



**CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM
December 2018 Report**

In Local News:

We are fortunate to have Trustee Hanacek in attendance at our December meeting. Trustee Hanacek is a valued member of our Board of Trustees who puts the interests of children at the forefront of every decision she makes with regards to our district. We are fortunate to have her with us again at our meeting.

In December our focus is on Student Mental Health Services and Student Support Services. One program supported through Student Support Services is the Adult Transition Program (ATP) through Special Education. Each year they hold a holiday shop to showcase and sell some of the projects they created that year. I have attached a copy of the flyer with the dates of the Holiday shop – the first is December 7th from 10am-1:30pm in training room 3, so stop by after our meeting to do some of your holiday shopping!

We are very fortunate to have lead counselor Rebecca Pianta presenting at our December meeting. The holidays can be very stressful, and our children and students are constantly under pressure from themselves, peers, and their academic instructors. We will learn more about what CUSD is doing to help our students learn resiliency, deal with stress, mental health services, and creating positive peer interactions. Unfortunately, across the United States the CDC is reporting a decline in life expectancy due to increased rates of suicide nationally. The report is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db330.htm> Additional analysis of the CDC report on mortality can be found at <https://www.menshealth.com/health/a25346826/us-life-expectancy-report/> and <https://www.health.com/condition/depression/life-expectancy-drug-overdose-suicide> and <https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/11/29/report-life-expectancy-continues-to-fall-in-the-us/> We are fortunate that CUSD is taking a lead role in addressing the mental health needs of our students, this is a national issue that must be addressed locally.

Josh Hill presented at our November meeting regarding where along the timeline CUSD is with implementing the California Healthy Youth Act of 2015. The Sexual Health Taskforce has continued to meet, and help refine the lessons the district is submitting to the Instructional Materials Review Committee on December 14, 2018. Prior to that, there are 3 opportunities for the public to review and comment on the curriculum – December 5,6, and 10. Details for these meetings are at: <https://capousd->

ca.schoolloop.com/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1514016268907&vdid=ii10db1xalayg Which is found under the tab "Sexual Health Education" on the front page of the district website – this tab is located about ½ way down the page on the right hand side. Under this tab, you can find out everything you wanted (and possibly didn't want) to know about the California Healthy Youth Act, Sexual Education in CUSD, and information presented to the Board of Trustees on Sex Ed.

At the November 14, 2018, School Board meeting, there was discussion around the issue of polling to help guide the development of SFID boundaries and size of bonds that might be acceptable to the voting population in a March 2020 election. The Board of Trustees has asked for more information before moving forward with authorizing the expenditure of funds for the polling.

The Board authorized the administration of the California Healthy Kids Survey in grades 5th (active opt-in); and 7th, 9th, and 11th grades with passive opt-in, active opt-out for these grade levels as well as the California School Staff Survey and the California School Parent Survey. Data from the surveys is intended to help schools foster a positive school climate and student learning engagement, prevent risky behaviors and other impediments to academic achievement and to promote positive health habits and behaviors. The surveys have multiple modules. The administration is planned for mid-January to early February 2019, where students in grades 5, 7, 9 and 11 will complete the core module of the survey. Students in middle and high school will also complete the supplemental Resilience and Youth Development module; the District has administered this module over the last two administrations (2015-2016 and 2017-2018). The California Healthy Kids Survey is completely different than the California Healthy Youth Act – while some of the information gathered in the Survey across the state, not just within CUSD, is why the California Healthy Youth Act was written and adopted in 2015.

Another discussion at the Board meeting was the potential of turning RH Dana Elementary School into a dual language immersion school starting with kinder and possibly first grade in the 2019-2020 school year. The current proposal uses a 50/50 model for the program. This is an exciting proposal, that hopefully will result in increased enrollment at RH Dana Elementary in the years to come.

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

October 10, 2018 – Regular Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/4023097807850777912.pdf>

October 24, 2018 – Special Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/7856181821270914775.pdf>

October 24, 2018 – Board Workshop – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/3479082492676210376.pdf>

November 14, 2018 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/6281392277325314777.pdf>

Audio Recordings of Meetings in July 2018-June 2019 can be found at <http://cusd.capousd.org/cusdweb/2018-19audio.html>

From Fourth District PTA:

Mona kindly attended the Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum in November 2018 representing CUSD. I am including her report on the Forum at the end of this newsletter.

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, November 2018

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

- Last month the *Advocacy Communicator* had an article about *Getting Down to Facts II*, a huge study of California's education system by more than 100 researchers. The researchers asked two panels, each with 11 educators, what it would take to make sure all students in California graduate from high school prepared to be successful. The panels came up with specific proposals that would cost an average of \$16,800 per student, which is about 38 percent more than the state spent per pupil in 2016-17.
- Our school district will be looking at its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) in the next several months. The *Communicator* has some resources that will help us prepare to be involved in that process.
- Registration is open for Sacramento Safari! Who is going to represent our PTA?
- The top priority for California State PTA during the past legislative session was getting AB 2878 passed. It passed the state legislature and has been signed into law! This bill provides a more detailed description of family engagement, which is one of the eight priorities that must be addressed in every school district's LCAP.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:
<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/advocacy-communicator/>

In State News:

This year, California State PTA took positions on more than 100 bills in the California Legislature, of which 45 were signed by the governor. As we work to meet our organizational and advocacy goals, this is a great win for PTA and for all

children and families. View California State PTA's end of session Legislative Action Report for 2018. (copies of goals and action report attached to email.)

Highlights from the 2018 Session

Signed and Supported by California State PTA:

- **AB 1871 (Bonta)** – This bill, co-sponsored by California State PTA, requires charter schools to provide low-income students with one nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal each school day
- **SB 1004 (Weiner)** – This bill requires the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to establish priorities for the use of Mental Health Services Act prevention and early intervention funds that includes: childhood trauma prevention and early intervention, early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention, outreach and engagement strategies that target secondary school and transition-age youth with priority on partnerships with college mental health programs and culturally competent and linguistically appropriate prevention and intervention.
- **AB 1747 (Rodriguez)** – This bill requires that all K-12 public schools develop comprehensive school safety plans, with all school staff to be trained on the plan. School districts and county offices of education are responsible for the overall development of a comprehensive school safety plan for each of its schools.
- **AB 3043 (Berman)** – This bill will authorize a school district, county office of education, private nonprofit school, charter school or residential child care institution that participates in the federal School Breakfast Program, starting with the 2019-20 school year, to provide universal breakfast to the maximum extent. The bill would define "universal breakfast" to mean a nutritionally adequate breakfast that complies with the federal School Breakfast Program and that is provided to every pupil at no charge.

In the November elections –

California Prop 5 was defeated. This is the only statewide Prop that the California PTA took a position on this year.

As of November 30, 2018, it appears that Tony Thurmond has won the election for State Superintendent of Education – though final results of the race have yet to be declared, he leads currently by about 200,000 votes and the majority of all postal votes have been counted. I am happy to see that over 10.2 million people voted in the State Superintendent election – I am happy more are taking an active role in the civic responsibilities we have as citizens. You can track where the state is in counting the votes for this race at <https://edsources.org/2018/results-for-the-california-superintendent-of-public-instruction-race-november-6-2018/>

Gavin Newsom won the Governorship – look for ideas of his education policy to play a role in how he crafts the budget that is released in January 2019 as a starting place, final 2019-2020 state budget is not due to be passed until June 15, 2019.

Gavin Newsom has proposed a cradle to career plan for education, which is ambitious, and would benefit our students and state, but it has a high price tag. Read more about his plans at <https://edsources.org/2018/newsoms-cradle-to-career-plan-for-education-is-ambitious-and-expensive/> Here is a great analysis of what it would cover and how much the costs might be from another perspective: <https://edsources.org/2018/a-cradle-to-career-education-system-in-california-what-it-might-cost/604633>

California has set new standards when looking at chronic absenteeism – this is one category that reports out via the school accountability dashboard. Under state law, chronic absenteeism is defined as any student who is absent 10 percent or more of school, regardless of the reason. Schools and LEAs have been required to report their goals for reducing chronic absenteeism to the public for the last two years through their Local Control Accountability Plans. Read more about this at: <https://k-12daily.org/politics-education/new-absenteeism-standards-will-challenge-most-districts>

School bonds across the state primarily pass in our past election - Besides voting for a new state superintendent of public instruction, voters in dozens of school districts in California on Tuesday decided whether to borrow money for school construction projects and tax themselves. Read more about this at: <https://edsources.org/2018/most-california-school-construction-bonds-parcel-taxes-pass/> This is something to keep in mind as Capistrano Unified moves forward considering potential bond(s) for different parts of the district on the March 2020 ballot. We need to weigh the pros and cons of bonds, but then look at what will make the biggest impact for the children of CUSD.

Some positive news when looking at school funding for the 19/20 school year:

LAO sees a near \$3b bump in Prop 98 funding next year

by Tom Chorneau (Calif.) Under favorable economic conditions, schools could expect to see the minimum funding guarantee grow to nearly \$90 billion by the 2022-23 fiscal year—a jump of \$10 billion above this year’s appropriation, according to a forecast from the non-partisan Legislative Analyst.

A far less optimistic scenario projects a recession by 2020 and growth in the Proposition 98 allotment would then be restricted to only about \$6 billion over the next four years from the \$78 billion provided to schools and community colleges in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Continue reading at: <https://k-12daily.org/budget-finance/lao-sees-a-near-3b-bump-in-prop-98-funding-next-year>

However, we also need to be aware of: **As economy booms, schools, community colleges can expect modest increase in Newsom’s first budget – Rising Pension Costs Could Consume half of K-12’s increase.** Read the

complete article at <https://edsources.org/2018/as-economy-booms-schools-community-colleges-can-expect-modest-increase-in-newsoms-first-budget/>

At the National Level:

Over the past year Education Secretary DeVos has met primarily with Republican members of Congress, with the incoming Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, it is anticipated that her office will start to meet with additional Democratic members of Congress. It is currently a waiting game to see what changes at the National level as the result of the last election. The National PTA continues to advocate for adequate funding for all students, support of the ESSA, gun safety especially in our school, keeping our children and schools safe, supporting family engagement at all levels of education, and support for all student populations including our second language learners, LGBTQ+ students, and special needs students.

What New Title IX Guidance on Sexual Assault and Harassment Means for K-12 Schools by Evie Blad

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos released a long anticipated rewrite of federal [Title IX guidance](#) Friday that allows schools to raise the bar on what evidence is needed to prove claims of sexual assault and harassment. Read the complete article at

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2018/11/what_new_title_ix_guidance_on_sexual_assault_and_harassment_means_for_k-12_schools.html

New Uncertainty on Title IX By Andrew Kreighbaum

DeVos Title IX proposal would make campus hearings into "mini courtrooms," higher education lawyers say, with cross-examination requirements survivor advocates criticized.

Last week Education Secretary Betsy DeVos released her proposed overhaul of federal standards for how colleges handle campus-based sexual misconduct. The rule includes a key demand from supporters of accused students, requiring that colleges allow those students to cross-examine, through an advocate, the person who accused them of misconduct in a live hearing.

DeVos said the regulations would ensure a more transparent, consistent and reliable process for campus hearings. Read more at:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/11/20/title-ix-rules-cross-examination-would-make-colleges-act-courts-lawyers-say>

From the National PTA:

There are currently several items that the National PTA are speaking out about explicitly – all are related to Gun Control and Guns in Schools. Please take a moment to visit <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action> and send an email to your representative supporting the National PTA's agenda in keeping our schools and students safe. The specific topics are:
















- Tell your senators to oppose the use of federal funds to purchase guns for schools

- Urge your members of congress to keep our children and our schools safe from gun violence!
- Tell your members of congress to invest in family engagement

Advocacy letters for National PTA: On PTA.org website under Advocacy tab, there are several letters that can be downloaded and sent to your Representative and/or Senator. Issues such as protecting transgender children, concern over Betsy DeVos and school vouchers, encouraging parent engagement (ESSA), protecting Federal nutrition programs, and many more.

The 115th 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. 2: Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 695: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 1757: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 1957: Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 2160: Best to Use Safety Belts Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 2401: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 2926: REACH Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 3006: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 3024: Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 3580: To promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 5374: Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 5992: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- H.R. 6775: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- S. 705: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 
- S. 774: Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

- S. 786: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1064: Anti-Lunch Shaming Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1401: Get the Lead Out of Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1402: A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 2572: Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 3427: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Early Learning and Childhood Education

- H.R. 3773: Child Care for Working Families Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1806: Child Care for Working Families Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Elementary and Secondary Education

- H.R. 627: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1511: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 1864: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow local educational agencies to use Federal funds for programs and activities that address chronic absenteeism. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 2475: Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 3246: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 5767: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 383: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 611: Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1413: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Federal Investments in Education

- S. 2542: A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

- H.R. 1478: Gun Violence Research Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

- H.R. 1832: To authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 2598: Gun Violence Restraining Order Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 3464: Background Check Completion Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4240: Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4434: Fix NICS Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 4909: STOP School Violence Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 5087: Assault Weapons Ban of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 834: A bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1212: Gun Violence Prevention Order Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1923: Background Check Completion Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 2135: Fix NICS Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- H.R. 1809: Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 866: Prohibiting Detention of Youth Status Offenders Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓


Post-Secondary Access and Opportunity


- S. 1615: Dream Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- S. 1658: Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓


Private School Choice and Vouchers

- H.R. 610: To distribute Federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students and to repeal a certain rule relating to nutrition standards in schools. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✗
- H.R. 895: Educational Opportunities Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✗
- H.R. 1387: To reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✗
- H.R. 4269: Public Funds for Public Schools Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✓
- H.R. 5199: Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✗
- S. 148: Educational Opportunities Act | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✗
- S. 2517: Military Education Savings Account Act of 2018 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) ✗

Special Education

H.R. 2782: Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

H.R. 2902: To amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

S. 1295: Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower Act of 2017 | 115th Congress (2017-2018) 

Fourth District Advocacy Forum

Nov. 14, 2018

Fountain Valley District Office

Speakers, Rick Sampson, Renowned expert on CA State Ed Funding & Policy

Dean West, CPA OCDE Associate Superintendent of Business Services

Kathy Moffat, Orange Unified School District Board Trustee, Past Director of Legislation CA PTA

Rick Sampson – Discussed how CA began to fund our statewide public education system. John Serano, a public school parent of several Los Angeles schools in 1968, brought forth Serano vs. Priest which would later detail and uncover unequal fundraising schemes at the time to benefit public schools at disproportionate amounts distributed to different school districts throughout the state. CA Superior Court of Los Angeles County would find in fact side with Serano. Leading us to discuss prop 13, passed June 6, 1978. Prop 13 helped to remedy school funding at the time and represented a power shift from local control of public education dollars to Sacramento. Taxing property values at 1% of their value going back to 1976. Discussed how widely again, disproportionate monies from property tax values would vary greatly and not provide adequate funding. Leading is to prop 98, passed in 1998. CA is unfortunately dead last in public school funding. Adequacy depend on general expense fund allotted to CA as a whole. Our public school funding is well below what is needed. Pensions and costs to retain and keep qualified teachers is seen as the most growing expense for any district in our state. Mr. Sampson also discussed we do need at least \$5,000 more per student to meet standards, not exceed standards, meet standards. Many districts have passed bond initiatives to bridge the gap in funding by the state. Bond initiatives require 55% vote from local population to implement. To add additional tax revenue from our state would require at 2/3 majority vote to pass. We are left with a teacher shortage as the cost of living is high in our state, it is not attractive to new teachers as they cannot afford to live in our communities. At the end of the day, the individual student suffers as a result of inadequate funding.

Dean West – At the OCDE, they're developing plans as to what more money per student would look like and how to distribute and capture the best placement of anticipated additional monies from the state.

Dean gave us a handout which describes the overall picture of who makes up our public education population. Overall, County of Orange, public education, 50% are socio-economic disadvantaged. 50%, let that sink in a moment. 11% are special education students and/or students protected under CA ADA laws. The special education group is soaring and this is where Dean attributed most if not all many resources are being allocated. 5% in Orange County public education system are homeless and/or considered transient population, living in motels with another family to share expenses. Biggest issue looking ahead is declining enrollment statewide. The only growing district in Orange County is Irvine Unified. Population is ageing, people are having fewer children and many young people moving to other states where their public education experience is considered more enriched, ie: lower class size, more programs to offer youth, sports programs are not as competitive. CA is not keeping pace with other states and as a result losing quality educators and students alike. Dean also discussed the significant achievement gap. We began a Q & A session discussing achievement gap.

Kathy Moffat – Described Orange Unified as similar to Capo Unified, which I thought interesting. Their district is not eligible for additional grant money from the state as they do not qualify, similar to Capo Unified. Kathy went on to say concentration gaps are valuable resource to districts but many do meet the requirements, theirs, Orange Unified and ours, Capo Unified. Kathy also discussed special education and transportation costs seen as soaring. Discussed how CA underserving our youth and possible consequences and as you imagine, the societal issues we have today. Mental health seen a resource to families with the more effort spent providing mental health services, the fewer problems said district has. Encouraged our group to get involved in our LCAP meetings and be a voice.

Overall – The Advocacy Forum was well thought and engaging. Mona was the only person in attendance from Capo Unified.