



**SEPTEMBER 2003 AGENDA**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Action</b>
AB 2326 (Frommer) Task Force on Braille Reading Standards – Approve Proposed Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Public Hearing</b>

**Recommendation:**

Approve Staff Recommendation of Membership of Task Force

**Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action**

N/A

**Summary of Key Issue(s)**

Education Code 56351.7 (a) requires that an advisory task force be formed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop recommendations on Braille Standards and to report to the Governor and Legislature by June, 2004. Education Code Section 56351.7 (b) requires the task force membership be approved by the State Board of Education and include specified membership. The criteria of the membership is fully represented in staff recommendation.

**Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)**

Legislation included funding for membership expenses.

**Attachment(s)**

[Recommended Membership for the AB 2326 Task Force on Braille Reading Standards \(Pages 1-5\)](#)

## Recommended Membership For AB 2326 Task Force On Braille Reading Standards

First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Marilyn	Astore	Acting Director, Child Development and Early Childhood Programs	M.A.	Curriculum and Instruction
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
Sacramento City USD				North
<b>Summary</b>				
She is the Acting Director, Child Development and Early Childhood Development Programs for the Sacramento City Unified School District. She is also the Director, PreKindergarten, Governor's Reading Institutes, UCLA Extension and LAUSD Project, and a PreK Literacy instructor at UCLA extension. Prior to this, she was the Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services at the Sacramento County Office of Education. She has served on numerous committees and advisory boards and is the former Chair of the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission. She received her M.A. in curriculum and instruction from CSUS, and her B.A. in history from Holy Names College. She earned credentials in professional administrative services and general elementary.				

First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Rod	Brawley	Publications Consultant		
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
CDE, Clearinghouse for Specialized Media & Technology		Groups that advocate for the visually impaired		North
<b>Summary</b>				
He is a consultant in CDE's Clearinghouse for Specialized Media & Technology (CSMT). CSMT's responsibilities include the production and distribution of braille, large print, and recorded versions of textbooks adopted by the SBE to public schools statewide. He served as an Ex-Officio Trustee for the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Federal Quota Program. In addition, he helped pioneer many educational programs and technologies for students and teachers - APH Braille File Repository, CA Braille-N-Teach online list service, APH Louis Database of Accessible Textbooks, CDE's High School Braille Reimbursement Program, and Low Vision Clinic at the CA School for the Blind. In 2002-03, he initiated legislation (SB 842) that required publishers of instructional materials to make printed textbooks more legible, to caption educational videos, to make their websites adhere to accessibility standards, and to improve access to technology-based learning resources.				

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First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Maureen	Burness	Assistant Superintendent	M.S.	Counselor Education
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
Placer Nevada SELPA				North
<b>Summary</b>				
<p>She is the Assistant Superintendent, Placer Nevada SELPA. Prior to this, she was the Assistant Superintendent, Yolo County SELPA. Her primary responsibilities include leadership in all areas of special education at the SELPA level. For the past five years, she served as an officer, State SELPA Administrators of California. In addition, she was the Co-Director, ACSA Special Education Academy where she was responsible for the curriculum development, implementation, and review of the annual professional development opportunity in their area. She is the founder of the Maureen O'Leary Business Foundation for Special Needs Children. She received her M.A. in counselor education from CSUS, and her B.S. in Applied Behavioral Science from UC Davis. She earned credentials in professional and preliminary administrative services, and pupil personnel services – school psychology and basic authorization.</p>				

First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Nancy	Burns	President	M.S.	
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
National Federation for the Blind of CA		Groups that advocate for the teaching of braille		South
<b>Summary</b>				
<p>She has a full-time volunteer position overseeing the CA affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. She also served as the sole proprietor of Creating Options, a home-based consulting firm for blind and visually impaired clients. In addition, she was a rehabilitation counselor for the blind at the CA State Department of Rehabilitation. She received a M.S. from St. Mary's College, and a B.A. from San Francisco State.</p>				

First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Sue	Douglass	IV Teacher	M.S.	Counseling
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
Castro Valley Unifed School District		Teachers of visually impaired pupils		North
<b>Summary</b>				
<p>She is a teacher of the visually impaired with assignments that have include resource teaching, infant through high school, and itinerant teaching, age 3-21. Her current assignment is preschool Visually Impaired-Special Day Class (VI-SDC) and middle school VI-SDC. She was a lecturer at San Francisco State University, Department of Special Education, Program in Visual Impairments. In addition, she served as a member of the Blindness Advisory Task Force, 2001-02, and Advisory Committee for Program in Visual Impairments, 1999-2003. She received a M.S. in counseling and pupil personnel services credential from CSU Hayward, and a A.B. in biological science from UC Davis. She has a specialist credential in physically handicapped-visually handicapped from San Francisco State.</p>				

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<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Highest Degree Area</b>	<b>Degree Area</b>
Joy	Efron	Coordinating Principal	Ed.D.	Educational Administration
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
Frances Blend School, LAUSD, Programs for Students with Visual Impairment		Braille experts		South
<b>Summary</b>				
For the past 11 years, she has been the coordinating principal at Frances Blend School and Visually Impaired, LAUSD. She is responsible for administration, supervision, coordination, and instructional leadership of special elementary school (infant thru grade six) for visually impaired students and multi-handicapped students; 22 resource rooms in regular elementary, junior, and senior high schools; itinerant program serving students in 270 schools; and orientation and mobility instruction. She is affiliated with many professional organizations including the Educational Services Advisory Committee and Program Review Committee, Braille Institute; and Advisory Committee, Division of Special Education at CSU Los Angeles. She has also done numerous staff development presentation for LAUSD. She received a Ed.D. in educational administration from Brigham Young University, a M.A. in special education for the deaf and hard of hearing from CSU Los Angeles, and a B.A. in special education from Michigan State University.				

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Highest Degree Area</b>	<b>Degree Area</b>
Caroline	Round	VI Teacher	B.S.	Sociology/Social Work
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
San Bernardino Co. Superintendent of Schools		Teachers of the visually impaired		South
<b>Summary</b>				
She is a teacher of the visually impaired in an SDC classroom. She currently serves as the second vice-president for the National Federation of the Blind of CA and the President for the National Federation of the Blind, High Desert Chapter. She received a B.S. in sociology/social work from CSU San Bernardino, and clear and preliminary multiple subjects credential from Chapman University. She is currently working on her teaching credential in teacher of the visually impaired.				

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First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Sharon	Zell-Sacks	Professor	Ph.D.	Special Education
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
CSU Los Angeles, Division of Special Education, VI Program		Researchers in the field of visual impairment		South
<b>Summary</b>				
She is a professor of special education at CSU Los Angeles. Prior to this, she was the assistant superintendent for the CA School for the Blind. Her collegiate/school partnerships include the CDE Blindness Advisory Task Force, CA School for the Blind, and Blind Babies Foundation. She also has many professional and academic association memberships including the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Council for Exceptional Children, CA Transcribers and Educators of the Visually Impaired, and Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps. She has authored many books and articles on visual impairment and blindness. She received her Ph.D. in special education from UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University, a M.A. in special education from San Francisco State, and a B.A. in psychology from San Jose State.				

First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Donna	Sexton	President		
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
CA Chapter Parents of Blind Children		Parents of visually impaired pupils		North
<b>Summary</b>				
She is the parent of a blind child. She is the President for the CA Chapter Parents of Blind Children and a counselor for Orientation Center for the Blind.				

First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Cathy	Skivers	Past President		
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
CA Council of the Blind		Groups that advocate for the teaching of braille		North
<b>Summary</b>				
She is the past President for the CA Council of the Blind.				

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First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Leslie	Thom	Consumer/Parent of a blind student	B.A.	Psychology
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
		Parents of visually impaired pupils		North
<b>Summary</b>				
She is the parent of a blind child. She is a member of the In Home Supportive Services Task Force and Low Incidence of Disability Advisory Committee. She also served as a member of the CA Blindness Advisory Task Force and the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, County of Sacramento. For the past 11 years, she has been a member of the CA Council for the Blind. She received her B.A. in psychology from San Francisco State University.				

First Name	Last Name	Title	Highest Degree Area	Degree Area
Stuart	Wittenstein	Superintendent	Ed.D.	Education of Blind & Visually Impaired
<b>Organization Name</b>		<b>Representing Group</b>		<b>Geography</b>
CA School for the Blind		Braille expert		North
<b>Summary</b>				
For the past 7 years, he has been the Superintendent at the CA School for the Blind in Fremont. Prior to this, he was the principal at St. Joseph's School for the Blind in New Jersey. He received the Commendation for Leadership in Braille Literacy from the National Federation of the Blind of CA (1997). He served as past president and president for the Council for Exceptional Children, Division on Visual Impairments and is affiliated with many other organizations including the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education, CA Transcribers, Educators of the Visually Handicapped, Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, and American Printing House for the Blind. He received his Ed.D. in education of blind and visually impaired and Ed.M. in administration/special education from Teachers College, Columbia University; a M.S.Ed. in education of mentally retarded from City College of New York; and a B.A. in English/secondary education from S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo.				