



CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM October 2021 Leg Report

In Local News:

NEXT CUSD SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING IS **OCTOBER 6 @ 6PM-**

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

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021, the CUSD Board of Trustees held a regular board meeting amidst chain link fencing that surrounded the outside of the board room, blocked the entrances and required additional security personnel stationed at all doors in anticipation of large crowds expressing their views on mask choice for their students. Fun Fact! 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 I estimate around \$800.00 for the August meeting and the September 15th meeting as well. Approximately \$5,000 has been spent just to secure the board room at the district office during regular scheduled board meetings in the last 4 months. \$5,000 that could be spent in the classroom for things like "Meet the Masters" for an entire elementary school of 550!

During the meeting, the district shared the appointment of Refugio Gracian(still waiting on verification of spelling of last name), as Executive Director, Cultural Proficiency, Equity, Access and Social Emotional Learning. We welcome Refugio Gracian!

The first quarterly report of the Cultural Proficiency Plan was presented with the other quarterly reports to be given at these future board meeting dates: November 3, 2021, February 16, 2022 and May 4, 2022. The purpose of these quarterly reports are to share with the public the progress on the implementation of the actions and services contained in the plan.

Students from the Aliso Niguel High School STEM building naming committee, presented their recommendations on the actual name of the building, a tag line and six individual classrooms to be named after a notable scientist associated with each science that will be studied in a particular classroom. Some of the scientists chosen are: Rosalind Elsie Franklin, Edith Clarke, Chien-Shiung Wu, Mario Jose Molina-Pasquel Henriquez, George Washington Carver, and Marie Maynard Daly.

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 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=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:

September 15, 2021- Regular Board Meeting

<https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/5005639128356813476.pdf>

August 18, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

<https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1844900544079619920.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, September, 2021

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

- This year our schools will be supported by the biggest education budget in state history. California per pupil spending may be above the national average for the first time in decades. We need to pay attention to how this money is spent.
- The Communicator lists a lot of ways that you can become an informed parent. All of us should look at these resources.
- There's a very informative video on the Ed100 website called The Change Maker's toolkit. It's about websites on the internet where we can get data to back up our advocacy efforts. It's worth the time to watch it!

- There is a list of this year's advocacy events in the newsletter. Sacramento is scheduled to be in the State Capitol again on March 7 and 8. Do you have money in our PTA budget to send someone??

September's issue and back issues of the Communicator can be found at:
<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/advocacy-communicator/>

In State News:

Civics proponents urge common ground in battles over ethnic studies- by John Fensterwald

Responding to acrimonious debates over history and politics nationally and in school boards across California, some of the state's leading advocates for civics education are urging schools to equip students with democratic principles and practices to counter growing "anti-democratic forces that threaten the stability of our fragile republic."
<https://edsources.org/2021/civics-proponents-urge-middle-ground-in-battles-over-ethnic-studies/661561>

Absenteeism surging since schools reopened- by Carolyn Jones

A month into in-person learning for most California schools, some districts are reporting soaring rates of absenteeism due to stay-at-home quarantines, fear of Covid and general disengagement from school.
<https://edsources.org/2021/absenteeism-surging-since-schools-reopened/661507>

At the National Level:

What Is the Purpose of School? Opinion Article by Stephen Sawchuk Edweek

Like it or not, educators are in the social-welfare business

<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/what-is-the-purpose-of-school/2021/09>

4 ways to bring joy back to math after a year of virtual learning- by Kara Arundel K-12 Dive

Math instruction experts say now is an optimal time to rethink how math lessons are delivered and find creative ways to empower students to develop strong understandings of numerical relationships and an appreciation for math.
https://www.k12dive.com/news/4-ways-to-bring-joy-back-to-math-after-a-year-of-virtual-learning/607046/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202021-09-24%20K-12%20Dive%20%5Bissue:36932%5D&utm_term=K-12%20Dive

Map: Where Teachers Are Required to Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19- by EdWeek

<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/where-teachers-are-required-to-get-vaccinated-against-covid-19/2021/08>

See what states are requiring teachers to be vaccinated, cannot require or are leaving it up to the local levels to make that call.

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)