



**Orange County
School Boards
Association**

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2010-2011

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

May 2011 Edition



A Message from the OCSBA President – Suzie Swartz

Most often the expression a “gaggle of geese” brings to mind a large, noisy gathering of people. There are, however, important lessons to be learned from geese. Here is what science has discovered about geese flying in their famous “V” formation:

- As each goose flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in “V” formation the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.
- When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and then quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power from the bird in front.
- When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing formation and another goose flies point.
- Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep moving forward, to keep up speed.

Finally, and this is important:

- When a goose gets sick or is wounded and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out and follow down to lend help and protection.

What is good for the goose is good for the school board member – we must stand together with purpose and focus on our goal to provide the best education possible to our students despite these dire economic times. We can still take advantage of learning opportunities from each other’s experience and perspective. We can still encourage and uplift one another to help our students weather this financial crisis. I do believe that through OCSBA and the sense of community, we can build upon with our administrators, teachers, parents and school employees, we can increase our range of success to secure education funding and propel our schools forward.

Finally, just as we strive to ensure that no child falls through the cracks, we should have the good sense of geese and stand by each other, too.

I look forward to seeing you on May 25.

Suzie Swartz

With thanks to “Lessons from the Geese” by Robert McNeish





2010-2011 Marian Bergeson Award Winners

Meg Cutuli and Sharon Wallin

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

The 2010-2011 Marian Bergeson Award recipients are Meg Cutuli and Sharon Wallin. Each recipient demonstrates exemplary dedication and commitment to their school district and community.

Meg Cutuli is an eleven-year member of the Board of the Los Alamitos Unified School District and the Los Alamitos representative to the North Orange County Regional Occupational Program Board of Trustees. She has been a staunch advocate for all students and has demonstrated leadership at the local, county, and state levels. Her service to the cause of education has included leadership in Parent-Teacher Association, the school board, the Orange County School Boards Association, and the California School Boards Association. In each of these roles, she has been a tireless worker on behalf of others.

Meg is committed to on-going education as a board member and has used that commitment to increase the availability of professional development for members of all boards in the county. She is an active and conscientious assembly delegate who has served on the annual conference organizing committee. Meg has the ability to listen compassionately to all sides of an issue, and then make a decision that is best for students, the community, and the staff. Meg is highly valued by her constituents, the families in the district, staff, and her colleagues.



*Meg Cutuli &
Marian Bergeson*



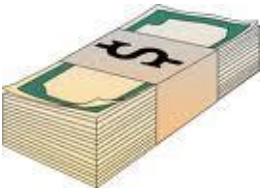
*Sharon Wallin &
Marian Bergeson*



Sharon Wallin has been a passionate advocate for public education for nearly 30 years, generously volunteering her time and resources while addressing issues of local, state, and national importance. Since joining the Irvine Unified School District Board of Education in 2002, she has furthered her reputation as an approachable leader and a problem-solver. Sharon's colleagues frequently turn to her for the latest information on state funding, new legislation, curriculum, and emergency preparedness. As a board member, she has been forced to make tough budget decisions and has emerged as a powerful voice on school funding issues. Yet, she has made it unequivocally clear that students come first.

As her dedication and breadth of knowledge have expanded over the years, she has remained one of the most affable and approachable leaders to ever sit behind the dais, making her an exemplary ambassador for public education.

Congratulations to Meg Cutuli and Sharon Wallin on receiving this prestigious award!



The California Department of Education Creates 'School Financial Emergency' Webpage

The California Department of Education has created a new webpage to give taxpayers a look at the budget cuts and teacher layoffs happening across California.

The department created a "School Financial Emergency" page on its website to keep state residents up-to-date on the "dire fiscal situation facing the state's public school system," according to a news release from the department.

The webpage gives an introduction into the financial crisis in education, a tally of educators let go across the state and a county-by-county look at the budget cuts each district faces.

For more information, please visit the School Financial Emergency webpage at
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/re/ht/fe.asp>



7 Orange County Schools Named State's Best

The California School Recognition Program is now in its 25th year and honors the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award. The prize, which alternates each year between elementary and secondary schools, goes to just 10 percent of campuses in the state. On April 12, 2011, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced the 99 California public middle and high schools selected as 2011 California Distinguished Schools. The complete list can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/disting2011.asp>.

"These schools are being recognized for attaining high levels of performance and sustained growth, and for making significant progress in closing the academic achievement gap," Torlakson said. "Becoming a Distinguished School is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work, and vision of each school's education community. They have succeeded despite a bleak economic environment and have endeavored to maintain their momentum and focus."

Seven Orange County public secondary schools were named 2011 California Distinguished Schools. This year's Orange County winners are: Oxford Academy, Anaheim Union High; Brea-Olinda High, Brea-Olinda Unified; Ladera Ranch Middle, Capistrano Unified; Newhart Middle, Capistrano Unified; Santiago Middle, Orange Unified; Col. J. K. Tuffree Middle, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified; and Arnold O. Beckman High, Tustin Unified.

Schools selected as California Distinguished Schools agree to share their Signature Practices that have provided the foundation for exemplary performance related to the Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results and serve as mentors to other educators who want to replicate their work.

California School Boards Association (CSBA) Appoints New Executive Director

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) has named Vernon Billy, a long-time policy consultant and education advocate, as its new executive director. Vernon has worked for both private sector education consulting firms and school districts. He also served as a lobbyist for CSBA from 1994 to 2000.

In a press release dated April 5, 2011, CSBA President Martha Flour stated, "The Board is ecstatic to have Vernon Billy join CSBA as our executive director. His extensive experience in the education and business fields is exactly what the association needs at this time to take it to the next level in terms of service and support to our members."

OCSBA extends a warm welcome to Vernon!



Orange County School Boards Association 2011-2012 New Board of Directors

DIRECTORS

County Board of Education	Elizabeth Parker
Elementary	Hilda Sugarman, FSD
Elementary	Christine Allcorn, FVSD
Unified	Judy Franco, NMUSD
Unified	Karin Freeman, PYLUSD
High School	Bill Dunton, FJUHSD
Community College	David Chapel, RSCCD
ROP Representative	Marilyn Buchi, FJUHSD
Legislative Chair	Sharon Wallin, IUSD
PAGE Chairperson	Meg Cutuli, LAUSD
Newsletter Editor	Susan Henry, HBUHSD
CSBA Region 15	Don Sedgwick, SVUSD

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President – Elect	Sue Kuwabara, IUSD
Vice President, Programs	Francine Scinto, TUSD
Secretary	Judy Edwards, FVSD
Treasurer	Lynn Thornley, FSD
Past President	VACANT

Thank You SchoolsFirst

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



Fiscal Update Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2011
3:30 to 5:30 PM

*Ron Bennett, President and CEO,
School Services of California*

At the Orange County Department of Education

Fiscal Update Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
3:30 to 5:30 PM

Speaker to be announced

At the Orange County Department of Education



In memory of

Shirley Carey

*President of the Orange County
School Boards Association*

*Huntington Beach School
District Trustee*

