

**State PTA Legislation Conference: February 22- 24, 2009
Sacramento, California**

Total Attendees from around the State: 115

Capistrano Unified Council PTSA Attendees:

Kim Anderson: CUCPTSA Legislative Chair
Dana Hills HS & Niguel Hills MS Legislative Chair
Kathy Fischer: CUCPTSA State Legislative Chair
Aliso Niguel HS Legislative Chair
Alli Maier: Marco Forster MS Legislative Chair
Malcom Elementary Legislative Chair

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009 – Embassy Suites Hotel

Kevin Gordon - President, School Innovations & Advocacy

Report by: Alli Maier & Kathy Fischer

- ❖ The Republicans proposed a resolution, at their convention, to apologize to Gray Davis for recalling him in light of who they have as a Gov. now & what he's doing. .
- ❖ In September, the legislature passed the latest budget in State history. They now just followed that by passing the earliest budget (in February) in State history.
- ❖ Re: depth of cuts & what that means to education. Response from the top: We had no choice.
- ❖ Democrats' script: Education is the number 1 priority and they hate the cuts, but are thankful for additional revenue through increased taxes.
- ❖ Republicans' script: The budget is a mess, but they were able to include flexibility for education spending.
- ❖ **PTA needs to be heard.** The legislature has not been hearing a lot "from the field".
- ❖ **Figures on cuts vary widely.** \$14 billion amount incorporates program reductions and lost COLA for 2007/08 through 2009/10. Figure of \$5.6 billion includes only program cuts
- ❖ K-12 education totals about 60% of all the cuts. It's so big because Prop 98 allowed for that. In 1990, CA & the Education Community modified Prop 98 for it to go down in bad economic times – with the hope that lawmakers would have a conscience about this. We have no COLA or enrollment growth, which is unheard of.
- ❖ The Stimulus package is one-time money only, but mitigates the #1 enemy in the budget cycle in terms of education: timing (read: mid-year cuts). We have cut \$5.6 billion mid-year & the stimulus package won't help that.
- ❖ Proposition 1A is the Spending Cap. A 10-year rolling average of revenue will be used and 2% over that will be set aside in a "Rainy Day Fund" of 12.5% of budget. Proposition 98 funding will "ride above" the cap.
- ❖ Proposition 1B is designed to restore \$9 billion to Prop 98's minimum guarantee or maintenance factor that has been lost due to a downturn in revenue since the 2006/07 fiscal year. Prop 98 does not have literal language for payback of maintenance factor under Test 1 so Prop 1B allows for repayment under the spirit of Prop 98.
- ❖ Proposition 1C is the Lottery Securitization Measure which would take K-14 out of the Lottery and build the 1.5% funding from the Lottery into Proposition 98. Without this measure, the State will lose \$5 billion in planned revenue from the 2009/10 budget. CSBA opposes this proposition.

Talking Points with legislators:

- ❖ We need to ask our legislators if there is a threshold below which you will not support any more cuts to education. In addition, how are you going to solve this problem?
- ❖ There are 6 million kids in public schools in CA – it costs \$3 billion just to fund a 1% COLA. When talking to the Reaps: for arguments sake, let's just use your numbers...the cuts are still inexcusable. What does it take to not be at the bottom? Cutting schools by \$8 billion, (the Gov & Leg #) is not going in the right direction.
- ❖ What does it take to have the best schools in the nation?
- ❖ **The seed to plant is: HOW CAN WE TURN THIS AROUND??**
- ❖ If this budget becomes unstable or we have a protracted bad economic cycle, how do we prevent you all from taking another bite out of the apple? The next round of cuts is shutting down schools. How can we do that and stay competitive in a global economy?
- ❖ How are we going to close the achievement gap & improve our education standards when schools are being bled dry?

Budget Nuances:

- In an effort to get a spending cap in place, they took Prop 98 out of it. They've exempted schools.
- Prop 1B – a measure that would pay us back (maintenance factor amount) over time \$9.3 billion. The trigger language in Prop 98 says that in Test 1, you don't have to pay back the money in a transitional year from a bad economy to good, so Prop 1B is going to instead.
- Lottery: CSBA opposes, as it is the most regressive way to raise money by hitting up the poor to buy lottery tickets.
- Ancillary pieces of budget details are still being worked out, but the Budget Act has been passed.
- Sen. Abel Maldonado carved out \$1.8 billion in tax increases out of the budget & the personal income tax loophole. He got the Open Primary concept on the ballot which moves us to a less polarized legislature (our biggest problem), but it's not effective until 2010 – there's no special election for the 2010 ballot & that's when he wants to run for Lt. Gov. The Open Primary will marginalize all third party candidates.
- New budget has a 30% cut across almost all categoricals.
- Test 2 & 3 are predicated on revenue received the prior year whereas Test 1 is roughly a straight 40% of the general fund – a gross dollar calculation, but also an approximation of projected growth on raised revenue projections.

Round Robin...PTA Priority Issues – Small Group Discussions

Report by: Kim Anderson & Kathy Fischer

In small groups, we discussed six areas of issues: Parent involvement, education advocacy, arts education and P.E., community concerns, children's health, and federal issues. State PTA officers and commission chairs presented information and answered questions.

- Parent Involvement:
 - SCA 6 -Simitian. Would reduce parcel tax vote threshold to a 55% supermajority from current 2/3. PTA has taken a SUPPORT position
 - School Readiness – no bill yet
 - AB12 – Beal –PTA has SUPPORT position

- PTA is looking at legislation related to teen suicide as well as working with other statewide groups that deal with parents and families.
 - Outreach to dads
 - Helping families of Special Education students
 - Diversity outreach
 - School Readiness
 - Foster Youth
- Education:
 - AB 8 – Brownley: Restructuring of School Finance. PTA SUPPORTS
 - AB 60 – Coto : Weighted student formula
 - SR 14: Teen driving safety
 - AB 97 – Torlakson Academic Content standards – 32 states have a timeline for review of standards. California has the standards but not a review process. AB 97 addresses this gap. PTA SUPPORTS
 - Accountability & Assessment – CALPADS data system. PTA strongly supports.

Due to the amount of time and energy spent on the budget, the number of other bills is way down this year

- Arts Education & P.E. Issues:
 - PTA believes in educating the whole child.
 - Art is an teaching strategy
 - Art and/or P.E. may work more effectively for the non-traditional student.
 - Career Tech Ed is still at the local level
 - IDEA funding is due to increase from 19% to 27% thanks to the Federal Stimulus package.
- Community Concerns:
 - Teen driving. PTA lacks resolutions on this topic. Concerns are in parent and teen awareness of driving laws and safety. Only 23% of schools offer driver's education and only 5% of schools offer driver's training (behind the wheel).
 - Environmental education. PTA wants to emphasize ecology and the environment. CAPTA has a "green" page
- Health:
 - The federal government passed and President Obama signed the SCHIP bill providing funding for children's health care
 - SB 1 – Steinberg: Healthcare for kids. PTA SUPPORTS
 - AB 95 -Torlakson: urgency bill for increased funding for free and reduced lunches.
 - AR 5 – Torlakson: makes May physical fitness month
 - There is concern about cutting recess and P.E. in order to lower the number of minutes in school.
 - Chronic disease in children. Today's children may not live as long as their parents. This is the first generation for which this would be the case.
 - Increasing number of children developing asthma – especially in urban areas
 - Increased obesity is leading to more cases of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease in children.
 - **Oral Health. Tooth decay is one of the fastest growing problems** in children and leads to other, more serious health concerns and sometimes death.
 - **If kids are not healthy, they cannot learn.**

- Federal Issues:
 - PTA legislative reps are encouraged to review PTA advocacy materials on the national website along with visiting related websites.
 - When wanting to communicate with a legislator, fax and then follow-up with a phone call.
 - National PTA has a new federal policy update started in December. Sign up at www.pta.org
 - NCLB probably won't get reauthorized until 2010

Mary Perry – Deputy Director, EdSource

Report by: Kathy Fischer

- EdSource was formed 32 years ago by California State PTA, League of Women Voters of California, and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to clarify complex education issues and to promote thoughtful policy decisions about public school improvement.
- “Can we make lemonade out of these lemons” referring to the newly passed budget.
- This new budget affects the classroom.
- PTA is crucial in dispersing information and creating synergy for education advocacy.
- California has the largest school system of any state by 1/3.
 - ✓ 1 of every 8 K-12 students in the U.S. goes to school in California
 - ✓ 1,000 school districts – 10,000 schools – 6,000,000 students
 - ✓ 50% of school districts have less than 1,000 students.
- Achievement is improving for all students in California
- More high school students are taking higher levels of math and science.
- 9/10 pass the CAHSEE
- However, more resources are need for higher need students
- CALPADS will provide data that will tell educators what types of classes and programs work for students.
- 85% of school district costs are personnel.
- Teachers in California have a higher workload compared to teachers in other states.
- It is unclear where the Federal Stimulus dollars for Education will go – state, county, school district, etc.
- Proposition 13 took away the ability for local districts to raise funds through additional property tax assessments. Parcel taxes must be passed by the voters with a 2/3 margin in order for school districts to increase local funds to education.
- There is confusion over the amount of money being cut in Education by the state. It is more relevant to look at your local district. Every district will be different due to size, revenue limit, categorical funding, etc.
- The special election in May includes measures directly related to revenue for the newly passed budget.
- Final recommendation – Switch advocacy emphasis from Sacramento to the local school board. Categorical flexibility gives local boards more authority to move money in the budget.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009 – State Capitol

Key Legislative & Policy Issue Overview and 2009-10 State Budget

Jean Ross, Director of California Budget project

Rachel Ehlers, LAO

Mike Genest, Department of Finance

Report by: Alli Maier

Mike Genest, Dept. of Finance

- ❖ Strange budget year for many reasons: Gov signed last year's budget for this year in September. Now we have next years budget in record time – earliest to date by about 4-5 months because we're about to go over the fiscal cliff. We were going to have to shut down 276 projects even though it costs more to do that because we're so low on cash. \$3-4 billion in bills were going to not be paid per month. We were looking at \$12 billion worth of bills to pay in July with only \$2 billion to pay it with. States & school districts can't claim bankruptcy. We couldn't wait. The necessity of early action in order to get laws in place to increase taxes & cut program levels. Now we've got this budget in place – we have a \$41.6 billion shortfall, an 18-month problem, by the end of June 30th next year we'd be \$41.6 in the hole, so we reduced general fund spending. We did this by \$12.5 billion in tax increases. We think we'll get around \$7.9 billion in federal stimulus. We put trigger cuts & taxes in place predicated on how much federal stimulus money we get. We also did \$5.4 billion in borrowing through the lottery by taking the lottery revenue for education & building in into Prop 98 permanently.
- ❖ Prop 98 has been good for education. Hasn't grown much this year. The formula magnified the revenue shortfall & it took \$7.4 billion off the revenue guarantee for Prop 98 – had to fund it a minimum guarantee. We'll put that money back into Prop 98 by structuring a proposal to return the money over time through budget reform with a rainy day fund. Education is protected by budget reform because 15% of revenues will go into the rainy day fund to be gradually built back into education (@ \$8.3 billion).
- ❖ The Gov's approach is a 4-legged stool concept to solve the budget problem:
 1. Spending Cuts
 2. Tax increases
 3. Budget/Categorical reform
 4. Stimulus proposals to regenerate the economy.
- ❖ Even though it's the most historical budget in terms of earliness, we're still going to have to delay payments & income tax returns for several months to come.
- ❖ Response to 2/3 vote (on the budget) idea: It has to go to the ballot & requires a 2/3's vote in the legislature to even get it on the ballot. Tom McClintock always supported it & he was one of the most conservative. The budget is the most important piece of legislation, so a super majority might be a good idea.

Rachel Ehlers, Legislative Analysts Office

- ❖ What does this budget mean for K-12?
- ❖ 3 main points: 1. Reductions are big for districts & we'll feel them in the classroom. \$7.4 billion reduced in the current year to Prop 98, but backfilled with other funding sources, so only translates to an actual amount of \$2.3 billion. 2. The way the legislature chose to make those reductions were through revenue limits & categoricals – ½ & ½. Revenue limits are distributed equally across the state & categoricals are distributed differently across the state – some are protected & not reduced (i.e. CSR). 3. Policy perspective – changes to

categorical programs moving forward for the next 5 years @ 33 programs affected. Districts will be able to spend the money how they want (see list).

- ❖ 6 propositions are going to the ballot in May. 3 implicate education – one of which will put the \$9.3 billion back into education.
- ❖ The Gov. proposes to suspend mandates since they lost the court case saying that gov't. can't force us to pay for mandated programs that gov't. won't fund.
- ❖ Re CSR: districts still opt in & get money from the state with flexibility to go up to 25 students per class & still get some money from the state – but a lesser amount. This has been relaxed – whereas before if you hit 22:1 you lost your CSR funding.

Jean Ross, Director, California Budget Project

- ❖ She agrees with Mike Genest, it is a very strange budget year.
- ❖ What does this mean for us now & going forward?
- ❖ What concerns her most is that this budget plan had no opportunity for public participation, no subcommittee or policy hearings on important points due to the unfolding financial crisis.
- ❖ This sets us up for deeper budget problems in future years.
- ❖ This is a budget package that targets middle to lower-middle class with potential policy changes & problems.
- ❖ Re constitutional amendment changes: there are so many of them & they either never are implemented or have a chance to work given the period.
- ❖ This new proposal takes 3% off the top of the budget to put in a rainy day fund. The problem is that the 3% taken off the top is structurally imbalanced – we don't have that money without having to cut deeper. We're not starting with a budget that's in alignment.
- ❖ The way it's structured is a linear regression formula for pulling money out of the rainy day fund that's tied to a spending cap adjusted for inflation & personal income & a lower growth factor that drives it.
- ❖ It aims to take this period of time & other bad budget years as the baseline to establish the right levels of spending to project growth.
- ❖ Lottery: Prop 58 limits the borrowing we can do. It's a good proposal for education – bad for the rest of the budget (the non-98 side) because it'll cost them @ \$1 billion p/year.
- ❖ It's a bad budget - \$1.5 billion tax cut that is permanent with no public discussion. It's a complicated tax cut for only Ca's largest corporation on top of a \$1 billion tax cut for corporations in general. We've dug a deeper hole with these revisions & they're permanent cuts. She's deeply concerned that this has set us up for future red ink.

Invited but unable to attend: Mike Villines, Assembly Minority Leader (R) and Senator Mark Wyland (R)

Senator Gloria Romero (D)
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Report by: Kathy Fischer

Gloria Romero ...

- Our schools cannot succeed without parents on board.

- The government cannot continue to cut education.
- Sacramento has micromanaged schools and districts. She would like to see the Department of Education decentralized. Districts need more flexibility.
- We mandate compliance versus achievement.
- Would like to see a change in the parcel tax threshold.
- “If we do not educate, we will incarcerate.” We spend \$43,000 per year on an adult prisoner and \$200,000 on a juvenile offender.
- We need to close the achievement gap and spend dollars in a different ways.

**Assembly Member Julia Brownley (D)
Chair, Assembly Education Committee**

Report by: Kathy Fischer

- We need to develop a plan for investment in education. We have plans for global warming and health care, but education is “not being wrestled with to the same degree”.
- We need to spend more on education rather than prisons. The issue of education needs to be first and loudest.
- We need to look at reforming the tax structure. Maybe voters will finally “get” the impacts of Prop 13.
- AB 8 (Brownley) is designed to look at education finance reform. Only a few people know and understand how dollars are distributed. The local district has to trust Sacramento that they have received all they are entitled to. A simpler plan would be to have money follow the student.
- Local decision-making should involve parents.

Assembly member Roger Niello (R) – Vice Chair, Budget Committee

Report by: Kim Anderson

- Had two goals when he joined the legislature: to learn how to play the oboe and to understand Prop 98. He has yet to pick up the oboe, but understands that better than Prop 98!
- Republicans believe things will get worse financially and that we will see a May/June Revise that has an additional deficit.
- Other things that can be done that do not include additional revenues and he intends to get started on those things this week.
- Protecting education in this budget was a priority for both sides. Ended up with programmatic cuts of \$2.3 billion and rest consisted of settle up, deferrals etc.
- Prop 98’s Test 1 is silent about maintenance factor so they agreed to put it to voters to be paid back in future years.
- Hoping that cuts to school districts will be manageable with the categorical flexibility that was provided, although he would have liked even more. Schools need flexibility to do things most cost effectively.
- He believes in local control and dislikes way Sacramento wants to micromanage school districts.
- Frustrating that schools can’t contract out to outside companies if it would be less expensive.
- Not in favor of reducing vote threshold on parcel taxes from current 2/3 to 55% supermajority.

Assemblymember Joan Buchanan (D - San Ramon/Alamo)

Report by: Kathy Fischer

A/M Buchanan sits on the Assembly Education Committee. Before joining the Assembly spent nearly 20 years on the San Ramon Valley School Board including 4 terms as president. Democrat Buchanan won election in November, 2008 to fill Republican Guy Houston's Assembly seat in the 15th district. Her comments to the PTA Legislative Conference attendees included the following:

- Governor Earl Warren (1943-1953) stressed the building of infrastructure and programs for California's K-12 public education system.
- Under Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Sr. (1959-1967), the University of California and California State University grew.
- California invested in education 50 years ago and the state was 5th in the nation.
- Over the last 20 years we have privatized education. Athletics are gone; college tuition, books, room and board are increasing in cost; post-baccalaureate degrees are even more expensive. There are not enough slots to accommodate students who want to enter fields such as nursing and medicine.
- A/M Buchanan wants to see California return to the years when it invested in education.
- The Education Coalition lost momentum when everyone went on summer vacation last June. PTA, and other coalition members, needs to continue its advocacy efforts.
- PTA must make education "real" to legislators and "put a face on it". Legislators are too far removed from constituents. They don't look us in the eye.

Senator Mark Leno (D) – San Francisco

Report by: Kim Anderson

- Big fan of PTA!
- Achievement gap is a big issue as it's tied in to overall health & well-being of children.
- **500,000 kids miss 1 day of school per year due to tooth decay.** These kids are not going to a dentist - EVER.
- Imperative that we invest in preventive care.
- He is authoring a single payer universal healthcare reform bill. Governor Schwarzenegger has vetoed something similar twice and is likely to do so again
- California is the only state in the nation to put this kind of a bill on a Governor's desk.
- A single payer system keeps private health care coverage private and keeps Medicare & Medicaid government paid. What changes is who pays. 1/3 of healthcare costs go to administration and insurance companies.
- This is probably the fastest growing social movement today.

Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff to Assembly Speaker, Karen Bass

Report by: Alli Maier

- ❖ ACA 2 = Prop 1B: We've reduced Prop 98 funding (@ \$9.3 billion) over the last couple of years. In the 08/09 budget, it is about \$2.3 billion. You'll hear larger numbers, but that's

including gimmicks. 09/10 budget is the earliest budget in CA's history. Has basically level, flat money for education, same as 08/09 budget numbers.

- ❖ The Cuts. Permanent or temporary? Temporary & in order to make that a reality we're putting it on the ballot (Prop 1B). Starting in 2011/2012, we'll start restoring the money back to the school funding base over the next 5 years. The first \$200 million will go to Equalization.
- ❖ Prop 1A – Spending cap. A variation on the rainy day fund measure. The rainy day fund bucket is 12.5%. 3% is the amount of our revenues we put in the bucket. To pay off \$9.3 billion, we put 3% in on 9/23 then on 10/1; we take \$1.5 billion out to pay off Prop 98 obligation or the “maintenance factor,” but is called the “supplemental education payment. Last September we increased the size to 3% with 1.5% going to fulfilling Prop 98 obligations first. In the event of surprise revenue, some of that would also be put in. Money over the revenue trend line will go into the rainy day fund once we've fulfilled the obligations to Prop 98 first. It levels out the peaks & valleys. An ongoing spending obligation when we have drops in revenues is our problem. This measure smoothes out the rollercoaster. If we want to expand education based on GDTF or Healthcare or Human Services, then we need more revenue. What it does not do (Prop 1A) is it doesn't ratchet down the size of government, nor does it restrict our ability or limitation to spend revenues – additional revenue by tax increases. To quote the great English philosopher, Mick Jagger, “You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you just might find you get what you need.”
- ❖ This budget was even harder than in 1992, and in doing 32 budgets, he didn't think it could get any tougher. We had to make choices that made it tough to sleep at night on both sides of the aisle.
- ❖ We haven't fixed the structural budget gap. We've bought ourselves another 4-5 years to figure something out. We're going to have to reconcile the fact that you can't spend more than you raise. We need to have a thoughtful discussion on both sides to figure that out. Our demand for government services exceeds supply. We've been robbing Peter to pay Paul for quite some time. We haven't set the stage for the long term yet. We need to make personal income tax more stable – have to shift from upper end to middle class (stable, salaried employees versus the volatility in income with the upper class).
- ❖ What does he foresee happening in May relative to the public not going for the lottery measure & revenues coming in lower than anticipated? We're funding Prop 98 at a minimum now – we'd have to suspend it. If the lottery measure fails, then we've got a big problem. The lottery measure increases Prop 98 by the incoming amount of lottery proceeds & making it permanent funding. We're trading off the increase in potential lottery money for education for stability.

Legislator Meetings

Report by: Kathy Fischer

We had meetings with three legislative offices – Diane Harkey, Mimi Walters, Chuck DeVore. Pat Dingsdale and Paul Richman from State PTA joined us for the meeting in Sen. Walters' office. Here are some highlights.

Assemblymember Diane Harkey

- The last few weeks attempting to pass the budget were tough. The lockdown was a surprise.
- The Republican caucus was not told how to vote. The deal was presented by the leaders and members made their own decisions.

- The delay in county payments from the state was a big consideration in wanting to make a budget deal and get the budget passed.
- There is a philosophical difference between Democrats and Republicans as well as a difference in constituent base.
- A/M Harkey is in favor of holding forums out in the districts to talk with voters about the budget and other issues. People are justifiably concerned about tax increases.
- Republicans hope that the flexibility in categorical spending will be good for education and that over time teachers and administrators will like the changes.
- The additional money proposed for Equalization came from Dave Cogdill.
- A/M Harkey does not support lowering the parcel tax threshold believing that it leaves big cities in charge of votes. She thinks it is a bad deal for taxpayers.
- Her goals include leveling out the revenue stream for the state; tax code restructuring; and local control for school districts, cities, etc.

Senator Mimi Walters and Chief of Staff Gina Zari

- This meeting included Pat Dingsdale and Paul Richman from State PTA
- Sen. Walters believes that flexibility is a good thing for school districts.
- She likes the spending cap for budgets proposed under Proposition 1A.
- She does not support SCA 6 to lower the parcel tax threshold. She sees the current 2/3 vote as a “checks and balances.”
- She does believe that there is waste in education and wants to see school districts reduce waste and overspending.
- Contracting out for services is important tool for cutting costs. PTA does not take a position on this issue because it involves union contracts.
- There was discussion regarding the relationship of PTA to CTA and other members of the Education Coalition.
- PTA does not always agree with CTA and always looks at both parties when it comes to legislation.
- PTA is only interested in what is best for kids. PTA does not enter into discussions and action revolving around union contracts of teachers or staff.
- Sen. Walters recommends that PTA reinforce its separation from CTA as an independent organization and publicize those instances where it takes a stand separate from CTA.
- PTA wants “a seat at the table” of the Education Coalition in order to have a hand in shaping policy and uniting with them on issues of importance to children.

Kevin Eastman, Legislative Aide to Assemblymember Chuck DeVore

- Mr. Eastman is new to Mr. DeVore’s office. We discussed our activities as a Legislative Team and reinforced that we appreciated the relationship we have with Assemblymember DeVore.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009 – Embassy Suites Hotel

Dr. John Rogers, Associate Professor, UCLA
“Education Reform”
 Report by: Alli Maier

- ❖ CA Educational Opportunity Report addressing the Achievement Gap
- ❖ Education in hard times: if we go back in history to The Depression, the first thing that went was upkeep in schools. The second thing was a gradual cutback in programs & the third was core area cuts. History repeats itself & the public responds with anger at the undermining of our democracy.
- ❖ In 1932, John Dewey, a well-known philosopher, explained that we need economic literacy to be able to transform our schools.
- ❖ CA didn't have the resources to provide adequate education even before the budget & education deficits.
- ❖ The data before the cuts, compared to other states & put together by focus groups of parents across the state ranked CA 47-48 (by the National Association of Education Progress Report) – broken down by demographics (non-poor vs. poor).
- ❖ Another indicator is how we're inspiring students to move on to college – creating a pathway to higher Ed.
- ❖ In terms of skill sets needed for CA jobs: given the current education trends, there's going to be a problem filling higher-level jobs that require higher education. The demands of our economy will not be met with the way education is trending today.
- ❖ Demographics – we want powerful, engaged adults out of our children. Latino's are the highest demographic w/@ 71.4% qualifying for free & reduced lunches.
- ❖ Racial Segregation ties into the data as well. CA lacks basic, sound infrastructure fundamentals. Race & class are increasingly segregating us. We're overcrowded & deemed so. Overcrowding correlates directly with the percentage of underrepresented students.
- ❖ In High Schools, there is a lack of Counselors. We're nationally ranked 49th (2nd to last w/Ohio being below us) in H.S. counselor to student ratio.
- ❖ Overcrowding profoundly plays out in our classrooms. Teachers in middle schools have over 50% more students than any other schools nationally. High school classrooms are larger than anywhere else is in the nation.
- ❖ Teacher Qualification: the distribution of underprepared students continues to be a problem. Teacher's need not just a basic credential but also a subject matter training credential as well. Access to qualified teachers is critical – access to college prep classes is crucial. Racial composition plays into this.
- ❖ NCLB & Accountability: Racial composition & "P.I." status are correlated. The situation is likely to get worse. NCLB in CA is a little like the real estate situation in CA – the balloon payment is about to hit. The proportion of students that need to reach proficiency is going to increase substantially. ¼ of CA middle schools in 2008/09 are in P.I., 4 or 5 should not legally exist in NCLB terms. The system demands dramatic action & we're continuing to move in this direction. The reality & the law don't come together in this situation.
- ❖ There's a sense of a lost Golden Age in CA. Those who have been lucky need to be open to some of the deep thinking needed. Some parents have developed strategies: moving to certain areas, driving across town, struggling to help kids in an under-resourced & uneven school system. We spend \$0.77 on the dollar (accounting for COLA) less – or \$2,000 less per student than the national average. We spend \$0.57 less on the dollar compared with New York & we're about to cut \$0.23 off that.
- ❖ Access to quality education should not turn on luck, wealth, or personal sacrifice.
- ❖ Access to reliable data is a first step. EdOpp.org "Data for Democracy" on the Publications List. Sign up for the Daily News Roundup.

Jose Ortega – Manager, P-16 Council, California Dept of Ed
April Treece – Project Director, Contra Costa Economic Partnership

“Reforms to Address the Achievement Gap”

Report by: Kim Anderson

Jose Ortega – Manager, P-16 Council, California Dept of Ed

- P-16’s charge was to address the achievement gap and high school reform
- State needs to share best practices around the state.
- ***Achievement gap begins in pre-school and persists all the way through community college.***
- Developed 14 recommendations and are further along with some than others.
- Any idea that takes money will go nowhere at the moment.

April Treece – Project Director, Contra Costa Economic Partnership

- Important that schools make kids ready for college or workplace.
- Schools should look at local industries as their partners.
- Try and use industry in ways to link students to what real jobs are like.
- ***Contrast between pace of high schoolers lives (very fast) compared with classroom pace (very slow).***
- Industry wants to see a return on investment.
- ***Need a qualified workforce pipeline from our schools.***

Jo Loss – CAPTA, President-Elect

- Have to address both academic and non-academic issues. ***Poverty, community, parents and healthcare all affect student learning.***
- PTA put on full out campaign about importance of having kids at school every day. Poor attendance in Kindergarten leads to failure by 5th grade.
- Make sure we do things in a culturally/linguistically appropriate way.
- No-one is better connected to our communities than PTA parents.

“Education Reform & Data”

Brad Strong, Education Director, *Children Now*

Rick Miller, Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education

Pam Brady, President, California State PTA

Report by: Kathy Fischer

- In 2009 we care about data. Data provides information to make informed decisions.
- Data informs policy and practice
- CSIS was the first statewide data system, but was voluntary.
- Today, all students have a identification number and, through CALPADS, can be tracked as they move through education.
- Unfortunately, CALPADS is limited to the information required by NCLB. It needs to be expanded over time.
- Test scores, drop out rates, courses taken and completed, remediation rates and success are all areas that can be examined through a data system.

- Data can be predictive. There are indicators from 4th grade that can predict success or failure on the CAHSEE. Therefore, remediation and intervention can start earlier as a result of using data effectively.
- For the first time this past spring, the Department of Education was able to produce a report of drop-out rates and now can trace students who transfer to another district and insure that they make it to their new school.
- It is important to make the CALPADS system less negative and punitive. The positive aspects and the value of data need to be stressed.
- Data should help kids in a timely manner.
- Data should be accessible to and understandable by parents.
- The most important question is “What does the student know?” Data should improve student success.
- Public Education is the great equalizer and cornerstone to democracy.
- PTA should help schools use data to reach out to pre-schools and colleges thereby connecting all levels of education to encourage student success.
- Peel back the data to see faces, not numbers – Pam Brady

John Mockler – Author of Prop 98 and Secretary, EdSource

Report by: Kim Anderson

Shared a lot of data with us about how schools have changed, and improved in many ways, over the last 25 years (2005 compared to 1980)...

- CA has experienced a 53% increase in # of students its public schools are educating from 25 years ago.
- Ethnic composition of our students today is different too:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|
| ➤ Latinos | + 187% | 3,004,000 |
| ➤ African Americans | + 24% | 495,000 |
| ➤ Asian Americans | +133% | 517,000 |
| ➤ White | - 17% | 1,195,000 |
- English Language learners have increased by 382% to 1.5 million, which represents 25% of all the kids in school.
- Special Education students have increased by 89% to 683,000, which represents 11% of all the kids in school.
- CA has a 1:26 ratio of administrators to teachers, drivers and others servicing our schools, which is very low.
- CA has 68 staff per 1,000 students vs national average of 90. We rank 50th out of 50 in staff-to-student ratios.
- A typical American school has:
 - 30% MORE teachers than CA
 - 61% MORE school site administrators
 - 92% MORE counselors
- In per student spending CA ranked:
 - 1972 - 19th in the nation
 - 1985 – 26th
 - 2005 – 34th

We spend \$1,000 less per child than national average = \$25,000 less per Classroom

- Our commitment to schools has declined and we are spending less personal income now than we used to:
 - 1972 – 5.6%

➤ 2005 – 4.4%

- **If we spent the same personal income percentage today as we used to, that would be another \$26 billion on education.**
- 1st decile students in 1999 are now scoring at the 5th decile level – which is a huge leap forward.
- From 2003 to 2007, scores have improved dramatically in the Proficient & Above proficient level for “All Students” :

Reading + 31% (includes massive increases across all ethnicities & Special Ed)

Math + 23% “ “ “ “ “ “ “

- California secondary students are taking 40% more college-bound courses than 5 years ago and the number who are proficient is growing.
- Latino students in last 5 years have made huge gains in reading proficiency:
 - Grade 2 + 57%
 - Grade 4 + 75%
 - Grade 5 + 70%
 - Grade 8 + 106%
 - Grade 11 + 38%

40% of these students are ELL and the population increase was only 4% over same period of time.

- **If a student does not score proficient or above proficient in Algebra 1 in 8th or 9th grade, they probably will not go to a 4 year college.**
- Latino students tend to improve generationally which is not true of African Americans.
- CAHSEE – Class of 2007

| | Passing English | Passing Math |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| All students | 96% | 95.6% |
| Latino | 92.7% | 92.8% |
| Asian | 96.9% | 99.1% |
| African American | 95.1% | 90.5% |
| ELL | 83% | 87% |
| White | 99.5% | 97.3% |

- Now through the next 5 years:
 - Education just received a \$14 billion cut if you include COLA
 - Dept of Finance said \$9.4 billion was not owed to education – PTA and others fought back. End result – will be on May 19 ballot.
 - The legislature passed a budget that is contingent on the voters passing propositions on the ballot.
 - Three propositions on the ballot affect education:
 1. Lottery – this will eliminate education’s reliance on the lottery and those funds will be replaced with General Fund dollars
 2. Budget Stabilization Act – a spending cap that protects education and does not take from the non-98 side.
 3. Repayment of the \$9.4 billion maintenance factor over 7 years starting in 2011-12.