



CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM
September 2019 Report

In Local News:

With Dr. Pritchard's resignation from the Board, a new Vice President needed to be appointed. Congratulations to Vice President McNicholas, who will serve out the rest of the vice-presidential term till December 2019.

In the June State budget there was a significant increase in funding for special education by California. For CUSD this is resulting in an increase of \$5.8million in what is currently being treated as one-time funds for Special Education. There is pending legislation that may make these funds on-going, which will help our district. Some of these funds are specifically to help cover the cost of early intervention, preschool, special education. Previously, while mandated by law there was no funding for special education early start programs.

There was a long discussion of Board Policy 3554, Other Food Sales. This policy outlines how many times per year outside entities, i.e. not Food and Nutrition, can sell food on campuses from midnight till 30 minutes after the school day ends. The policy increased the number of days from 2 to **4 times per school year** to match what is specified in the state ed code. Many of our units use routine after school food sales to help with fundraising, so this policy is one you need to know and maybe discuss how you wish to handle it with your Principals. It was acknowledged that the policy, while in place for many years, has mostly been ignored at the elementary level for after school food sales, but I can not tell if that will remain the case.

In July, the Board of Trustees voted to establish two separate School Facilities Improvement Districts (SFIDs) in a move towards placing a Facilities Bond on the March 2020 ballot. At the August meetings the Board continued discussing potential bond language, further debate and discussion will take place over the coming months. Our school facilities are in need of repairs and modernization work, and the only way to fund this scale of work is through Facilities Bonds. The Board learned through the outcome of Measure M in 2016 that a district-wide bond was not going to work in our district. So, they are now looking at creating localized bonds to fund very local projects. SFID#2 was created to cover parts of San Clemente and Capistrano Beach. SFID#3 was created to cover Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, and Aliso Viejo. Both SFIDs do NOT cover any area with a current mello-roos payment, these areas were specifically excluded from the SFIDs. The project lists for the potential bond measures were created through analysis of the Kitchell Site Reports for needed repairs and input from

community stakeholders as to what their vision is for their local schools. There will be continued discussion and reporting out on this as we move into the school year.

The District launched a new online magazine about the amazing things happening across our district in June. It is CUSD Insider and can be found at <http://cusdinsider.org/> Please take the time to share this online resource with our families, it provides a site for accurate information about our district to counter the misinformation that is spread.

The CUSD Communications Department held 2 webinars in the lead-up to the start of school this year. One highlighted the Elementary Programs of CUSD and the other the Middle and High Schools. Here are links to the two Webinars for you to share with your units: For elementary schools <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zwhiVWICQImKFKLgmLU63pd3z0THDQBa/> and for Middle and High Schools at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q3rVOnCSwRN_o3yAkw_KOVuCVS_hCFj8/

Agendas from the most recent Board of Trustee meetings can be found here:

August 21, 2019 – Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/7102304698186230701.pdf>

August 14, 2019 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/5804615940164675073.pdf>

July 17, 2019 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/3288309630009719271.pdf>

Minutes and Audio Recordings of Meetings can be found at https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1514016268888&vdid=wi10b1qsopu12s Minutes are listed once approved, audio is typically posted within a day or two of the meeting. Also, on this page are links to 2018-2019 minutes/agendas/audio and previous years.

From Fourth District PTA:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, June, 2019

Details are in the June issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- Governor Newsom issued his “May revise” budget, which includes more money for education. Total funding for education, including early child hood programs, would be \$147 billion, about \$3.8 billion more than the current year. About \$1.5 billion would go to several early childhood programs, one of the governor’s priorities. There would also be more money to train and retain teachers, promote computer science education and help school districts deal with rising pension costs. Special education funding would increase by about 21 percent and about \$400 million would go into an education Rainy Day fund.
- The May revision also asks for a statute that would regulate how charter schools accept students.

- During the next weeks state lawmakers will work with the governor to develop a final state budget. The state Constitution requires the legislators to complete the budget by June 15 and the governor must sign it by June 30.
- California State PTA issued a statement saying the budget is a smart investment but does not fix the long-term needs of schools. "As schools continue to struggle with growing expenses, we urge the governor and the legislature to develop a plan to bring California education funding to the levels of our highest-performing states."
- A bill being considered in the Legislature is designed to do just that. AB 39 sets a goal of increasing the base grant in the Local Control Funding Formula until it reaches the national average in per pupil spending. It is estimated that this would require an additional \$33 billion. California State PTA supports this bill, which was passed by the Assembly in May. It must be approved by the State Senate and signed by the Governor in order to become law.

Our school district should be finishing up the LCAP process for this year. Now is a good time to review and reflect on the revised LCAP and our involvement in developing it. The *Communicator* has some good questions to ask ourselves.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/advocacy-communicator/>

In State News:

Census 2020 – In April 2020, the next US Census taking happens. It is important for an accurate count to occur. The results of the Census impact school funding from the federal level, apportionment of seats within the state and federal elected houses, and helps decide where new infrastructure is built. Here is a helpful site for all things Census: <https://occensus.org/>

New push in California for later middle, high school start times by Theresa Harrington - Author says he has support to set middle schools to start no earlier than 8 a.m. and high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2019/revised-bill-proposes-later-school-start-times-for-california-middle-high-school-students/>

California School Accountability Dashboard by Daniel J. Willis, Justin Allen & Yuxuan Xie – See how California’s public schools and districts fare on the state’s new accountability reporting system. Search the Database at: <https://edsources.org/2018/search-and-compare-data-from-the-california-school-dashboard-2018/>

Governor, lawmakers agree on new controls on California charter schools – Districts will get to consider financial impact; charters will maintain a right of appeal by John Fensterwald - The new version of Assembly Bill 1505 builds on an initial compromise that Newsom’s aides presented in July. It includes revisions to all key aspects of the charter law: the approval and renewal of charter schools; the appeals process for charter denials; and the credentialing requirements for charter school

teachers. Read the complete article at <https://edsource.org/2019/governor-lawmakers-agree-on-new-controls-on-california-charter-schools/>

Second tax measure to fund California schools proposed for 2020 ballot School boards association seeks backers for \$15 billion tax on the wealthy

by John Fensterwald – Potentially two initiatives on the November 2020 ballot could create a choice or confusion for voters. The California School Boards Association (CSBA) is exploring whether to place a \$15 billion tax for K-12 schools, early education and community colleges before voters, creating the possibility of dueling tax initiatives on the statewide ballot in November 2020. This initiative would run against the already proposed “Split Roll” for Prop 13. Read the entire article at: <https://edsource.org/2019/school-groups-explore-15-billion-tax-for-california-schools-in-2020/> There are advantages and disadvantages to both, and it will be interesting to see how this plays out in the coming months.

At the National Level:

Punitive discipline’s effectiveness hazy as schools fight teen vaping

by Naaz Modan – Experts say preventative education and intervention are more effective than punishment to counter misinformation and discourage e-cigarette use. Read the complete article at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/punitive-disciplines-effectiveness-hazy-as-schools-fight-teen-vaping/> Along these lines, CUSD entered into an MOU with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Orange County (NCADD-OC) to provide presentations and prevention and awareness activities on the hazards of e-cigarettes and vaping at all the middle schools and high schools in CUSD.

The Scientific Debate Over Teens, Screens and Mental Health

by Anya Kamenetz – More teens and young adults – particularly girls and young women – are reporting being depressed and anxious, compared with comparable numbers from the mid-2000s. Suicides are up too in that time period, most noticeably among girls ages 10 to 14. These trends are the basis of a scientific controversy. One hypothesis that has gotten a lot of traction is that with nearly every teen using a smartphone these days, digital media must take some of the blame for worsening mental health. Read the complete article at: <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/27/754362629/the-scientific-debate-over-teens-screens-and-mental-health>

OPINION: It’s time to change the conversation around music education to its positive impact on student success

How we can integrate arts across all classrooms by Tiffany Kerns – Research continues to show that children who participate in quality music programs go on to earn higher test scores and have a greater likelihood of postsecondary success than their peers who don’t — yet music programs across the country lack support, commitment and funding. Read the complete article at: <https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-its-time-to-change-the-conversation-around-music-education/>

Map: How Much Money Each State Spends Per Student

by EdWeek <https://www.edweek.org/ew/collections/quality-counts-2019-state-finance/map-per->

pupil-spending-state-by-state.html A look at per student spending across the USA. These are averaged numbers across a state, so you don't see the range of spending differences that happen even within a single state.

From the National PTA:

Op-Ed by National PTA – It's time to fix our nation's public-school buildings by Joann Bartoletti and Nathan R. Monell - More than 50 million children and 6 million adults — one in six Americans — set foot in a school each weekday. Schools are not only where our children are educated, they are the heart of our communities — hosting countless community events every week; serving as emergency shelters; and where meals, aftercare and health care are provided to millions of children. Our nation's public schools are the second largest national infrastructure sector for capital investment. Yet, historically, unlike roads and bridges, school facilities have received virtually no federal investment. Read the complete article at: <https://thehill.com/opinion/education/456002-its-time-to-fix-our-nations-public-school-buildings>

Advocacy letters for National PTA:

Please visit the Take Action site <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action> to send a letter to your Congress members on the issues of the day/week/month. Here you can keep up-to-date on the latest issues the National PTA is supporting or opposing.

The 116th Congress is considering the following legislation items. The National PTA is supporting (green checkmarks) or opposing (red x) the following items:

Child Health and Safety

- H.R. 5: Equality Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- H.R. 662: REACH Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- H.R. 852: Get the Lead Out of Schools Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- H.R. 2311: Anti-Lunch Shaming Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- H.R. 3451: To protect children affected by immigration enforcement actions 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- H.R. 3452: To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that immigration status alone does not disqualify a parent, legal guardian, or relative from being a placement for a foster child, to authorize discretion to a State, county, or other political subdivision of a State to delay filing for termination of parental rights in foster care cases in which an otherwise fit and willing parent or legal guardian has been deported or is involved in (including detention pursuant to) an immigration 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- H.R. 4019: To protect and educate children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- S. 788: A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 

- S. 1119: A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S.1832: A bill to protect and educate children about the dangers of e-cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems and for other purposes 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S. 2097: Protecting Sensitive Locations Act 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓

Education Technology and Student Data Privacy

- H.R. 1693: To require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support | 116th Congress 2019-2020 ✓
- S. 558: CAMRA Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S.738: A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of W-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S.1167: A bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and for other purposes | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓

Elementary and Secondary Education

- H.R. 69: Ending Common Core and Expanding School Choice Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✗
- H.R. 865: To provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S. 5: Educational Opportunities Act. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✗
- S. 213: A bill to amend the SOAR Act. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✗
- S. 235: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S. 266: A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S. 579: A bill to provide grants to eligible local educational agencies to help public schools reduce class size in the early elementary grades, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S. 1299: A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓

Federal Investments in Education

- H.R. 2021: To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and to establish a congressional budget for fiscal year 2020. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- H.R. 2315: To require full funding of part A of title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Act. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- H.R. 3647: Impact Aid Infrastructure Act 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S.1172: A bill to require full funding of part A of title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

- H.R. 8: Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- H.R. 1236: Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S. 42: Background Check Expansion Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓

Post-Secondary Access and Opportunity

- S. 874: Dream Act of 2019 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓

Special Education

- H.R. 1878: To amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- H.R. 3086: To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- H.R. 4107: To authorize funding for section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S.866: A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding for such part. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓
- S. 1585: RISE Act of 2019 116th Congress (2019-2020) ✓