

SACRAMENTO TRIP – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By: Kim Anderson

12 Attendees:

Kim Anderson – CUCPTSA Legislative Chair
Kathy Fischer – CUCPTSA State Legislative Co-Chair

Legislative Chairs: Lori Abbott, Colleen Del Pizzo, Erin Kutnick, Alli Maier,
Sabrina Medrano-Erb, Cindy Morgan, Maryanne Rose, Kathi Thomas & Julia Walsh

PTA President: Marilyn Amato

Seven meetings were held:

Jeff Corless & George Andrews - Assemblywoman Diane Harkey's Office
Susanna Cooper – Ed Consultant to Senate President pro Tem, Darrell Steinberg
Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Speaker Karen Bass
Gerry Shelton, Chief Education Consultant – Assembly Committee on Education
Evan Oneto - Legislative Director, Assembly Member Jeff Miller
Dave Loudon & Tanya Wolters - Senator Mark Wyland's Office
Paul Navarro, Deputy Legislative Secretary to Gov. Schwarzenegger

Highlights:

- California is in a state of “Undeclared bankruptcy.”
- Budget agreement is getting closer but is not imminent – possibly by mid February
Environmental and labor issues seem to be big sticking points. Everyone is earnestly trying to reach an agreement on the budget.
- We advocated for a balanced approach to balancing the state budget - as per State PTA's position – i.e. new revenues & cuts
- It is not clear what the final budget agreement will look like. It does sound like there may be some Republican votes for revenues in exchange for a spending cap and economic stimulus.
- On education the top two sticking points are:
 1. The maintenance factor - this refers to money that the Governor believes should be a permanent reduction to Prop 98... while the Democrats believe that it should be repaid when the state's finances permit. This is a huge sum of money - about \$ 7 billion according to the LAO - that Prop 98 would never get back.
 2. How to make the cuts - reduce revenue limits & cut virtually all the categorical strings, as per the Governor's proposal, OR make very targeted categorical cuts and provide modest flexibility, as per the Democrats proposal
- Desire on part of some to see student cap flexibility in K-3 class size reduction.
- Little to no legislation costing money will be getting out of committees
- Assembly Member Diane Harkey is currently putting legislation together that would a) seek increased voter disclosure on cost of ballot measures and b) limit amount of bond debt for California

