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CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM

January 2018 Report

In Local News:

Trustee Patricia Holloway will be joining us at our February 2, 2018, meeting so we can get to know her better.

Board Reorganization: Each year at the December Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees elects within itself the President, Vice-President, and Clerk of the Board. This year, Trustee Bullockus nominated to maintain the leadership of the Board as the district navigates its way through contract negotiations, continues with school reorganization plans (CapoForward), and structural changes as a result of the Strategic Plan for Special Education - this passed 5-0-2 (Trustees Reardon (on vacation skiing) and Jones (ill with pneumonia) were absent.)

Budget Update relating to 2017-2018 First Interim Report: On pages 17-46 of the December 6, 2017 Agenda and Exhibits (link below) is the complete PowerPoint Presentation on the budget and the assumptions the district is working within. It contains information on staffing costs, health care costs, and facilities costs. As of the filing of this report, the District is within their proposed budget for this academic year.

For insight into what is happening in other nearby districts, San Marcos is running a significant deficit and is looking at increasing class size, reducing personnel costs - the runaway pension costs being forced down on districts from the state is just exacerbating the situation. For more information please see:

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/north-county/sd-no-san-marcos-20171212-story.html>

For information on average teacher salaries and superintendent salaries state wide, please see: <http://www.sacbee.com/site-services/databases/article3187034.html>

Dress Code Policy: A complete re-write occurred from the dias on this policy. The basis for the policy was in a modified version of the California School Board Policy on Dress Code with a supporting Administrative Regulation to support based upon the Dress-Code Committees policy presented originally at the October 2017 Board Meeting. The final policy adopted was more of a philosophical statement rather than an explicit document of

short lengths, shirt styles, etc. The new policy should be in place by the end of January 2018.

Solar Energy Projects: Final presentations looking at solar feasibility were submitted and students who participated gave presentations on the topic. The District is moving forward with securing KREPS financing for adding solar energy projects at the high schools. As presented, these projects should result in a net savings to the District. These projects have also been a great learning experience for many of our students interested in environmental stewardship.

UPDATE on contract with CUEA (teachers) - The District and CUEA met for a full day of "Fact Finding" in December. Progress was made, and a second day of meetings is scheduled for January 2018. At the December Fact Finding meeting both sides were told to keep silent about the discussions held, so it has been very quiet of late. Ryan Burriss will provide an update on this at our meeting. Additional information from the District can be found at: <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/cuea> and from CUEA here is a link to their positions http://www.cuea.org/negotiations/1617_negotiations.php

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

November 8, 2017 -

Agenda and Exhibits - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1218998819331/1455438848279/1791218767939517423.pdf>

December 6, 2017 -

Agenda and Exhibits - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1218998819331/1455438848279/8371361947965168948.pdf>

Audio Recordings of the Meetings in July 2017-June 2018 can be found at <http://cusd.capousd.org/cusdweb/audio2017-18.html>

From the California PTA:

The new CAPTA President, Dianna MacDonald, wrote an article on the new dashboard for school accountability at Edsource. Here is a link to her article:

<https://edsource.org/2017/new-california-dashboard-will-prompt-deeper-questions-about-student-and-school-performance/591501>

CAPTA also focused recently on the importance of teaching peers awareness of special needs, disability awareness, building compassion, and making friends in the classroom - read more at <https://www.care.com/c/stories/6618/teaching-your-child-about-peers-with-special/>

At the State Level:

California needs to figure out how to address Chronic Absenteeism and how this affects student progress and learning. Learn more at <https://edsources.org/2017/california-must-set-ambitious-goals-to-combat-chronic-absenteeism> .

California needs to figure out how to work within ESSA and with the new Dashboard. At the moment the Federal Department of Education has issues with how California has proposed tracking student progress with the Dashboard. See more at <https://edsources.org/2017/federal-government-finds-flaws-in-californias-plan-to-improve-lowest-performing-schools>

Here is a link to the school Dashboards that may or may-not be compliant for ESSA. <https://edsources.org/2017/california-school-dashboard>

Here is more on the conflict between California with its Dashboard and the lack of specifics the federal government wants as part of ESSA. <https://cabinetreport.com/politics-education/feds-pan-cas-essa-plan-setting-up-new-conflict>

Across the state Pension costs and health care benefits for retirees are on the rise, meanwhile budgets are not increasing. Here is a look at how some districts across the state compare: <https://www.ocregister.com/2017/12/19/school-districts-spending-more-and-more-on-retirees/>

From Fourth District PTA:

Kathy will be attending the 4th District Advocacy Forum on January 12, 2018, meeting on behalf of CUCPTSA and her report on that meeting will be in the February 2018 Newsletter. Her notes from the December meeting are at the end of this newsletter.

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, December 2017

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

- As always, Ron Bennett brought us lots of information at the November Advocacy Forum. He said there could be some interesting developments in California education during the next year.
- Have we chosen a representative to go to Sacramento Safari? Registration fees go up on December 16.
- The next Advocacy Conference Call with California State PTA will be on Monday, January 8 at 7 p.m. Instructions are in the newsletter.

- The newsletter has a summary of school finance terms such as Local Control Funding Formula, Proposition 98 and basic aid district to give you a general understanding of how our schools are funded. There's more information at CAPTA.org.
- Our state legislators are in their home offices until January so it's a good time to visit, call or send an email and ask them to be sure that schools are adequately funded when they work on the next state budget.
- Dianna MacDonald, the new State PTA president, will be the speaker at the Advocacy Forum in January, along with Lynn Miyamoto, the state PTA vice president for family engagement. They will tell us how we can advocate for a healthier school climate to improve the emotional and mental well-being of our children.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

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

At the National Level:

Betsy DeVos has delayed for 2 years the implementation of a rule requiring districts and states to aggressively address the racial disparities within special education populations. Find out more at https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/15/us/politics/devos-obama-special-education-racial-disparities.html?_r=1

Two upcoming events to watch from Politico: The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee is scheduled to vote on the nominations of three of President Donald Trump's picks for Education Department positions Jan. 11. The panel will vote again on the nominations of Mick Zais to be deputy secretary and Jim Blew to be assistant secretary for planning, evaluation and policy development. Both cleared the panel last month, but did not gain confirmation by the full Senate before the end of the year, triggering a second vote, per Senate rules. The panel will also vote on the nomination of Kenneth Marcus to serve as the department's assistant secretary for civil rights. Watch a livestream of the vote. Additionally: **TRUMP TAPS CREDO RESEARCHER TO LEAD ED DATA ARM:** Late Thursday, Trump tapped James Lynn Woodworth to serve as the the next commissioner of education statistics for the remainder of a six-year term expiring in June 2021. Woodworth comes from Stanford University's Center for Research on Educational Outcomes, or CREDO, where he worked as a quantitative research analyst.

From the National PTA:

National PTA Stands with Families, Schools Impacted by Wildfires:

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Dec. 8, 2017)—National PTA President Jim Accomando issued the following statement regarding the wildfires in Southern California:

"National PTA is deeply concerned for all of the families, schools and communities affected by the wildfires burning in southern California. Our thoughts, prayers and sympathies are with everyone impacted by these devastating fires.

"As with the wildfires in Northern California, we remain committed to doing everything we can to support the families and school communities affected and assist them in their efforts to rebuild and recover. We urge everyone to donate to our association's Disaster Relief Fund, which was established to respond to tragedies that grievously disrupt a school or education system. One hundred percent of donations to the fund will go directly to PTAs and schools in need and will help provide important supplies for students and teachers when schools reopen.

"This has been an especially tough year for so many families, schools and communities in the wake of the wildfires, hurricanes and other natural and man-made disasters. The need to give has never been greater and our mission at PTA has become that much more important, particularly among the holiday season.

"The response to each unprecedented disaster our country has endured the past few months has reaffirmed that we can continue to count on our PTA members across the country to give our children and school communities what they need to thrive."

National PTA President Jim Accomando shared information about the association's Disaster Relief Fund live on Facebook. Visit [National PTA's Facebook page](#) to view the video.

Stop Budget Cuts: Federal funding for public education programs has remained at 2% of the federal budget for decades, despite the increase in public school enrollment and the rising cost of education resources and services. This disparity between funding levels and actual costs means that the federal government has essentially enacted cuts to classrooms. #STOPCutsToClassrooms

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. 695: Child Protection Improvements 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)) 

S. 705: Child Protection Improvements 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)) 

Early Learning and Childhood Education

H.R. 3773: *Child Care for Working Families Act* (115th Congress) 

S. 1806: *Child Care for Working Families Act* (115th Congress) 

Elementary and Secondary Education

H.R. 627: *Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2017* (115th Congress) 

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) 

H.R. 2475: *Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017* (115th Congress) 

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) 

S. 383: *Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act* (115th Congress) 

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

H.R. 1478: *Gun Violence Research Act* (115th Congress) 

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) 

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) 

H.R. 895: Educational Opportunities Act (115th Congress) 

H.R. 1387: To reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes. (115th Congress) 

H.R. 4269: Public Funds for Public Schools Act (115th Congress) 

S. 148: Educational Opportunities Act (115th Congress) 

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)) 

Links to all of these bills for further information can be found at:

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/federal-legislation/Key-legislation>

Kathy Brevoort's entire report from December 4th District Advocacy Meeting:.

Fourth District - Legislative Advocacy Leader Meeting - December 1, 2017 - report by Kathy Brevoort.

Attendees: Kathleen Fay- Sacramento Safari, Gisela Meier-Advocacy Communicator Editor, Vivien Moreno- VP Advocacy Fourth District, a solo Leg Rep from Tustin Unified, and Kathy Brevoort representing CUSD.

Current Issues Discussed:

The state of California will have a surplus of money due to investments and the stock market. This will be one- time money for Governor Brown to spend. CAPTA

is lobbying for anything education related (nothing specific). The main opposition is the funding of the bullet train and other transportation issues.

Discussion was on the subject of the effects of the new tax reform if put into law. One concern is the elimination of tax deductions including donations to charitable organizations. The PTA may be affected by less memberships and donations. The discussion was on the mortgage deduction with a \$500,000 cap where the average price for a home in California is above \$500,000. The official position on this subject has to be from the National PTA or California PTA, which at that time both have no official position as yet. Cuts in federal funding for education are not a concern because the federal government already falls short of funding.

The new California Dashboard has been slightly changed due to California students being flat lined in performance this year, so this showed no improvement from last year, meaning the majority of the categories fit into the red. To make it look better, criteria was changed. It will take a few years to become more accurate.

Gisela Meier is a member of the Orange County League of Women Voters. The Fourth District and the League are exploring the idea of co-hosting a Governor's Candidate Forum for Orange County. Still in the planning stage, candidates from all parties will meet and either LOWV or Fourth District will moderate. The League follows very strict rules on the forums. Kathy requested input on CUCPTSA co-hosting a candidate's forum for the CUSD Board of Trustee seats open next year. We discussed the different ways to approach this due to each candidate representing a specific area, but also representing all students. The CUCPTSA would work along with the South Orange County Branch of League of Women Voters.

For Sacramento Safari- because of the large number of newbies attending and a refresher course for the seasoned attendee, the first section in Sacramento will be a short course in school funding- LCFF&LCAP. Another will be an overview of ED100.