

Dec 10, 2009 Sacramento Trip Executive Summary
By: Kim Anderson

Attendees:

Lori Abbott – CUCPTSA Legislative Co-Chair & Legislative Co-Chair Las Flores MS
Kim Anderson – CUCPTSA Legislative Co-Chair & Legislative Co-Chair Dana Hills HS
Kathy Fischer – State Legislative Co-Chair & Legislative Chair Aliso Niguel HS
Erin Kutnick - Legislative Chair San Juan Hills HS
Alli Maier – Sacramento Advocacy Chair, Legislative Chair Marco Forster MS & Malcom Elementary School

Held a total of six meetings:

Roger Mackensen – Senate Republican Education Consultant
Terry Anderson – Associate Vice President, School Services of California
Jim Wilson – Senate Education Chief Consultant
Paul Navarro – Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor Schwarzenegger
Gerry Shelton – Assembly Education Chief Consultant
Rick Simpson – Deputy Chief of Staff to Speaker, Karen Bass

Highlights:

- Between appointments, we were able to go in briefly to the Assembly Appropriations Committee meeting, chaired by Kevin DeLeon, and listen to testimony on Assembly Member Julia Brownley's Race to the Top bill – ABx5 8.
- We had a few moments with Speaker Karen Bass, who thanked us again for all we do for the kids of our district and our state.
- The new Speaker of the Assembly was selected today, John Perez, a Los Angeles Democrat.
- After 37 years in the Capitol, Jim Wilson, the Senate Education Chief Consultant, will be retiring at the end of this year. They are interviewing for his replacement currently - it will likely be someone internally.
- The Governor held a mini press conference indicating he would veto ABx5 8 if it comes across his desk.
- The Christmas Tree lighting ceremonies were going on as we were leaving.

Things we heard consistently:

(Race To The Top – RTTT- dominated virtually every conversation)

- RTTT:
 - Ø California has to be not only eligible but also competitive to be successful in getting some of this federal funding, which is part of the ARRA stimulus package.
 - Ø The Romero bill (SBx5 1) is basically the Governor's bill and it makes more reforms than required by the federal RTTT guidelines. However, the Governor sees this as an opportunity to make changes in education policy that he's wanted to for a long time.

- Ø The Brownley bill (ABx5 8) is seen as maintaining more of the status quo and not going far enough.
- Ø Key issues that still need to be resolved are: charter schools, open enrollment & the parent trigger component.
- Budget:
 - Ø The budget situation is extremely dire with an almost \$21 billion deficit projected over the next 18 months.
 - Ø Whether there will be mid year cuts or not to education is still unknown.
 - Ø Will be brutal for 2010/11 & 2011/12 as the one-time savings are going away and 2009-10 budget assumptions for savings never materialized.
 - Ø This is a good time to push for the categorical flexibility to be extended through 2013/14.
 - Ø Maintenance of Effort (MOE) waiver has not been applied for.
- Governance and Education Reform:
 - Ø Everyone agrees the current state governance doesn't work and that change is necessary.
 - Ø There is also a need to reform education finance and give more local control.
 - Ø CSBA and ACSA are considering litigation against the state of California for inadequate school funding.
 - Ø Term limits are a problem – they've created a lack of knowledge and long term thinking.

