

SACRAMENTO TRIP - APRIL 22, 2009
Capistrano Unified Council PTSA (CUCPTSA) Legislative Team

Six CUCPTSA Attendees:

Lori Abbott – Wagon Wheel Elementary Legislative Chair
Marilyn Amato - Dana Hills HS Family Mentor & PTA President
Kim Anderson – CUCPTSA Legislative Chair; Dana Hills HS Legislative Chair
& Niguel Hills MS Legislative Co-Chair
Ingrin Currie – Lobo Elementary Legislative Co-Chair
Alli Maier – Malcom Elementary & Marco Forster MS Legislative Chair
Julia Walsh – CUCPTSA Federal Leg Co-Chair; George White Elementary
Legislative Chair & Niguel Hills MS Legislative Co-Chair

We had seven meetings:

Ana Matosantos – Chief Deputy Director, Dept of Finance,
& Ryan Stone - Principal Budget Analyst, Dept of Finance
Mike Villines – Assembly Minority Leader (unscheduled)
Colleen Haley – Legislative Aide to Assembly Member Joan Buchanan
Rick Simpson – Deputy Chief of Staff to Speaker, Karen Bass
Rebecca Baumann – Education Consultant to Sen. Loni Hancock
Ismael Diaz Herrera, Legislative Aide to Assembly Member Jose Solorio
Kris Kuzmich – Education Consultant to Senator Joe Simitian

Walking back from lunch with Rick Simpson, we bumped into Susan Kennedy, Governor Schwarzenegger's Chief of Staff, who Rick very graciously introduced us to.

Meeting Highlights:

- The Dept of Finance, the Governor's Office & the Speaker's Office all agree that the federal stimulus funding should be sent out ASAP
- Legislature does not need to approve sending this money out
- While the Title 1 and IDEA money will be allocated according to existing formulas, school districts need to apply for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF).
- The SFSF will be based on what funding a school district lost - a proportional distribution to school districts.
- Federal funds are a bridge, along with the propositions, to get us through the next several years.

- The Dept of Finance does not have a number of how large the budget shortfall may be but all agree there is one and it may be larger than the Legislative Analyst office's (LAO) number of \$8 billion.
- That shortfall will increase by another \$6 billion if the May 19 ballot measures fail.
- School districts should use this money prudently.
- May 28th is date of the May Revise
- There is general agreement that the budget will not be long & drawn out this summer due to the cash crunch that the state will be facing.
- It is highly unlikely that there will be any Republican votes for tax increases in the next budget vote.
- The spending on the propositions is about to really ramp up – with \$20 million targeted at Prop 1A and \$19 million for 1B.
- This will likely be the first time ever that pink slips have been given out and will not be rescinded.
- A recent study by Stanford University found that the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is not working as intended. It has lowered the graduation rate for girls and students of color largely due to their underperformance on this test, relative to boys and white students with similar levels of academic achievement.
- Huge marriage between public safety & education. If we provide kids early on in life with a good education that will prevent a lot of juvenile delinquency and high recidivism rates.
- Still a strong belief that Career Technical Education (CTE) must be a key component of public education.
- SB 800 (Hancock) failed - which is the bill to stop 2nd grade STAR testing and which State PTA supports. The bill was granted reconsideration status by a 9-0 vote.
- Right now, everyone is focused on the May Revise and people are not focusing on long-term planning or education reform.