

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY from California Adventure – May 26 & 27, 2009

By: Lori Abbott – CUCPTSA California Adventure Chair

27 schools were represented:

5 High Schools – Aliso Niguel, Dana Hills, San Clemente, San Juan Hills, & Tesoro

6 Middle Schools – Arroyo Vista, Marco Forster, Las Flores, Newhart,
Niguel Hills, & Shorecliffs

16 Elementary Schools – Arroyo Vista, Bergeson, Castille, Chaparral, Ladera Ranch,
Las Flores, Las Palmas, Clarence Lobo, Malcom, Marblehead, Moulton, Oso Grande,
Palisades, San Juan, Wagon Wheel, & George White

29 Attendees:

24 Legislative Chairs; 1 CUCPTSA Legislative Chair; 1 PTA President;
1 CUCPTSA member; 1 unit EVP; & 1 CA Adventure Chair

Kim Anderson – CUCPTSA Legislative Chair

Lori Abbott; Kara Ahmann; Marilyn Amato; Becky Butler; Ankie Camacho; Carla Crehin;
Ingrin Currie; Sue Dennis; Kathy Fischer; Linda Fong; Jodie Goodwin; Gail Grigaux;
Christine Kerst; Erin Kutnick; Maureen Lynds; Alli Maier; Laurie Masotto; Kathy Masters;
Trish McCauley; Lori McClaskey; Julie Psocka; Lisa Scharmann; Fran Sdao;
Kathy Spencer; Cheryl Stein; Kathi Thomas; Dawn Urbanek; Julia Walsh

Held a total of 16 meetings with 24 speakers:

State PTA – Jo Loss, President-Elect; Brian Bonner, Legislation Team; Barbara
Ledterman, VP for Education; Suzan Solomon, Legislation Team; Paul Richman,
Executive Director; Pat Dingsdale, Director of Legislation

Susanna Cooper – Principal Education Consultant to Senator Darrell Steinberg

Rachel Ehlers – Policy Analyst, LAO

Diane Harkey – Assembly Member, 73rd District

Mary Hudler – Director Special Education, CDE

Jim Mayer – Executive Director, California Forward

Jeff Miller – Assembly Member, 71st District

Rick Miller – Deputy Superintendent, Policy Development & External Affairs, CDE

Robert Miyashiro – Vice President, School Services of California, Inc.

Todd Moffitt – Chief of Staff to Assembly Member Roger Niello

Anthony Monreal – Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, CDE

Paul Navarro – Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor Schwarzenegger

Scott Plotkin – Executive Director, CSBA

Jean Ross – Executive Director, California Budget Project

Gerry Shelton – Chief Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Education

Rick Simpson – Deputy Chief of Staff to Speaker Karen Bass

Dan Walters – Columnist, Sacramento Bee

Chuck DeVore – Assembly Member 70th District

Jeff Zech – Legislative Aide to Senator Mimi Walters

Things we heard consistently:

- Capistrano Unified PTA Legislation Team is well known in the Capitol for our advocacy efforts, and speakers who have addressed our group before look forward to it.

- We want everything in California – high level of service, but don't want to pay for it.
- It will be very difficult, if not impossible, to even discuss new revenues to solve the current budget deficit.
- Things are as bad in Sacramento as anyone has ever seen them.
- The budget deficit will need to be solved sooner rather than later, meaning before July 1, due to the impending state cash crisis.
- The state continually adopts “get out of town” budgets, and budgets which just push part of the problem into future years, instead of trying to solve long-term problems in a current budget crisis.
- There is beginning to be a lot of talk about large-scale reforms and changes, including a constitutional convention.
- There was a lot of discussion, on both sides of the issue, about changing the 2/3 vote needed to pass a budget.

Memorable Quotes:

- “I didn't sign up for this career to spend the last third of it dismantling public education.” *Gerry Shelton, Consultant to Assembly Ed Committee*
- “When you work under the dome, you get a domed mentality.” *Jean Ross, Executive Director, California Budget Project*
- “The Prop 98 Guarantee works really well in good times, but not so well in bad times.” *Jean Ross, Executive Director, California Budget Project*
- “None of us have ever lived under this type of an economy before.” *Jean Ross, Executive Director, California Budget Project*
- “We are setting ourselves up for long-term problems”. *Susanna Cooper, Consultant to Senator Steinberg*
- “We sold our souls to get part-time CSR and flexibilities.” *Assembly Member Jeff Miller*
- “It's not about blame; it has to be about change.” *Dr. Anthony Monreal, Deputy Superintendent, CDE*
- “Unions are going to have to come to the table because there just isn't enough money.” *Rachel Ehlers, LAO*
- “We have a bankruptcy problem which is bigger and different than a budget problem.” *Assembly Member Diane Harkey*
- “Change is difficult – as bad as things are, people are resistant to do things differently.” *Jim Mayer, Executive Director, California Forward*