



OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

May 2008 Edition

Orange County School Boards Association

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2007-2008

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A Message from the OCSBA President – Judy Edwards

What a year it has been in California! We have had wild fires that affected all our lives, followed by the threat of flooding in the canyon areas. Natural disaster

is bad enough, but we are now facing the financial disaster that the Governor has rained down upon our school districts and the children we are trying to educate.

As in the past, the state has not been fiscally prudent. They spend with abandon when the revenue is high and then go into panic mode when there is no revenue. Again the state faces an empty checkbook and they look to the school districts and the children of California to fix the problem.

The children of California are our most valuable resource. A well-educated child will be our chance for the future. Yet, the Legislature and the Governor are asking the school districts that educate these children to do more with less. When I say less I am not talking about a few cut backs but BILLIONS of dollars. We are faced with huge financial cut backs and the possible lay-off of hundreds of highly qualified teachers. The legislators are trying again to fix their problems on the backs of our children and teachers. This is like burning down the forest to save a single house. There has to be another way to meet the obligations of the state.

California School Boards Association (CSBA) and OCSBA are working with the districts throughout the state to help find solutions to the budget problems that face us all. There are Action Alerts from CSBA and State Budget Alerts that are being published regularly to keep us informed and help us seek ways to prepare and fight if necessary. We all need to stay focused on what is happening and work to give our children their shot at a great future.

On a lighter note, I would like to thank the officers and directors of OCSBA for all their help and support this past year. I hope that we have provided you with the information that has made your lives a little easier. I would also like to thank Ellin Chariton and Blanca Zimmerman from the Orange County Department of Education for all of their wisdom. Thank you all for making my year easier. Let's all continue to pull together as we try to guarantee a positive future for the children of California.

Judy Edwards



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2007-2008 Marian Bergeson Award Winner

Dr. Elizabeth Swift

The Marian Bergeson Award recognizes an Orange County School Board member who has provided outstanding governing Board service and community service to promote and enhance public education. The award serves as a tribute to Marian for her exemplary leadership.

Dr. Elizabeth Swift, the 2007-2008 Marian Bergeson award recipient, has demonstrated dedication and commitment in her 29 years of service as a governing board member of the Buena Park School District.

As a life long resident of Buena Park, Beth is truly committed to the Buena Park community and in particular, the students. Beth’s goals have always been to preserve, advance, and improve schools, by encouraging cooperative efforts of those who support educational opportunities, and to promote and support school improvement by way of research and legislation.

Beth has graduated from the Master of Boardmanship programs through CSBA, served several times as school board president and clerk, and has served as the board’s legislative representative. In addition to her role as governing board member, she has been teaching in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) since 1987. This year she was selected Teacher of the Year for the FJUHSD.

She has long been involved in the Buena Park Rotary where she received “Citizen of the Year” in 2006. Beth also received an “Honored Teacher” award from the Education Department of the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in 2006. Congratulations, Dr. Elizabeth Swift!



*Marian Bergeson with
Dr. Elizabeth Swift*



Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Program Planning

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), approved by voters in 2004 as Proposition 63, requires that each county in California prepare a Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) program plan. The County of Orange Health Care Agency wants to know what you think about services to be offered and groups of people to be helped by mental illness prevention and early intervention programs in Orange County.

The *prevention* element of the PEI program is meant to reduce risk factors or stressors to prevent the initial onset of a mental health problem as well as promote and support the well-being of “at-risk” individuals under challenging life circumstances in order to reduce the suffering associated with mental health problems.

The *early intervention* element of the PEI program is designed to prevent a mental health problem from getting worse. These programs are directed toward people for whom a short-duration (1 year), relatively low-intensity intervention is appropriate to measurably improve mental health problems or to avoid the need for more extensive mental health treatment.

For more information about the Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention program, please visit www.dmh.ca.gov/Prop_63/MHSA/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/default.asp.

If you would like to provide input to the planning process, you may access an organization survey at www.ochealthinfo.com/prop63/pei/survey/.

Children Now gives California another “C”



California’s children did not fare much better in 2007 than they did in 2006, according to Children Now, a nonpartisan, nonprofit children’s advocacy organization. The group cited poverty and poor health and education status as key problems for policy makers to address. They called on state leaders to increase funding and implement policies to improve children’s well-being.

Of the nine and a half million children in California, one in five lives in a very poor home, according to the report. Fewer than half of families earn enough to cover the costs of housing, child care, food and health insurance.

Children Now measured different elements of children’s welfare in three broad categories: health, including health insurance and mental health; education, including early care and education and after-school programs; and “cross system issues,” such as obesity and child safety. California received a “C” in both health insurance and mental health. “Despite their promises,” the group reported, “state lawmakers did not improve children’s access to health insurance in 2007.” In fact, they declared, funds for outreach programs for public health coverage, such as Healthy Families, were cut. The group said the number of uninsured children in the state has remained unchanged since 2003, and California ranks 43rd out of 50 states in that category.

California’s education grade also averaged a mediocre score. While Children Now found improvement in children’s test scores, it declared that high school graduation rates “remain unacceptably low.”

There was no change in the grade Children Now gave California for early care and education over the last two years. While nearly all parents appear to agree that preschool is important for children, only about one half of three- and four-year-olds attend. The group attributed this gap to an inadequate capacity. Further, “The children most likely to lack access to high quality preschool are those who would benefit from it the most.”

California received a higher mark for after school programs, which got a “B+.” According to Children Now, the number of public school programs in elementary and middle schools doubled and high school programs quadrupled. To download a copy of the report from the Internet, go to <http://publications.childrennow.org/assets/pdf/policy/rc08/ca-rc-2008.pdf>.



California Per Pupil Expenditures

Education Week ranks California **46th in ADJUSTED** per pupil expenditures of **\$7,081** as compared to the national average of \$8,973. **The adjustments are for regional cost differences** (based on 2004-05 data).

National Education Association (NEA) ranks CA **29th** in per student expenditures of **\$7,942**. Note that this is different from Education Week’s figures because **regional cost differences are not accounted for** in NEA’s calculation (based on 2004-05 data).

The Governor’s May Revise 2008 K-12 Budget shows Proposition 98 per pupil spending of **\$8,509 in 2007-08** and **\$8,610 in 2008-09**.

We sometimes hear or see in the press per pupil education spending of **\$11,935 for 2007-08**. This figure is the per pupil education spending from **all funding sources**; it includes funds for CDE state operations, prior year settle-up obligations, state special schools, state school facilities, bond repayment, state contributions to the State Teachers Retirement System, the State Library, and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Source: Governor’s K-12 Budget Summary 2008-2009



Welcome New District Superintendent

NED DOFFONEY – North Orange County Community College District

The North Orange County Community College District has appointed a new chancellor. Ned Doffoney, president of Fresno City College, will succeed Chancellor Jerome Hunter, who is retiring after eight years.

"This is an exciting challenge that I look forward to fulfilling," said Doffoney, who has a doctorate in Institutional Management from Pepperdine University.

He once served as president of Saddleback Community College in Mission Viejo and has been active in the group 100 Black Men of Orange County.

The district serves nearly 70,000 students at Cypress College, Fullerton College, and a school of continuing education. Doffoney is expected to assume his new position in July.



Orange County School Boards Association 2008-2009 New Board of Directors

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CSBA Region 15Martha Fluor, NMUSD
Newsletter Editor.....Suzie Swartz, SVUSD

TENTATIVE SAVE THE DATES!

OCSBA Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2008, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

ACSA XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting

TO BE DETERMINED, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

OCSBA Reception at CSBA Annual Conference

Thursday, December 4, 2008, San Diego Convention Center, 5:00 to 7:00 PM

ACSA XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2009, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2008-2009 Board Elections

Wednesday, May 6, 2009, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM



*Thank you to the OCSBA
2007-2008
Board of Directors*