

## Minutes

### CATE Annual Business Meeting

February 12, 2012

Present: Michelle Berry, Bob Chapman, Charleen Delfino Susan Dillon, Angus Dunstan, Kim Flachmann, Bill Foreman, Anne Fristrom, Punky Fristrom Jill Hamilton-Bunch, Nancy Himel, Richard Hockensmith, Jim Kleigl, Ron Lauderbach, Lisa Ledri Aguilar, Denise Mikkonen, Kristy Orona-Ramirez, Carol Surabian,

I. Call to Order 7:34

II. CATE Board of Directors introduced themselves

III. Motion to accept the agenda and the Rules of Conduct Dustan/Surabian Motion carried.

**IV. Motion to approve the minutes Liz McAninch moved, Richard Hockensmith seconded. Motion approved.**

V. President's Report

A. Financial Concerns

B. Thank you to councils for donation of part of their treasury for aspects of the convention

C. Thank you to CTA for financial support

VI. Annual Report is published on CATEweb.org

VII. Explanation of Rules for CATE Election

Three methods to vote-you must be a member and you can only vote once.

1. At the Annual Business Meeting

2. Ballots available in California English--Closed on April 15

3. Online at CATEweb.org--Closed on April 15

VIII. Candidate Statements

President--Liz McAninch

Vice President--Susan Dillon

MAL-Secondary--James Kleigl

MAL-Small Councils--Jill Hamilton-Bunch

MAL-Unspecified--Richard Hockensmith

Lisa Ledri Aguilar

IX. Report of Resolutions Chair

A Consent Resolution

**CATE 2012: Board Resolution  
Commendation of the Convention Committee**

This convention happens only because of the efforts of many teachers and other volunteers who donate their time and energy to make this weekend possible.

Let it be resolved that the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) thank and commend the following outstanding volunteers and members of the convention committee:

Convention Chairs	Kim Flachmann, CSU, Bakersfield Jill Hamilton Bunch, Point Loma Nazarene University, Bakersfield
Convention Coordinator	Punky Fristrom, Retired, San Diego Unified School District
Program Chair	Cheryl Hogue Smith, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY
Decorations	Nora Traut, CSU Bakersfield Darlene Stotler, CSU Bakersfield
Registration	Cindy Conlin, Stratham, New Hampshire Richard Hockensmith, Summit High School, Fontana
Registration Assistants	Carol Surabian, Washington Intermediate School, Reedley Susan Dillon, Central Catholic High School, Modesto
Hospitality Chair	Greg Johnson, Kern High School District
Local Committee Chair	Jan Stallones, Corona-Norco Unified School District Maureen Rippee, Wilson High School, Long Beach
College Credit Chair	Brett Schmoll, CSU Bakersfield

Autograph Chair	Peggy Dwane-Pope, Stonecreek Junior High School, Bakersfield
New Teacher Booth	Akiko Morimoto, Retired, Washington Middle School, Vista Carole LeCren, La Jolla High School, San Diego
Pre-Convention	Jayne Marlink, California Writing Project
President's Reception	Charleen Delfino, Retired, San Jose State University
Technology/AV Chair	Brian Jeffrey, Los Osos High School, Alta Loma
Volunteer Coordinators	Angus Dunstan, CSU, Sacramento Phil Bowles, Point Loma
Nazarene University, San Diego	Lael Borches-Lloyd, Heritage Charter School K-8, Escondido
Publicity	Brad Ruff, Kern County Superintendent of Schools Julie Paulsen, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bakersfield
Signs	David Ryan, CSU, Bakersfield
Two Minutes for CATE	Liz McAninch
Flyer/Program Publication	Carole LeCren, La Jolla High School, San Diego
Convention Photographer	Ron Lauderbach, Retired, San Ysidro High School, San Diego
CATE Membership Booth	Joan Williams, Retired, Arcata High School, Eureka
Consultant	Michelle Berry, Windsor High School, Windsor
CATE Treasurer	Anne Fristrom, Retired, San Diego
Exhibits Manager/ Advertising Manager	Tammy Harvey, Chico
Webmaster	Cindy Conlin, Stratham, New Hampshire

Approved by the CATE Board, February 9, 2012

**B. Resolution on Teacher Autonomy--Bob Chapman moved for approval of this resolution.  
Seconded by Angus Dunstan, motion approved.**

**Draft Resolution on Teacher Autonomy  
at the Advent of the Common Core**

Whereas the State of California has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as the basis of its English Language Arts standards, and

Whereas the Common Core provides criteria and guidelines for the selection of readings that local teachers can utilize to develop materials and curriculum, and

Whereas the best English Language Arts education occurs when teachers can create 'teachable moments' during which students are fully engaged with course material, and

Whereas students engage with readings most deeply when those readings meet their cognitive, social, and emotional needs, and

Whereas classroom teachers are uniquely qualified to identify the cognitive, social, and emotional needs of their students,

Be it resolved that the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) urge teachers and districts to develop curricula locally, utilizing the skills of local teachers, informed by teachers' understanding of students and teachers' knowledge of classic and contemporary texts.

Distribution:

California Department of Education

Various school districts

**C. Resolution of Professional Development--Motion by Carrie Danielson to approve this resolution. Seconded by Bill Foreman, motion approved.**

**CATE Resolution  
Professional Development**

Whereas the California Common Core State Standards are currently being implemented, which will require that teachers and administrators receive professional development, and

Whereas there is a national and statewide demand that our schools improve, and

Whereas the fundamental way to improve schools and student achievement is to foster the highest quality teachers possible, and

Whereas California at this time, provides no requirement for teachers to continue learning and growing as educators, and

Whereas professional organizations are ready to provide meaningful professional development based on the most recent research and pedagogy, and

Whereas instruction in English Language Arts is pivotal to improvement in our educational system, therefore,

Be it resolved that the California Association of Teachers of English urge the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to re-establish meaningful professional development as a condition of renewing the credential for all teachers, particularly those teaching English language arts.

Distribution:

CCTC

CDE

Education Committees in the California Legislature

Districts throughout the state

**D. Resolution on World Language Credential--Bill Foreman moved for approval of this resolution. Angus Dunstan seconded, motion approved.**

**Resolution on the Credential in World English**

Whereas the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) is developing a new credential in World English, and

Whereas this new credential concentrates on the needs of English language learners (ELLs), and

Whereas ELLs make up a substantial portion of the California school population, and serving the needs of ELLs constitutes a major challenge for California teachers and schools, but

Whereas, just as the existing English subject matter does not adequately prepare English teachers to meet the challenges faced by ELLs, so the proposed World English subject matter requirements would not adequately prepare World English teachers to meet all the challenges of teaching the general student population, and

Whereas the literacy needs of California students vary based on their linguistic backgrounds, and

Whereas the CCTC is considering authorizing credential holders in World English to teach English Language Arts to all students,

Be it resolved that CATE commend the CCTC for developing a credential that specifically prepares teachers to instruct English language learners, but

Be it resolved that CATE encourage limiting World English credential holders to teaching ELD and SDAIE classes.

Distribution:

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

California Department of Education

Teacher Education Programs throughout the state

## E. Board Resolution from December read

### CATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE

#### Background:

The study of literature allows students to experience the ideas and identities of people like and unlike themselves, and the most engaging and valuable literature challenges readers to think beyond the bounds of their routine experience.

Multicultural literature reflects the home cultures of many students in California schools, and reading about the experience of people from a variety of cultures and subcultures helps prepare California children to live in the pluralistic society that California is and most certainly will continue to be.

In many cases, the ability of teachers to choose multicultural literature is under attack.

Multicultural literature is a frequent target of challenges to the curriculum—titles like *Bless Me Ultima*, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, *The Bluest Eye*, *The Color Purple*, and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* have all been challenged in recent times—and too many schools are reducing in general the total amount of imaginative literature students read in English Language Arts classes.

More specifically, Alvord Unified School District in Riverside, California has restricted teachers' rights to choose multicultural poetry at a middle school in the district. They have questioned the motivation and intent of the teachers involved and have stripped the teachers of the ability to continue their school-wide multicultural curriculum because of the pressure of a particular political/religious community organization.

Resolved, that the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) calls on Alvord Unified School District, as well as other local schools and districts, to support teachers as they choose multicultural literature for students to read and hear in their schools, and to defend to the public the expertise of local teachers who choose literature appropriate for their classrooms.

#### Forward to:

Alvord Unified School District

California Board of Education

California Superintendent of Public Instruction

Approved by CATE Board on December 4, 2011

X No New Business

XI. Announcements

- A. Lisa Ledri Aguilar invited everyone to come to Spring Promising Practices in San Diego
- B. Susan Dillon invited everyone to come to Central Council's events including the Steinbeck Conference, and a day dedicated to multicultural literature
- C. Nancy Himel invited everyone to Southland's events
- D. Susan Dillon invited everyone to Santa Clara for CATE 2013--"Keep Calm and Read On." Call for Presenters is already up on CATEweb. The Professional Writing Contest and Creative Writing Contest will address this theme.
- E. Liz McAninch invited everyone to go to CATE on Facebook.

XII. Drawing for Prizes

XIII. Bob Chapman moved to adjourn, Angus Dunstan seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Danielson

Secretary