will also be negotiating certain sections of the Side Letter we currently have with the District concerning East Palo Alto Academy. In this area, SDTA proposes aligning EPAA’s evaluation procedures with those of the rest of the district and adjusting some language in “Hours” to ensure that EPAA teachers have preparation time each day and do not work a longer day than other teachers in the district.

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<http://www.facebook.com/groups/MySDTA>

## Your SDTA Site Reps:

Carlmont	Menlo-Atherton	Sequoia	Woodside	Redwood
Katya Burton Connie Dominguez Maddie Fox Cary Milia* Hai Nguyen Carolyn Wade* Kelly Redmon (communications)	Tim Bowler* Nancy Day Karina Escobar-Weaver Tania Kranzler* Patrick Maier Liane Strub (available opening)	Belén Álvarez-Iglesias Debolina Dutta Jonathan Hoffman Guadalupe Navarrete Edith Salvatore* Dylan Shelley* Kate Sheehan	Adele Alvarez Rick DeFrancesco Greg Gruszynski* Diana House Tony Mueller Sue Rhodehouse Marian Welch	Javier Galaviz Mike Martin <b>District Office</b> Devon Mullane <b>EPAA</b> Tamesha Wise *bargaining team

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**Your SDTA Site Reps:**

**Carlmont**

Katya Burton  
Connie Dominguez  
Maddie Fox  
Joseph Hill  
Cary Milia  
Hai Nguen  
Carolyn Wade  
Kelly Redmon\*

**Menlo-Atherton**

Tim Bowler  
Peter Caryotakis  
Nancy Day  
Karina Escobar-Weaver  
Tania Kranzler  
Patrick Maier\*  
Liane Strub

**Sequoia**

Belén Álvarez-Iglesias  
Jonathan Hoffman  
Katie Karlin  
Guadalupe Navarrete\*  
Edith Salvatore  
Dylan Shelley\*  
Kate Sheehan

**Woodside**

Adele Alvarez  
Rick DeFrancesco  
Greg Gruszynski\*  
Diana House  
Tony Mueller  
Sue Rhodehouse  
Marian Welch

**Redwood**

Javier Galaviz  
Mike Martin  
Ethan Sutton

**CDS / District Office**

Devon Mullane