

SEP 07  
2016

# UNION UPDATE



## Members, community successful in removal of CSD superintendent

A powerful alliance of Local 1000 members and community groups came together to successfully force the removal last week of Dr. Sean Virnig, the Site Superintendent at the California School for the Deaf (CSD), ending years of bullying, ineffective leadership and an unwillingness to listen or work with staff.

The #TakebackCSD movement was a coalition of Local 1000 members; CSD faculty and staff; the Association of Families Teachers and Counselors; and the California Association of the Deaf; along with families and students at CSD.

Under Virnig's leadership, enrollment dropped nearly 20% and teacher turnover had increased. The coalition invited State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson to an August 19 meeting at the CSD campus, where they made their case about the failed administration from a large group of teachers, staff and parents.

One week later, on August 26, #TakebackCSD's efforts paid dividends when they received the news that their collective action led to Virnig's reassignment.

"This decision is in the best interest of our school, our students and our staff," said Sulgi Hong, a teacher at CSD and a Local 1000 Steward, who was instrumental in leading the charge "We look forward to a great academic year and a bright future for our CSD community."

Now, coalition members are committed to being integral in the hiring of a new superintendent.

"We are determined to offer our cooperation and support to ensure that our students, staff, families and community members have a new superintendent of world-class caliber," Hong said.



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*"There is nothing we can't accomplish when we stand together."*

—Sulgi Hong  
CSD Teacher, Local 1000 Steward

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# Retirement security for all Californians just a signature away

The years-long efforts of Local 1000 members and a coalition of champions for retirement security for all Californians are about to come to fruition after SB 1234, the California Secure Choice Retirement Savings Trust Act, was passed by the Senate and now awaits the signature from Gov. Jerry Brown that would make it law.

The legislation aims to address the retirement savings crisis faced by more than 7 million Californians who don't have access to a pension or 401(k) type retirement plan in their workplace. Right now, nearly 1 in 3 California seniors lives in poverty - and half of all seniors have no retirement savings at all.

Secure Choice would implement a new retirement investment plan that provides an easy and secure way for private sector workers to save for retirement through automatic paycheck contributions.

SB 1234 was sponsored by Local 1000 and Senator Kevin De León. Our President, Yvonne R. Walker, was a member of the Secure Choice Retirement Savings Investment Board, who developed the program that's about to become law.

"We have moved a step closer to a nation-leading breakthrough in alleviating elder poverty," Walker said. "Stuck between stagnant wages and high housing costs,

many Californians have no opportunity for retirement and no choice but to work until they die. Local 1000 championed Secure Choice to ensure all California workers have access to a simple, voluntary retirement savings program.

"We applaud Senate President pro Tempore Kevin De León's leadership in moving Secure Choice forward and call on Gov. Brown to ensure every Californian has the opportunity for a basic level of dignity in their Golden Years."

**"Local 1000 championed Secure Choice to ensure all California workers have access to a simple, voluntary retirement savings program."**

**-Yvonne R. Walker**  
*President, SEIU Local 1000*



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7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
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## Our hard-earned contract rights still in force

As we continue to take actions in support of a strong contract, we are still fully protected by our existing contract. Each of our hard-earned rights, achieved in past negotiations, is still in force.

Our stewards are still providing real representation to enforce our hard-earned rights. And as we show our strength and pledge our support to take all Local 1000 authorized actions, management will threaten and try to intimidate us in an effort to weaken our cause. We're not falling for it.

Standing up for a strong contract is our right. We won't be intimidated for participating in actions or using our voice to stand up for what we believe in.

This is our Union. This is our Contract. This is our Future.

Our rights are preserved with our strength and unity. Let's work together for a stronger contract.



## Questions

about contract protections?

**Call the Member Resource Center**

Monday –Friday  
7 a.m – 7 p.m.  
866-471- SEIU (7348)