



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

**In Local News:**

NEXT CUSD REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING IS **SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 @ 7PM**-I encourage you to tune in virtually (in your pajamas) or you have the option to attend in person at the district office.

On Friday, August 27th, the district shared information regarding the start of modified quarantine on Monday, August 30th. If you have any questions regarding modified quarantine & Independent Study, please contact your site principals to find out more information.

On Wednesday June 23rd, the CUSD Board of Trustees held a special meeting to discuss the "Vision of a CUSD Graduate". This was a very interesting and fun discussion about the key competences that all CUSD graduates should have when they graduate from one of the district high schools. Staff identified the five overarching concepts of a CUSD graduate and asked for trustees to help prioritize 7 areas of policy work. For more information on this item, read this document:

<https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/3892469769919652609.pdf>

Additionally, during this meeting, Trustee Lisa Davis who represents Area 3 (San Clemente) presented a revised version of her resolution that was presented at the June 16th regular board meeting. The resolution was requested by Trustee Davis that the Board take action on the adoption of Resolution No.2021-53, Proposal to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for the Removal of the Mask Mandate at all Capistrano Unified Schools and Allow Mask Use to be Optional. Trustee Davis requests CDPH to make the mask mandate for students, teachers and staff optional while on District campuses and in the State of California. The first resolution stated that masks were not effective in reducing transmission. Trustee Amy Hancek, representing Area 1 (portions of SJC, SC, DP and Capo Beach) raised concerns over sending a district communication to the CDPH, which they have no jurisdiction over and that elevated one group over another. She questioned the board taking sides and called this resolution "selective advocacy".

Here is the document that was sent to CDPH: [Resolution No. 2021-53, Request to the CDPH for the Expedious Revision of Face Covering Guidance for Schools and School-Based Programs](#)

A couple things I want to mention:

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:**

August 18, 2021 – Board Meeting

<https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1844900544079619920.pdf>

July 21, 2021 – Board Meeting

<https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1738174239377553777.pdf>

July 21, 2021 – Special Board Meeting -

<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](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:** We have formed a book club and we are currently reading If you are interested in joining us, please contact Michele Ploessel-Campbell by email [myshel@ix.netcom.com](mailto:myshel@ix.netcom.com).

**From Fourth District PTA:**

## Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, June, 2021

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

- Good News! The May revise that Governor Newsom proposed would bring the state's K-12 education budget to the highest level in state history. It would provide funding for almost every item on PTA's wish list.
- PTA is delighted with the proposed budget. PTA's only argument is with the governor's plan to incorporate distance learning into existing independent study programs. PTA believes a quality distance learning option should be available to students who can not or do not want to attend school in person.
- The last CAPTA Advocacy webinar will be held June 2 from 7-8pm. Directions to join are in the communicator.
- One of the things that PTA has been concerned about during the pandemic is the mental health of children. The governor's budget would provide new funding to support mental health services at schools.
- This is our last chance to provide input to our schools district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which has to be approved by our school board by the end of June. It's important for the school district to hear about our priorities for the next year.
- The LCAP relates the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). What is LCFF? There is a brief explanation in the communicator.

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:

**California moving to pioneer free meals for all students**-East Bay senator's bill could make California the first state in the country to provide universal school meals by Ali Tadayon- The "Free School Meals for All" bill SB 364, starting in 2022-2023 school year, would guarantee free breakfast and lunch for all California students and eliminate the application process that proved a barrier to many families making California the first state to have a statewide program.

<https://edsources.org/2021/california-moving-to-pioneer-free-meals-for-all-students/652779>

**What is independent study in California? School districts must offer it as an alternative to in-person instruction in the 2021-22** by John Fensterwald and Sydney Johnson- AB 130 which lays out the requirements for independent study, is either silent or ambiguous on several issues that concern parents and school districts. If

you have additional questions about what independent study looks like for your student, I encourage you to reach out to your site principal.

<https://edsources.org/2021/quick-guide-what-is-independent-study-in-california/659197>

**Quarantines and teacher shortages: a double whammy for California districts** by John Fensterwald- Calls from Superintendents and lobbyists to change parts of AB 130 the independent study enrollment and accountability procedures and allow students to learn from home over zoom while they are quarantined. Read the complete article here:

<https://edsources.org/2021/quarantines-and-teacher-shortages-a-double-whammy-for-california-districts/660337>

### **At the National Level:**

**Special education programs have funding but lack the educators** by Kara Arundel- In this article in the K-12 Dive publication, they explore, due to the pandemic, the growing need for individualized services for students with disabilities and the funding to hire those staff members but the lack of personnel to fill those vacancies.

Explore more:

[https://www.k12dive.com/news/special-education-programs-have-funding-but-lack-the-educators/603278/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%20Weekly%20Roundup:%20K-12%20Dive:%20Daily%20Dive%2007-17-2021&utm\\_term=K-12%20Dive%20Weekender](https://www.k12dive.com/news/special-education-programs-have-funding-but-lack-the-educators/603278/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20Weekly%20Roundup:%20K-12%20Dive:%20Daily%20Dive%2007-17-2021&utm_term=K-12%20Dive%20Weekender)

**Arts provide a natural curricular vehicle for SEL** by Lauren Barack- Visual and performing arts programs can help students learn to explore feelings while also embracing impulse control and delayed gratification. Read the complete article at:

[https://www.k12dive.com/news/arts-provide-a-natural-curricular-vehicle-for-sel/601731/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Issue:%202021-06-22%20K-12%20Dive%20%5Bissue:35002%5D&utm\\_term=K-12%20Dive](https://www.k12dive.com/news/arts-provide-a-natural-curricular-vehicle-for-sel/601731/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202021-06-22%20K-12%20Dive%20%5Bissue:35002%5D&utm_term=K-12%20Dive)

**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:**

**Recognizing the Power in Arts Education-National Arts in Education Week (September 12 - 18, 2021)** is a national celebration recognizing the transformative power of the arts in education. Designated by Congress in 2010 through House Resolution 275, this celebration is designated to bring attention to this cause for elected officials and educational decision makers across the country and to support equitable access to the arts for all students. Hopefully your unit is celebrating this special week by hosting National #PTAReflections program ([PTA.org/Reflections](https://www.pta.org/Reflections)), speaking up for arts education in your school community ([PTA.org/ArtsEd](https://www.pta.org/ArtsEd)) and sharing your story during National Arts in Education Week!

### **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 117<sup>th</sup> 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)