



**CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM
March 2019 Report**

In Local News:

We are fortunate to have Trustee Reardon attending our March 2019 meeting. We also have presentations by Stacy Yogi regarding the LCAP and Dr. Susan Holliday regarding the status and changes to GATE and Accelerated programs in CUSD.

Our February meeting was a dynamic discussion with Barrett Snider of Capitol Advisors. I am so thankful for the insights he provides into the inner workings of Sacramento. I want to thank Superintendent Vital for enabling our working with him and others at Capitol Advisors as we work on behalf of all the children of Capistrano Unified.

We had 9 attendees from Capistrano Unified out of the 73 who attended Sacramento Safari representing the entire 4th District PTA. The two days of meetings and talks were insightful and I think productive. We will share our experiences at the meeting on March 8th, and I will create a general report in the coming weeks for you to share with all our units. There were 4 main talking points for our visit this year. First, mental health services need to be provided at all our schools at a higher ratio than currently seen. In Capistrano we are averaging 1 counselor to 1,000 students in the elementary and middle school years, but only 1 counselor to 1,300 students at the high schools. There is currently legislation introduced to mandate a counselor to student ratio of 1:600 – this would mean a doubling or more of the counselor staff within CUSD. What a benefit we would see if this happens for our students! Second, we need consistent increased funding for all educational programs (new way of saying – raise the base!) Many of the legislators we met with sounded positive on this concept – so we will see what happens. Third, Late Start for Middle and High School aged students. Senator Portantino reintroduced his late start bill, it is still SB328 (he waited to introduce until he could get the same number as before!) Many sounded positive on this legislation, though there are still some who say it is a local control issue and not a public health issue. We will see what happens as it moves through the system this year. And lastly, but not least important – Arts education. The California PTA and Create California have partnered to reinforce the importance of arts education and highlight how inconsistent arts education is across the state and across grade levels. In a move to help schools increase their access to arts educations, CUSD announced on Friday, March 1, 2019, that starting in the 2019/2020 school year the district will provide 2 trimesters of primary music (TK-3) at all school sites. This is an amazing step forward in arts education in our schools and also a HUGE burden off of PTA's and Booster clubs in fundraising to provide this program to our

students. More information regarding these talking points and the discussions in Sacramento to come soon!

At the February 27, 2019, School Board Meeting a public hearing was held regarding the adoption of the California Healthy Youth Act Curriculum for Middle Schools. There was a great deal of community input and comment. After which, the Board of Trustees discussed the curriculum in great detail. The Board of Trustees adopted the Middle School curriculum on a vote of 6-1. Starting this month, the adopted curriculum will be available for review at all middle school campuses and in the district office. Meetings will be held with Families about the curriculum and the ways in which they can opt out if they choose (though hopefully very few choose to opt out). Additionally, teacher trainings will occur regarding this curriculum and our students will finally be taught the curriculum in May. I want to thank all who were involved in voicing their concerns regarding this issue and who worked with the District to find a program that will benefit our students and honor our community. Thank you also to the Board for doing what is best for all our students.

At our January meeting, the presentation by Mike Beekman on school safety was fantastic. I have copies of the "Dee" video that you can share with your units. Please see me for a copy. I encourage you to talk with your site administrator when working to schedule this presentation.

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

January 24, 2019 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1455438848279/8825740901842009411.pdf>

February 13, 2019 – Special Board Meeting – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/2160532355714947428.pdf>

February 13, 2019 – Board Workshop – <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/1097544306769835847.pdf>

February 27, 2019 – Board Meeting - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1514016268888/1531973256666/2332864057212526896.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:

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, February 2019

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

- Our new governor, Gavin Newsom, has issued a proposed state budget with lots of good news for children and families. He would like to invest \$1.8 billion on early childhood programs, including more pre-school spots for low-income children, expanding full-day kindergarten at all schools, more screening and early intervention for babies and toddlers, and increasing family leave to six months. Schools would get \$2 billion more under the Local Control Funding Formula and almost \$600 million more for special education. The governor

would also like to make a \$3 billion payment to the state retirement fund, which would allow school districts to spend more of their money on education programs rather than contributions to the retirement fund.

- Save the date! The next Fourth District PTA advocacy Forum will be on Friday, March 29. All PTA members are welcome to attend.
- Is our PTA actively involved in creating our school district's Local Control and Accountability Plan? The *Communicator* lists some resources at CAPTA.org, Ed100.org and EdSource.org that will help us participate in an informed manner.
- The four superintendents who spoke at the Advocacy Roundtable in January made it clear that they want and seek parent involvement and that parents have made a real difference in their districts.
- California State PTA has launched a campaign with Create California to advocate for arts programs for all children, kindergarten through high school. You can sign up at www.createca.org

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

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

California PTA holds monthly Legislation and Advocacy Conference Calls:

The upcoming conference calls are scheduled for:

- March 25, 2019 at 7 p.m.
- April 22, 2019 at 7 p.m.
- May 28, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Please see <https://capta.org/resource/legislation-conference-calls/> for information on how to dial in and participate in these calls.

In State News:

Disclaimer – The California PTA is supportive of parent choice in schools for their children. Issues regarding Charters are of concerns to local communities when it impacts school finances, transparency, and access. The articles regarding Charters do not reflect the opinion of the California PTA or CUCPTSA – rather they are just here as reference to education happenings at the state level at the present time.

California charter schools facing new oversight under fast track legislation

by Diana Lambert - Senate Bill 126 would require that California charter school boards comply with the same open meeting, conflict-of-interest and disclosure laws as district school boards, including holding public board meetings and opening records to the public. This bill has been fast-tracked through both the Assembly and Senate.

Governor Newsom is expected to sign it in the coming weeks. Read more at <https://edsources.org/2019/california-charter-schools-facing-new-oversight-under-fast-track-legislation/>

Disclosure requirements for charter schools await Gov. Newsom's signature

by John Fensterwald - With uncommon speed, the California Assembly on Thursday followed the lead of the Senate a week ago, passing a bill imposing more disclosure and public access requirements on California's 1,300-plus charter schools. Senate Bill

126, which the Assembly adopted with a 63-to-9 vote, will now head to Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose staff guided negotiations that led to its quick approval. Read more at <https://edsource.org/2019/disclosure-requirements-for-charter-schools-await-gov-newsoms-signature/>

Proposed legislation would substantially curb growth of California

charter schools by John Fensterwald - The chairman of the Assembly Education Committee and several Democratic colleagues introduced a package of bills Monday that would impose severe restrictions on the growth of charter schools.

Three of the bills would eliminate the ability of charter schools to appeal disapprovals to the county and state, place an unspecified cap on charter school growth and enable school districts to consider the financial impact of charter schools when deciding whether to approve them. A fourth bill would abolish the right of a charter school that can't find a facility in its authorizing district to locate a school in an adjoining district. Read the entire story at: <https://edsource.org/2019/proposed-legislation-would-substantially-curb-growth-of-california-charter-schools/>

Gov. Newsom proposes to chip away at mountain of pension liability and ease school districts' burden

by John Fensterwald - Districts had been bracing for a big increase in pension payments. Instead, under the proposed budget, they'll pay about half the raise in rates anticipated next year and in 2020-21. Read more at <https://edsource.org/2019/gov-newsom-proposes-to-chip-away-at-mountain-of-pension-liability-and-ease-districts-burden/>

California School Accountability Dashboard by Daniel J. Willis, Justin Allen & Yuxuan Xie - See how California's public schools and districts fare on the state's new accountability reporting system. Explore the database at

<https://edsource.org/2018/search-and-compare-data-from-the-california-school-dashboard-2018/>

At the National Level:





Democrats assume power on key Congressional education committee by Louis Freedberg - Rep. Bobby Scott, the new chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, says he will seek bipartisan support for reauthorizing the Higher Education Act. Read more at <https://edsource.org/2019/democrats-assume-power-on-key-congressional-education-committee/>

From the National PTA:

Advocacy letters for National PTA: There are several letters that can be downloaded and sent to your Representative and/or Senator. Links to the letters can be found at <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/federal-legislation/letters-to-policymakers> current letters are in regard to Gun Safety and Violence Prevention; Health and Safety; and Childhood Nutrition.

The 116th Congress is considering the following legislation items. The National PTA is supporting (green checkmarks) or opposing (red x) the following items:

Elementary and Secondary Education

- H.R. 865: To provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- S. 213: A bill to amend the SOAR Act. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- S. 235: Teachers Are Leaders Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- S. 266: A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes. | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

- H.R. 8: Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 
- S. 42: Background Check Expansion Act | 116th Congress (2019-2020) 