



**OCSBA**  
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County  
School Boards  
Association**

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**2008-2009**

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**Page 1**

- Message from the President
- Follow Up on the Community Conversation

**Page 2**

- New District Superintendents
- CSBA Annual Conference

**Page 3**

- Follow Up on the Community Conversation (continued)

**Page 4**

- PAGE Meeting
- Dinner Meeting
- Parking
- Save the Dates

# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

**September 2008 Edition**



## *A Message from the OCSBA President – Susan Henry*

### *VISION AND LEADERSHIP*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Orange County School Boards Association, I welcome you back to another successful school year. While we know that this upcoming year will be full of challenges, we must not lose sight of the mission we have been charged with. Our students, parents, and staffs are depending on us to maintain the

vision that guides our districts and provide the leadership to realize our goals.

One of the most important characteristics of effective leadership is vision. Understanding the big picture, focusing energy in the right direction, and not being distracted are all strategies to achieve focus and clarity. Reviewing district mission statements may be especially helpful at the beginning of a new school year to renew our vision.

When I was a high school ASB leader in the early 70's, I attended the UCSB leadership camp during the summer. We were told a story about vision: Three men are working in a field somewhere in Medieval Europe. The first man says, "I am laying bricks." The second man explains, "I am building a wall." The third man exclaims, "I am creating a great castle!" It takes clarity, understanding, and focus to have vision. It takes vision to be able to lead, and it takes leadership to build an educated society.

*Susan Henry*

### ***Talk About Town: Follow Up on the Community Conversation with Daniel Pink***

*Provided by Jim Thomas, OCDE Coordinator, Visual and Performing Arts*

In March 2008, the Orange County Department of Education in association with Arts Orange County brought the best selling author Daniel Pink to speak to an audience of over 800 educators, parents, and community and business leaders. Mr. Pink's book, *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Inherit the Future*, stimulated a community conversation about the importance of teaching creativity in schools through rich arts education programs for children. The event sparked the imaginations of many attendees about what can be done to address this need. Both the Orange County Department of Education and Arts Orange County have continued this conversation with cadres of key stakeholders.

(Continued on Page 3)



## *Welcome New District Superintendents*

**JOSÉ BANDA – Anaheim City School District**

Anaheim City School District is pleased to welcome José Banda as the district’s new superintendent. Mr. Banda comes to the district after serving three years with the Oceanside Unified School District, first as director of Human Relations and the final year as deputy superintendent. He holds a master’s degree in educational leadership from Chapman University and has spent 28 years in education. Mr. Banda is the single father of two grown children. The son of migrant Mexican farm workers, he speaks fluent Spanish.

**RENAE E. DREIER, Ed.D. – Orange Unified School District**

Orange Unified School District proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Renae E. Dreier as their new superintendent. Dr. Dreier had served as the superintendent of the Greeley-Evans School District in Colorado since 2005. Prior to Dreier's service in Greeley, she served as a superintendent in Redding for four years and as a deputy superintendent and principal before that, beginning in 1997. Dr. Dreier earned her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California in 2000, her masters in History in 1984, and her bachelor of arts degree in History in 1973 from California State University, San Francisco.



*New superintendents Susan Belenardo, La Habra City School District; Ellen Curtin, Magnolia School District; and Greg Magnuson, Buena Park School District; will be highlighted in the November newsletter.*

### **CSBA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

OCSBA will once again host a reception for Orange County board members and district administrators on  
Thursday, December 4  
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.



at the CSBA Annual Education Conference  
in San Diego at the  
Manchester Grand Hyatt, Del Mar AB Room.  
To register for the CSBA Annual Education  
Conference, please go to: [www.csba.org](http://www.csba.org)



**Patrick Ochoa**

*for 40 years of service  
as a member of the  
Savanna School District  
Board of Trustees*



*A special thank you to  
Dr. Alexandria Coronado*



*of the Orange County Board of Education, and  
Sheila Benecke*

*former board trustee of the Capistrano Unified School District  
for their years of service on the  
OCSBA Board of Directors.*

(Continued from page 1)

## ***Talk About Town: Follow Up on the Community Conversation With Daniel Pink***



The Arts Advantage Education Initiative offers services to districts to establish, expand, and extend arts programs in schools. Working with The California Arts Project, districts develop five-year strategic plans with their local community. Thus far, 13 districts have envisioned what these programs will look like and have begun taking steps to realize them. Two additional districts and a charter school are scheduled to create plans this fall. Early adopters recently completed writing a year-long standards-based curriculum for visual arts, K-6, that will be piloted in eight Orange County schools this fall. Curricula for theatre and dance will be written this school year for implementation in fall 2009.

All schools will have access to a new web-based Resource Directory from Arts Orange County. Listings of professional artists, arts organizations, and artist residencies will allow classroom teachers to select from a variety of resources that will stimulate thinking and support exciting learning opportunities for kids at all levels.

Additional grant funding makes a difference in assuring that the arts get back into schools. Businesses such as the Boeing Company and Bank of America realize the critical need for a creative workforce and their foundations are leading the corporate community in aligning the efforts of school districts with professional development opportunities and access to community arts providers.



California State University, Fullerton, is adding a new focus to teacher preparation - that of preparing elementary teachers to integrate the arts across the curriculum. The *Teachers & Students as Artists* series joins the student teacher, master teacher, and teacher education faculty in professional development that has the potential to change the face of education. The new Center for Creativity and Critical Thinking in Education will house the project which will work in association with the Arts Advantage program to pair student teachers with districts. It is anticipated that these skilled teacher graduates will be a boon to Arts Advantage districts in moving their plans forward.

A community “think tank” is being established in south county with the assistance of the California Alliance for Arts Education. The committee led by Patricia Kelley, Mayor of Mission Viejo and Suzie Swartz, School Board President, Saddleback Valley Unified School District, will explore ways to foster increased arts education in local schools for all students.

This summer, the Orange County Performing Arts Center and Orange County Museum of Art partnered to bring Daniel Pink’s concept of “six senses” alive through the Arts Teach Leadership Institute. Fifty educators and artists worked with Dr. Victoria Stevens, renowned arts researcher and psychologist, to learn how arts education enhances learning for children. Artist educators on The Center’s Arts Teach roster assisted teachers to translate the teachings into classroom lessons.



Additionally, the Curriculum, Standards and Accountability unit of OCDE will be presenting a series of workshops on curriculum integration throughout this next year.

Daniel Pink advises that “the arts should be first among equals” in an education program that prepares students with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Orange County is collectively finding innovative and creative solutions to do just that. For further information on any of the above programs, contact Jim Thomas at (714) 966-4128 or [jthomas@ocde.us](mailto:jthomas@ocde.us)



Political Action Group Efforts  
 Wednesday, September 24, 2008  
 Irvine Marriott Hotel  
 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**Political Action Group Efforts  
 (PAGE) Meeting**

**“Critical State and Federal Issues”  
 Budget gridlock in Sacramento and NCLB**

**Presented by  
 Rick Pratt**

Assistant Executive Director  
 Governmental Relations at CSBA

As the November general election approaches, Board members have many questions about how potential changes may impact their district. Eliminating the budget gridlock in Sacramento and the potential impact of the November election on No Child Left Behind are just two of the key issues that Board members need to understand.

Rick Pratt, will discuss these and other critical issues at both the state and federal level.



**OCSBA Dinner Meeting**

Wednesday, September 24, 2008  
 Irvine Marriott Hotel  
 6:30 p.m.

*Join us for a stimulating discussion on:*

**“State Education Coalition:  
 What’s Next?”**

Discussed by a Dynamic Panel of Leaders  
 from CSBA, ACSA, and PTA

What can you do to help eliminate the budget crisis and other legislative challenges that we have all experienced in 2008? Our distinguished panel of state leaders will update us on the successes of last year’s state level Education Coalition and will outline the next steps for 2008-2009 school year.

The panel of prominent leaders includes **Rick Pratt**, assistant director of Governmental Relations, at CSBA, **Pam Brady**, president of California State PTA, and **Sal Villasenor**, legislative advocate from ACSA. Each will share their perspective and will answer questions from the audience.

Let’s use this input to get on board early this school year by providing leadership at the district level. When Orange County leaders work together at the local and state level they are powerful and very often successful in promoting change.

**Parking at Irvine Marriott**

*Marriott validated parking is accessed through self-parking gate at the front of hotel. Parking structures adjacent to the hotel do not accept Marriott validation. If parking is full, Marriott staff will direct you to its alternative parking.*

**SAVE THE DATES  
 2008-2009**

**OCSBA Dinner Meeting - Irvine Marriott Hotel**  
 Wednesday, September 24, 2008, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting - Irvine Marriott Hotel**  
 Wednesday, November 12, 2008, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**OCSBA Reception at CSBA Annual Conference**  
 Thursday, December 4, 2008, San Diego Manchester Grand Hyatt, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

**ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting – Irvine Marriott Hotel**  
 Wednesday, March 4, 2009, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2009-2010 Board Elections – Irvine Marriott Hotel**  
 Wednesday, May 6, 2009, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

