



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

In Local News:

Congratulations to Mark Wagner from Dana Hills High School for winning the National PTA Reflections Dance Choreography Outstanding Interpretation award for the 2020-2021 year! Way to go Mark!

We are starting planning for the coming year. Mark your calendars for the meetings for 2021-2022 – the dates are: September 3, 2021; October 1, 2021; November 5, 2021; December 3, 2021; January 7, 2022; February 4, 2022; March 4, 2022; April 15, 2022; and May 6, 2022. Meetings will still be held at 9:30am

Updated dates for Sacramento Safari! The dates have changed! The new dates are March 7-8, 2022. Please have your units create budget line items to cover the cost for a representative from your school to attend. Plan for the costs to be approximately \$750.

Plans for Back to School 2021-2022 come to the school board at the May 19th meeting. Please take time to review and provide feedback on these plans. The goal is to have school as normal as possible in terms of classes, schedules, activities. This also means that safety measures and mitigations will still be in place, such as masks and social distancing during meals (when masks are off.) The guidance for masks comes from the California Department of Public Health and is NOT something our district controls. They simply must follow the guidance provided as a public school.

The plan for the Cultural Proficiency Curriculum was pulled off of the February Board Meeting Agenda by staff. It is scheduled to come back before the board in May. Please take time to email the board your support of this work and the need to have curriculum that challenges our students and staff to have the not so fun conversations that guide us to a place where all will feel valued. While these are not easy lessons, they are not intended to make anyone feel less about themselves, but rather to help students develop their empathy skills and awareness that not all are as fortunate as some might be.

As you read the report, things are changing fast and I compile this report starting the day the last one was sent to the day I send the next report. So, I am including the dates articles are written, so you can see what has changed, but also look for ideas and how they evolved over a period of a month.

A couple of websites that I am tracking at the moment are:

Kevin Gordon does a weekly video "podcast" on YouTube that can be found here: [K-12 Politics and Tech - Education - YouTube](#) There is a new video posted each week. I encourage you to take 20 minutes a week to catch up on his latest updates.

For COVID-19 cases in Orange County:

<https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc>

California Blueprint for a Safer Economy:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/> This site updates every Tuesday with new data and updated county color coding.

Orange County COVID-19 Dashboard:

<https://ochca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/cc4859c8c522496b9f21c451de2fedae> where you can track daily reported cases, deaths, cumulative numbers and other statistics specific to Orange County.

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

April 21, 2021 – Board Meeting - [https://capousd-](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/6019426807254389463.pdf)

[ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/6019426807254389463.pdf](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/6019426807254389463.pdf)

March 24, 2021 – Special Board Meeting – Closed Session Only –

[7509463662096375244.pdf \(schoolloop.com\)](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/7509463662096375244.pdf)

Minutes and Audio Recordings of Meetings can be found at [https://capousd-](https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1514016268888&vdid=wi10b1qsopu12s)

[ca.schoolloop.com/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1514016268888&vdid=wi10b1qsopu12s](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.

You can also stream past school board meetings if you want to re-watch something for clarity on their YouTube channel at [CapoUSD BoardMeeting - YouTube](#)

CUCPTSA Legislation/Advocacy Racial Equity Book Club –

We have formed our own Racial Equity Book Club – we will provide summaries of what we learned from each book read. Other updates from the book club will be included here as well. We are currently reading Ghosts in the Schoolyard by Eve L. Ewing. Looking forward to our next book club discussions in June.

From Fourth District PTA:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, April 2021

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

- California is developing a Cradle-to-Career Data System to track students from early childhood to entrance into working careers. Work on this system began last

year. The governor's budget includes \$15 million to continue the development of the data base, which combines information from numerous sources and is designed to help policymakers make more informed budget and policy decisions.

- California State PTA has a "watch" position on AB 99, which authorizes the continuing development of the data base. A resolution approved by convention delegates supports the idea of a longitudinal data base.
- The National PTA Legislative Conference in March included virtual visits to Congress to present five requests. The requests dealt with the COVID relief package (which was approved the day of the visits), Statewide Family Engagement Centers (California doesn't have one), an infrastructure package for schools, the federal school meal program, and legislation to prohibit seclusion, restraints and corporal punishment in schools.
- Last month's Communicator listed several state bills that California State PTA is supporting and there are five more in this issue.
- Fourth District PTA hopes to be back in Sacramento for next year's Sacramento Safari. We need to include about \$700 in our PTA budget for that.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

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

CA PTA Monthly Advocacy Calls:

Join California State PTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team on Wednesdays.

Here is the schedule of upcoming advocacy webinars through June 2021. The webinars generally take place the first Wednesday of every month, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. (with some exceptions):

- June 2, 2021

To register for any or all of these webinars, click here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/31940121174953740>

California PTA News:

CAPTA Convention is taking place between May 3-16 with a series of workshops and business meetings. Details from votes taken at Convention will be shared out later this year. I am excited so many have registered to attend this year.

In State News:

May Revise Budget - news coming later this month on this important issue. So far all that I have heard is positive, but final details are still emerging.

Missing kindergartners drive largest drop in 20 years in California's K-12 enrollment: Charter schools experienced an increase in enrollment by Karen D'Souza, John Fensterwald, and Daniel J. Willis – April 22, 2021 – The pandemic has intensified a multi-year trend of dwindling student enrollment statewide, causing a steep drop this year. More than a third of the decline stemmed from 61,000 missing kindergartners. Statewide, enrollment in K-12 public schools in California fell by almost

3%, or 160,000, students in 2020-21, according to annual data released Thursday by the California Department of Education. That's the largest drop of the last 20 years, surpassing a 1% drop between October 2008 and October 2009. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2021/missing-kindergarteners-drive-largest-drop-in-20-years-in-californias-k-12-enrollment/>

At the National Level:

USDA extends free meals through next school year: Districts can provide millions of free grab-and-go meals through 2021-22 school year by Ali Tadayon – April 20, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture will continue reimbursing schools and childcare centers for free meals to all students regardless of their income through the 2021-22 school year, USDA officials announced Tuesday. Meal service waivers such as the "Seamless Summer Option," which made it possible for California districts to distribute million of grab-and-go meals to students since campuses closed due to Covid-19, will be extended through June 2022, according to a USDA news release. Advocates say the extension comes at a pivotal time for food-insecure families. Read the complete article at: <https://edsources.org/2021/usda-extends-free-meals-through-next-school-year/>

Tracking how the coronavirus is impacting school districts: From the shift to distance learning to the impact on school budgets, we're collecting news, analysis and expert advice on how K-12 is responding to the pandemic. By Roger Riddell, Naaz Modan, and Kara Arundel – this is updated almost daily and you can review back to mid-May by week to see what has been happening. The nation's public school districts faced unprecedented disruption to the school year as the novel coronavirus pandemic shut down buildings and forced learning online, to the extent educators were able to do so. Shutdowns forced districts and policymakers alike to make strides in addressing the "homework gap" resulting from a lack of home internet and device access that already adversely affected many students prior to shutdowns. Further complicating the situation: Educators needed additional training, the delivery of curriculum had to be rethought, and many low-income students' only guaranteed meals throughout the day were through school programs. ... And that's not even considering the impending funding tsunami expected from the economic impacts of the shutdowns, or the challenge of reopening schools in the fall and planning for a variety of scenarios. ... Follow along below as we track major news and analysis of the coronavirus's impact on K-12. Read more of what is happening at: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/tracking-how-the-coronavirus-is-impacting-school-districts/578628/>

From the National PTA:

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 117th Congress starts on January 3, 2021, and is considering the following legislation items. The National PTA is supporting (✔ - green checkmarks) or opposing (✘ red x) the following items:

Child Health and Safety

Education Technology and Student Data Privacy

Elementary and Secondary Education

Federal Investments in Education

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

Post-Secondary Access and Opportunity

Special Education