



Acalanes Education Association  
**Newsletter**



[www.acalanesteachers.org](http://www.acalanesteachers.org)



### **NEW AUHSD BOARD MEMBER**

The resignation of board member Craig Cheslog left a vacancy on the board. Cheslog had only served the district since December 7, 2016. He suddenly resigned last month. A special board meeting was called on January 11th to decide who should complete the 5-member board. Fourteen people applied and were seen to be eligible to be interviewed. By the end of the night Richard Whitmore was appointed. Whitmore was formally an AUHSD board member from 2002-2016.

### **REPS TO MEET WITH PRINCIPALS REGARDING COLLABORATION AND ACADEMY CONCERNS**

The site reps (and/or exec. reps) will have a standing monthly meeting with their principal for the purpose of communicating staff and campus concerns, before they become an issue. This open communication has worked well at Campolindo this past semester and will be modeled at all sites. You are encouraged to share your site concerns with your reps via personal email, and cc Lori at [mstewks@yahoo.com](mailto:mstewks@yahoo.com).

Your Representatives for these monthly meetings are:

Acalanes > meets as needed

Lori Tewksbury [mstewks@yahoo.com](mailto:mstewks@yahoo.com)

Ken Lorge [kenlorge@yahoo.com](mailto:kenlorge@yahoo.com)

Holly Thompson [kazmocha@yahoo.com](mailto:kazmocha@yahoo.com)

Campolindo > meets 7<sup>th</sup> period once a month

Petro Petreas [petropetreas@yahoo.com](mailto:petropetreas@yahoo.com)

Dino Petrocco [riley091505@yahoo.com](mailto:riley091505@yahoo.com)

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Las Lomas > meets Monday once a month

Travis Nelson [travischarlesnelson@gmail.com](mailto:travischarlesnelson@gmail.com)

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### **ACADEMY CONCERNS**

AEA members are reporting concerns that Academy is becoming a 2<sup>nd</sup> prep and causing frustration and exhaustion especially for those that do not have a break all day. Even when members are not prepping academically there is plenty to do regarding setting up the session in TeachMore, tagging students, wondering what to do if they do not come when tagged, supervising tutorial and helping with a variety of subjects. Members are also wondering why they are still getting their class time interrupted for things like counseling visits when we now have academy.

Remember: we have a MOU which spells out expectations. "...*Certificated staff member will work within departments to develop plans and options for students during these periods within the established framework...*" And from the District's FAQs: *The primary purpose of these periods is to allow for systematic school-wide support and intervention. Students should use the time to make up or retake missed classroom assignments, labs, tests, quizzes.*

*Students may also use this time to study, complete homework, work on group projects and more.*

As you can see from the language above, academy was never meant to be extra prep for anyone. It was supposed to be a time for us to be able to help students instead of having to give up lunches or stay late afterschool. Departments plan what they do for academy but there is NO requirement for at least one offering to be targeted intervention. Students can make up work, get extra help, or use it as a study hall. It is **OK** for teachers to set their academy period to be a quiet study hall and to limit the number of students to a reasonable number. Please do not make Academy something onerous and talk to your Reps if you have concerns so they can bring it up to your principal. [More information from Lori is on our website acalanesteachers.org](http://acalanesteachers.org).

## COLLABORATION CONCERNS

We want our members to be aware that you have options outside of the prescribed activities some site administration are encouraging or requiring. Remember the MOU states: *During the designated staff collaboration periods, certificated staff will collaboratively work on the development of curriculum, assessments, instructional practices or support services. Teams will be able to select from an established menu of curricular collaboration options or have the option of submitting an alternate collaborative proposal...*

Lori's FAQs state: *Collaboration allows teachers to share best practices. It allows us to work together to innovate, solve problems and identify new approaches to their teaching. It allows us to identify the most essential learning outcomes and come to agreement regarding how to measure that learning. It allows our teachers time to plan for the optimal utilization of the tutorial/intervention periods. It allows us to examine equitable grading practices...*

So, in addition to the options provided by your administration here are other options that are perfectly reasonable collaboration projects:

- work on curriculum
- develop common assessments
- work on best instructional practices for block
- work with SPED dept. to modify curriculum
- collaborate with people outside your department/subject on cross curricula projects
- work on the development of curriculum for new courses
- collaboration with colleagues at other sites, either in person, or digitally (Google Hangout)
- review and discuss quarter or semester grades
- more detailed planning of Academy (note the main time for planning academy is on a Wednesday morning and this option should only be utilized if it's what YOU want not because admin tell you to use it that )
- work on essential standards and learning outcomes.

The key to all these options is (1) people are not working alone, and (2) this isn't prep (copy) time. People have to be on campus working with colleagues collaboratively on some project. What is "on the collaboration menu" at your site? [For more details from Lori check out our website at acalanesteachers.org](http://acalanesteachers.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018: CTA Organizing Dinner (6:30 at the Concord CTA office)

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Alcosta President's Forum (9am at the Concord CTA office)

January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>: Calendar Task Force Meetings (3:45 at Del Valle)

February 7<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018: Board Meetings (7pm)

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Rep Council meeting at Campolindo (3:45)

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Negotiations (1:00 – 3:00pm)

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Block Schedule MOU Standing Committee Meeting (3:30 at the DO)

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018: CTA Coordinated Bargaining (4pm at the Concord CTA office)