



**CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM
December 2021 Report**

In Local News:

NEXT CUSD REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING is Wednesday **December 15, 2021 @ 7PM**

I encourage you to listen in virtually or attend in person at the district office. Here are a couple of items that will be discussed:

Redistricting with the data collected through the 2020 census, has begun! At our last leg meeting, we discussed the criteria and the processes the district will have to follow. At the November 3rd board meeting, a resolution was presented to establish criteria for adjusting trustee boundaries and the trustees provided direction to the demographer. Trustee Bullockus wanted an addition to the resolution that states the school feeder patterns be considered in creating the new boundaries. Her reasoning, that the elementary and middle schools in her trustee area do not follow the high school feeder pattern and she felt it would be beneficial because the parents within an area get to know a candidate/trustee through school activities and sometimes those schools are not within their area.

At this meeting, a public hearing will be held with the demographer presenting the first draft of maps. Trustees will give feedback. At the January 19th board meeting, the demographer will present the revised maps and trustees will give the last set of revisions, if any. Final adoption will take place at the February 16th meeting. The district must submit their final plans to the county by March 1st, 2022.

I encourage you to look at the maps prior to the board meeting and provide any feedback to your trustee that you think is important during redistricting.

Novels-Additionally, there are 5 novels that will be brought forward for a discussion and a vote to adopt. They are "First Rule of Punk" by Celia Pérez, "WhiteTeeth" by Zadie Smith, "Efrén Divided" by Ernesto Cisneros, "Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah, "First They Killed my Father: A daughter of Cambodia Remembers" by Loung Ung. I encourage you to read them if you have time and support these diverse authors and stories by sending an email of support to our trustees or speaking in support the night of the board meeting.

Representation matters and when our students see themselves reflected in a book being read in their classroom, it makes them feel seen and included within their school community.

6th Grade Family Life Teacher Resource Kit- At the November 3rd meeting, as a report out of closed session, it was shared that trustees gave direction to staff to create a 6th grade family life teacher resource kit. We received additional information at our CUCPTSA presidents

meeting in November from Dr. Merwin that the implementation of resources and the new 6th grade family life teacher resource kit will be in August of 2023. Sixth grade teachers will have the resources available to teach incoming sixth graders during the first quarter of the school year. Topics will address the unique health needs of students during their first year of middle school, including puberty. Resources will go through the new IMRC process for full transparency with the public. The "opt-out" process is determined by Ed Code. Parent communication and teacher training in the Spring of 2023. I am hoping to have Dr. Merwin present this information to our leg team in January so we can further discuss these changes and I encourage you to bring your questions.

As always, the board agendas are available approximately 72 hours prior to the board meeting. They can be found on the district's website under the BOARD tab. Look for an email from Ryan Burris at that 72 hour timeframe with a copy of the agenda and the exhibits. He will also include instructions on emailing your trustees with comments on any agenda item and provide information on how to make a public comment either online or in person. If you have additional questions on any of that, PLEASE feel free to reach out to me! I am here to help and encourage all of you to "pull a speaker card" and speak about something you are passionate about. Maybe your school is doing a fundraiser that you would like to spread the word on or a membership drive. Sometimes trustees join PTA's that are not in their trustee area!! Or an agenda item you would like to provide feedback on or educate the public about. We are the pulse of our schools because we are informed and have the information that our communities need.

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

November 3, 2021 – Board Meeting

<https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/5860887198519647442.pdf>

October 20, 2021 – Board Meeting

<https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/2968637560353376106.pdf>

October 6, 2021 – Board Workshop [https://capousd-](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/8850849376584361757.pdf)

[ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/8850849376584361757.pdf](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/8850849376584361757.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#2021-22

Minutes are listed once approved, audio is typically posted within a day or two of the meeting. Also, on this page are links to 2020-2021 minutes/agendas/audio and previous years.

Other District news:

Family Resource Center:

<https://sped-capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/frc>

We have a wonderful Family Resource Center located in the lower level of the district office!!!! Please visit it if you have time! It provides support by helping parents, families and children find resources in person and online covering a variety of topics which include autism, dyslexia, and health resources to name just a few. They also connect parents with upcoming workshops within the community.

PAPER: 24 hour online tutoring

<https://app.paper.co/login/student>

CUSD Hiring Fair: December 17th 9am-12pm @ CUSD Education Center/District Office- Free Breakfast Provided- CUSD is hiring credentialed and Non-credentialed staff, part-time and full time positions available. Food Service Workers, Paraeducators, Campus/Student Supervisors, Substitute Teachers, Bus Driver's and LVN's. Visit <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/Jobs?districtID=525&catID=0> for more information.

CUSD Covid-19 Dashboard: <https://webapps.capousd.org/COVID19Dashboard/>

CUSD Safety Plan: <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268908/1218998864154/5658544572628422051.pdf>

The District launched an online magazine about the amazing things happening across our district in June of 2019. 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.

CUCPTSA Legislation/Advocacy Racial Equity Book Club: We have formed a book club and for our next discussion we are reading "We Want to do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom" by Bettina L. Love (ISBN 978-0-8070-2834-6).

Our next meeting is on **Friday, January 14, 2022!** at 9:30am - we are holding a single meeting for this book, and hope you can join us at this time.

If you would like to attend, please contact Michele Ploessel-Campbell by email myshel@ix.netcom.com.

From Fourth District PTA:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, December, 2021 coming soon...

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, November, 2021

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

- Do we have a problem that PTA should address? Now is the time to start working on a resolution to present at the 2022 California State PTA Convention.
- When you advocate for children, who has the power to make changes you are looking for? There is a brief article about this in the Communicator and it will be covered in depth at the Virtual Advocacy Training Workshop on October 8. The workshop will also have presentations by someone from the Orange County Department of Education, the Orange County Health Care Agency, and California State PTA.
- A 30-minute video explaining California's school system is posted on an Ed100 blog. The video was designed for teens at a summer conference, but it's a valuable review for grownups too.
- We need to make sure all of our children, from Kindergarten through high school, get arts education. The Communicator lists a number of resources to help us advocate for the arts.
- The state legislature is in recess until January so now is a good time to visit our lawmakers in their local offices. Shall we plan a visit?
- Ed100 has a new year-round program to teach high school students be informed advocates. Adults are needed to help support the program as well.
- Sacramento Safari will be in the state capitol again on March 7 and 8, 2022. Are we sending someone from our PTA?

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

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

In State News:

K-12 Politics and Tech Update: Nov 11th

Kevin Gordon of Capitol Advisors does a video "podcast" on YouTube that can be found here: [K-12 Politics and Tech Update: November 11th 2021](#) There is a new video posted each week. I encourage you to take 20 minutes to catch up on his latest update.

On my watch list are 2-3 PROPOSED CA BALLOT initiatives: Here's what you need to know!

Here is a website that you can track CA ballot initiatives:

<https://oag.ca.gov/initiatives/active-measures>

These are the current ones that are out there that impact schools.

Proposed California Ballot Measure Would Give Parents 'Legal Standing' to Sue for Better Schools as Right-to-Education Efforts Spread by Linda Jacobson

Californians could vote next year on whether students should have a constitutional right to a high-quality education, potentially opening the door to litigation from parents dissatisfied with their children's schools.

<https://www.the74million.org/article/proposed-california-ballot-measure-would-give-parents-legal-standing-to-sue-for-better-schools-as-right-to-education-efforts-spread/>

School Voucher Initiatives-So far only one is actively to the point of collecting signatures. The other one is waiting on title and summaries.

REQUIRES STATE FUNDING OF RELIGIOUS AND OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION.
INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

Title and Summary Issued on October 12, 2021

21-0006A1

Proponents of this initiative are wanting to make \$13,000 to be available to each student every year, to be used toward tuition and education expenses at an accredited private school of their choice. An education savings account will be established at the request of the student's parent or legal guardian.

"Education Savings Act of 2022"

Fiscal Impact Estimate Report

21-0011A1

At the National Level and National PTA:

Build Back Better

Two weeks ago, on November 19, the US House of Representatives passed the "Build Back Better" Act to provide funding, establish programs and modify provisions related to education, labor, childcare, health care, taxes, immigration and the environment. The bill will now move to the Senate and will likely be amended before voting takes place on the Senate floor. Read National PTA's response here:

<https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/PTA-Newsroom/news-list/news-detail-page/2021/11/23/national-pta-responds-to-house-passage-of-build-back-better-infrastructure-legislation>

What is Critical Race Theory and why is it under attack? by Stephen Sawchuk

Is “critical race theory” a way of understanding how American racism has shaped public policy, or a divisive discourse that pits people of color against white people? In this article there are multiple related articles as you scroll down the page.

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=64210006&U=&UUID=cb13176a8a3db6453a69c11def0da309

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.

Michigan Student Kills 3 in Deadliest School Shooting Since 2018 by the Associated Press

A 15-year-old sophomore opened fire at his Michigan high school on Tuesday, killing three students and wounding eight other people, including at least one teacher, authorities said.

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/mich-student-kills-3-in-deadliest-school-shooting-since-2018/2021/11?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=64231629&U=&UUID=cb13176a8a3db6453a69c11def0da309

National PTA & Michigan PTA Statement on Shooting:

<https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/PTA-Newsroom/news-list/news-detail-page/2021/12/01/national-pta-and-michigan-pta-statement-on-shooting-at-oxford-high-school>

One of the National PTA’s Public Policy Priorities for the 117th Congress is to support sensible solutions to gun violence for the safety and well-being of all children. We have the power to stop these school shootings.

Read more here: <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/advocacy/2021/public-policy-priorities-letter.pdf>

The 117th 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. 586: STANDUP Act of 2021](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [H.R. 1319: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [S. 441: STURDY Act](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Early Learning and Childhood Education

- ✔ [H.Con.Res. 4: Supporting the goals and ideals of No Name-Calling Week in bringing attention to name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch an ongoing dialogue about ways to eliminate name-calling, bullying, and harassment in their communities.](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [HR 2817: To amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act to promote child care and early learning, and for other purposes.](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [S. 1360: Child Care for Working Families Act](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Federal Investments in Education

- ✔ [H.R. 604: Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2021](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [H.R. 764: Keep Our PACT Act](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [S. 72: Keep Our PACT Act](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [S. 96: Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2021](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

- ✔ [H.R. 8: Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [H.R. 825: Gun Violence Prevention Research Act of 2021](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)
- ✔ [S. 281: Gun Violence Prevention Research Act of 2021](#) | 117th Congress (2021-2022)