



**OCSBA**  
Orange County School Boards Association

# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

**Spring 2010 Edition**

**Orange County School Boards Association**

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**2009-2010**

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## *A Message from the OCSBA President – Sharon Wallin*

As the end of the school year approaches, I am reflecting on the numerous obstacles that have effected how we strive to provide an excellent education to our students. Most of us are experiencing major cutbacks; many of us are

shortening our school year, or requiring salary roll-backs; some of us are experiencing rough times with unions; all of us are dealing with the reality that public education is simply not providing our students with all they deserve. Our current public education system is unstable, unsound, and insufficient. These truths are now a part of our daily lives.

But there remain other truths that are also part of our new reality. Our students need our leadership now more than ever. Education is a fundamental right of every child, a right guaranteed by the Constitution. The truth is our students in Orange County are weathering the storm, and we are more committed than ever to providing them with a world class education.

Over this past year, I have seen a silver lining emerge from our latest challenges. It is the camaraderie we have developed with each other. Our attendance at OCSBA dinner meetings has been excellent. We have the opportunity to share our concerns and learn from each other. We cannot underestimate the value of having an organization like OCSBA as a venue for important conversations. Let's keep up the communication, alliance, and collaboration within Orange County. Together we will demonstrate the unwavering dedication we have to our students.

It has been my pleasure to serve as OCSBA's President this past year, and I, once again, would like to thank SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union for underwriting our dinner meetings.

*Sharon Wallin*

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### ***Time to Take Action!***

#### ***Ask Your Local Legislators to Keep Their Promises to California Students***

*Submitted by Suzie Swartz, Board Member, Saddleback Valley Unified School District*

In the coming weeks, Orange County partners in the Education Coalition, including CSBA, ACSA, CCESA, CSEA, CTA, CFT, AFT and CASBO will be meeting with local legislators in their home offices to talk about what's happening in our local schools as a result of the devastating statewide budget cuts.

Over the last two years, more than \$17 billion has already been cut from education. We rank at the very bottom nationally in staff-to-student ratios and nearly last in per-pupil spending. Libraries have been virtually wiped out, while arts, music, sports,

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## ***2009-2010 Marian Bergeson Award Winner***

### **John “Jack” Bedell, Ph.D.**

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.

The 2009-2010 Marian Bergeson award recipient is Dr. John “Jack” Bedell. A dedicated educator, Dr. Bedell joined the Orange County Board of Education (OCBE) in July, 2003, filling a vacancy for District 4, representing Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, Placentia, and portions of Anaheim. The following year, he was elected to the Board for his first four-year term.

Jack is passionate in his commitments to ensuring the achievement of all students and the well-being of our communities. A proponent of local control, Jack is vigilant in his advocacy activities at the local, state and national levels. He regularly travels to meet with our Orange County legislative contingency in Washington, D.C. to advocate for adequate IDEA funding, and to ensure the rights of local school boards are protected. He and his Orange County Board of Education colleagues were instrumental in ensuring schools continued ability to claim Medicaid funding for Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA).

Jack has been a career educator and sociologist for more than forty years at CSUF, where he is a Professor of Sociology. He is a person of great knowledge and passion for teaching. During his years at CSUF, Jack has chaired the Academic Senate for five terms and served several terms as Chairman of Sociology, Child Development, Electrical Engineering, and currently serves as Chairman of the Anthropology Department. He also served as Director of the Faculty Development Center as well as Acting Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.



*John “Jack” Bedell  
and Marian Bergeson*  


Serving his community through various civic activities, he has gained a reputation as an articulate, knowledgeable, and responsible man of integrity. Congratulations, Dr. Jack Bedell!

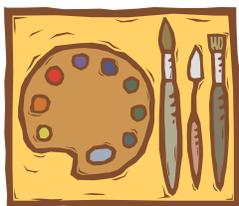
### **Afternoon Webinar: Supporting arts education in tough times**

**Thursday, May 27, 2010 / 4–5 p.m. / Fee: Complimentary**

*Submitted by Suzie Swartz, Board Member, Saddleback Valley Unified School District*

One of the most difficult programmatic cuts school districts are facing in this fiscal crisis has been arts education. Every child has the right to a comprehensive education which includes arts, so join CSBA and the California Alliance for Arts Education for a complimentary afternoon Webinar to learn about how to implement an arts education program for your students, even during these challenging times.

Participants will gain knowledge of available resources and successful strategies during this 45 minute Webinar. Our panel includes guests who will share their insights to support boards on: strategic planning, laying the groundwork for arts education, cultivating community involvement, successful and utilizing parents as support units.



You won't want to miss this exciting Webinar. Register today at <http://connect.csba.org/isgweb/Events/CalendarEventsListView.aspx>

Contact Andrea Johnson at [ajohnson@csba.org](mailto:ajohnson@csba.org) for more information.

## ***Time to Take Action!***

### ***Ask Your Local Legislators to Keep Their Promises to California Students***

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advanced placement and other essential programs have been eliminated from the curriculum in some districts.

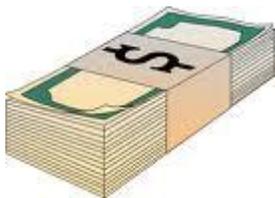
It's time to remind lawmakers that our public schools have been subjected to 60 percent of the budget cuts, even though education funding is only 40 percent of the statewide budget.

It's time for them to keep the Legislature's promise to our students and sign the Commitment Card to uphold the budget agreement that was signed into law. The Commitment Card says that your legislator will:

- Protect public education funding from further cuts,
- Stand by the budget agreement signed into law (AB 4X 3) to restore \$11.2 billion in funding owed to schools and community colleges, and
- Oppose any attempts to suspend or undermine Prop 09, the voter-approved minimum school funding guarantee.

For more information on Taking Action and the Commitment Card go to

<http://www.csba.org/searchresults.aspx?search=keep%20out%20promises%20to%20students> or contact [suzieswartz@prodigy.net](mailto:suzieswartz@prodigy.net) for information and to sign up to participate in the local OC legislator visits.



### ***News Flash? California Expenditures Per-Pupil Among the Lowest in the Nation***

It will come as no surprise to anyone familiar with California's Budget woes, that California's spending per student is officially among the lowest of all states. Two recent reports show that California has fallen from being below average in spending per student to far below average.

In the NEA's *Rankings and Estimates: Rankings of the States 2009 and Estimates of School Statistics 2010*, California was ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in spending per average daily attendance (ADA) in 2008-09. The report noted that California's expenditures per ADA were approximately \$8,605, compared to the national average of \$10,736 (a gap of \$2,131 per student).

The *Education Week* annual review, the *Quality Counts 2010* reports financial data from school year 2006-07, which for now stands as the high watermark in California spending on education.

The *Quality Counts* report found that, even at a relatively high point in spending, when adjustments for regional cost differences are applied, California ranked 46<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states and Washington, D.C., with an adjusted expenditure level of \$8,164 per student compared to the national average of \$10,557 per student. It stands to reason that comparisons for subsequent years will show California dropping further down in the rankings and the gap with other states growing.

It is heartening to note that, in spite of our relatively low spending when compared to other states, California's student performance is about average. In this regard, it appears that California may be among the lowest-funded school systems in the country, but is achieving an above-average result considering the level of investment.

*Source: The Fiscal Report, School Services of California, Inc., Volume 30, No. 8*



## Welcome New District Superintendents

### **JOSEPH FARLEY – Capistrano Unified School District**

Capistrano Unified trustees have hired Joseph Farley as District Superintendent. He will assume the post July 1. For the past five years Farley has served as superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District. Farley began his career as a high school journalism and English teacher at Chino High School in San Bernardino County. Before coming to Anaheim, he was Deputy Superintendent of the Oceanside Unified School District for nearly a decade. He holds a doctorate in education leadership from Northern Arizona University.

### **RICHARD TAUER – Westminster School District**

Richard Tauer will take over the role of District Superintendent on July 1. Tauer previously served as the district's assistant superintendent of Human Resources. Tauer, with 38 years of experience in education, has also served as director of personnel, and as a principal and a teacher at various campuses in Whittier City, South Pasadena, Temple City Unified and Rosemead school districts.



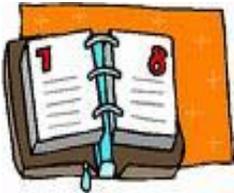
## Orange County School Boards Association 2010-2011 New Board of Directors

### DIRECTORS

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## SAVE THE DATES!

### Fiscal Update Meeting

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 – 3:30 to 5:30 PM at OCDE  
*Kevin Gordon, President, School Innovations & Advocacy*

### ACSA XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 – PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

### New Board Members Reception

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 – 4:00 to 5:45 PM at OCDE

### ACSA XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 – PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

### OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2010-2011 Board Elections

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 – PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

## Thank You SchoolsFirst!

*We extend our sincere gratitude to SchoolsFirst for their generous support for this year's joint OCSBA and ACSA dinners.*

