



CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM
November 2021 Leg Report

In Local News:

NEXT CUSD SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING IS Tonight, **NOVEMBER 3, 2021@7PM-**

I encourage you to tune in virtually or attend in person at the district office.

On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, the CUSD Board of Trustees held a regular board meeting, again, amidst chain link fences and additional security. The meeting droned on into the wee hours of Thursday morning. What was the biggest topic? The vaccine mandate and the resolution to ask Governor Newsom to reconsider or rescind the covid 19 vaccine mandate.

A "Fun Facts" moment! This time, it cost our school district about \$4,000 out of the general fund in preparation for the board meeting. Those dollars were needed to secure the boardroom and to hire additional security for the safety of the Board members, district staff and the public attendees. Did you know the district must pay for the additional fencing, deputies and security at board meetings?? Yes! Due to some of the attendees' poor behavior and threats they have directed at the trustees, additional security has been added following the May 2021 meeting. Here's a breakdown of how much has been spent in the last few months...June 16th meeting \$1,501.09, June 23rd meeting \$746.76, July 21st meeting \$897.50 and estimate around \$800.00 for the August meeting and the September 15th meeting as well. The October 20th meeting is estimated at \$4,000. Approximately \$9,000 has been spent just to secure the board room at the district office during regular scheduled board meetings in the last 5 months. \$9,000 that could be spent in the classroom for things like "Meet the Masters" for an entire 2 elementary schools of 550! A link to the recording of the meeting in its entirety is below.

A few things I want to mention:

- The "Raise the Base" campaign started by our very own Luca Grecu, has its own social media pages! Please join them to learn more and to connect with others about all things CA education funding! Please join and SHARE...Facebook "Raise the Base" and Twitter #RaisetheBase.
- CUSD IMPLEMENTS A TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM: CUSD currently uses the SchoolMessenger notification service to send important information to families through phone calls and email messages. As part of their service, they will be implementing a text message feature. To comply with wireless carrier

requirements and protect against unsolicited text messages, you will receive a text message on Friday, September 24, 2021 at 12:00pm, to the wireless cell phone numbers coded on your child's contact record, requesting that you "opt-in" to receive important information from the district via our SMS text messaging service.

The message you receive will come from our 'short code', **67587** and read similar to the following: "Capistrano Unified School District sent a msg. Reply Y to subscribe or STOP to cancel. Msg&data rates may apply. Msg freq varies. Visit schoolmessenger.com/txt for info"

So that you may begin to receive these important messages, we encourage you to reply with "Y" or "Yes" when you receive such a verification message. If you do not reply, you will not receive any further text messages from our schools.

To opt out of all text messages from SchoolMessenger, visit <http://www.schoolmessenger.com/txtmsg/> or reply with "STOP" to the opt-in message that you receive. If you opt-in, but later decide to opt-out, simply send "STOP" to **67587**. You may also reply "STOP" to any message from our organization.

Please check with your wireless carrier for information about your mobile service plan and any possible charges related to text messaging. CUSD does not reimburse for any charges associated with sending or receiving text messages.

- Kevin Gordon of Capitol Advisors does a weekly video "podcast" on YouTube that can be found here: [K-12 Politics and Tech Update: August 13th 2021](#) There is a new video posted each week. I encourage you to take 20 minutes to catch up on his latest update.
- 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 mis-information that is spread.

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-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.

CUCPTSA Legislation/Advocacy Racial Equity Book Club: Please join us in reading our next books March Book One, March Book Two, and March Book Three by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. (ISBN 978-1-60309-300-2; ISBN 978-1-60309-400-9; ISBN 978-1-60309-402-3) These books chronicle the life of John Lewis and the Civil Rights Movement in graphic novel format. They were also approved by the School Board in Spring 2021 as supplemental texts for both middle and high schools. We know some of the high school teachers have already started these books with their students, so we will be reading alongside students in CUSD during this time. We are meeting on **Tuesday, November 9 from 8-10pm**. If you are interested in joining us, please contact our Equity Book Club Coordinator, Michele Ploessel-Campbell by email myshel@ix.netcom.com.

From Fourth District PTA:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, October, 2021

Details are in the October 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?

In State News:

This month, the CUCPTSA Legislation/Advocacy meeting is designed to educate our legislation representatives on how CA public schools are funded. Here are some good resources:

Local Control Funding Formula Guide- by Edsource

California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) created sweeping changes in how California schools are governed and funded. This guide provides the context and the history for those changes as well as comprehensive information about how the new system works, how much money school districts receive, and which parts of the law remain to be defined and implemented.

<https://edsource.org/2016/local-control-funding-formula-guide-lcff/89272>

Who Pays: Where California's Public School Funds Come From- by Ed100

In every state, funding for public education comes from a combination of local and state taxes, plus some federal money. The mix varies a bit from one state to another, and it can change over time. Where does the money come from?

<https://ed100.org/lessons/whopays>

California's Education Funding Crisis Explained in 12 Charts- by Policy Analysis for California Education

California is the fifth largest economy in the world and the wealthiest state in the nation. The Golden State is home to countless tech giants, an enormous entertainment industry, major agricultural regions, and many other successful industries. California households earn a median income of \$71,000 per year, more than \$10,000 above the national average. However, California school funding—even before COVID-19—was insufficient to meet educational goals and address the needs of students, particularly given the state's high cost of living. How can that be true? Why is education funding so low in California, despite its wealth and comparatively high tax revenues?

<https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/californias-education-funding-crisis-explained-12-charts>

At the National Level:

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.

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)