



OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

February 2008 Edition

Orange County School Boards Association

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A Message from the OCSBA President – Judy Edwards

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

I would like to begin by thanking the California School Boards Association for such a fine convention and trade show. Courageous Conversations could not have been a better title. As we face a time when courage is going to be very important, we need to think of the outstanding sessions that will help prepare us for what appears to be a gloomy financial future in the state of California.

We need to think about the courage shown by speaker Mark Salzman as he faced the angry and frustrated students who had so much to say and who only needed someone to show them how to express themselves in a positive way. Speaker Chris Gardner showed his courage everyday as he worked to support his young son, pursue a new career, and find a safe place for them to sleep nightly.

Now that the convention is over we must look to the future. The kind of courageous conversations that we must have with our districts and our communities will be difficult. Nobody wants to hear that there will not be enough money for big raises or some favored programs. Many of us may have to cut deep to simply continue to provide the best possible education for the students of our districts.

This is the time that it is so important to have an organization like CSBA that works hard to keep us informed. They will be there to lobby for our students in Sacramento. We need to do our part by making sure that our communities understand what is happening. This is the time to have those courageous conversations. While we must face the financial reality of not nearly enough revenue to meet the state’s obligations, we need to be tough about how important a quality education is for our children. Without that education we will have an even more serious problem in the future.

Stay informed and be ready to have that conversation within your district and within your community. Be sure that everyone understands how important our schools are.

Judy Edwards



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Request for Input for the 2008 California School Boards Conference



I have been fortunate to be selected to serve on the Education Committee for CSBA. Our charge is to plan CSBA's Annual Conference. I would love to get feedback from school board members throughout Orange County so that I can help to make this year's conference the best ever! If you have any insights to share with me, I would be grateful! Please email me at: megcutuli@hotmail.com. Thanks for your help!

—Meg Cutuli, Los Alamitos Unified School District

Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) Claiming for Schools to End

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) final rule (CMS-2287-F) was published in the Federal Register on December 28, 2007. The regulations eliminate federal Medicaid reimbursement for school-based administration and certain transportation costs. On December 29, 2007, the President signed the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (S 2499). The bill included a six-month moratorium prohibiting the Secretary of Health and Human Services from taking any action to impose restrictions on school-based administration or transportation.

This is interpreted to mean that school-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) costs will be federally reimbursed for activities performed through June 30, 2008. Invoices must be filed within the two-year period following the quarter in which the expenditures were made. According to CMS, 2007/2008 school budgets will not be affected.

The MAA program provides reimbursement to districts for certain administrative costs associated with school-based Medi-Cal-covered health services and health outreach activities. Orange County schools received approximately \$6.4 million for 2005/2006, the most recent year claimed.

Congressional action is needed to prevent implementation of the regulations on September 1, 2008. The Orange County Department of Education will continue to work with various stakeholder groups to support continuation of MAA funding. We will continue to keep you informed.

We would like to give a special thank you to



for hosting the reception for all Orange County School Board Members and Administrators at the CSBA Annual Education Conference in San Diego.

**Orange County Board of Education member
John “Jack” W. Bedell, Ph.D., leads
California County Boards of Education**



OCSBA congratulates John Bedell, one of five trustees on the Orange County Board of Education, upon his election to the presidency of the California County Boards of Education (CCBE). Dr. Bedell believes strongly in CCBE’s mission to provide leadership and services to county board members to enable them to help every student succeed.

As a member of the Orange County Board of Education for over four years, Dr. Bedell has held the positions of both vice president and president. Prior to joining OCBE, he held the office of school board president for Fullerton School District. Dr. Bedell has been a California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) faculty member for 38 years where he is a professor of sociology. During his years at CSUF, Bedell chaired the Academic Senate for five terms and served several terms as chair of the departments of Sociology, Child Development, Electrical Engineering and, most recently, Anthropology. He also served as director of the Faculty Development Center, as well as acting associate vice president for academic affairs. At the California State University system level, he was acting vice chancellor of academic affairs and chaired the statewide Academic Senate for three terms. While taking on these leadership roles, Bedell continues to be recognized as an outstanding teacher by students, and his classes are in high demand.



Welcome New District Superintendents

DARLENE LE FORT – Coastline Regional Occupational Program

The Board of Trustees of Coastline Regional Occupational Program has appointed Darlene Le Fort as their new Superintendent. Ms. Le Fort has 24 years of experience with the ROP, the majority of which was in administration and most recently as assistant superintendent of instruction, assistant superintendent, and acting superintendent. She is widely known throughout the state for providing leadership in curriculum development and supervision for career technical education at the local, regional, and statewide levels.



A. WOODROW CARTER – Capistrano Unified School District

A. Woodrow Carter is the Superintendent of Capistrano Unified School District. After a distinguished 27-year career as an active-duty Army officer, Mr. Carter began a second career as a leader in education. He is a graduate of both the Stanford and the Eli Broad Superintendent’s Academies. He has served as a school board member, a state administrator, and as the superintendent of Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District. Mr. Carter lives in Dana Point.





Political Action Group Efforts
 February 13, 2008
 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

“Sacramento Scene”

Presented by

Michael Kilbourn, President
 Legislative and Management Strategies, Inc.

Michael Kilbourn will provide insight into the Sacramento scene and the potential budget and legislative impact to education. After 27 years of lobbying activity for the Orange County Department of Education and various school districts, Mike established Legislative and Management Strategies, Inc. to provide legislative advocacy services for districts and county offices of education throughout California.

**JOINT OCSBA/ACSA REGION XVII
 DINNER MEETING**

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
 Dinner Speaker

“Stress Busters”

Presented by

Pat Hurley, Motivational Speaker

“I love laughing! I hate lectures!” Pat Hurley is a professional stand-up comedian and humorist with an educator’s heart! For over 20 years, Pat has inspired and encouraged millions of students, parents and teachers. With wonderful humor, he urges them to laugh while challenging them to think about the importance of their lives. Pat’s programs reflect the everyday lifestyle of today’s youth and educators. From dating paranoia to classroom boredom, to the silly things that friends and colleagues do. His humor is gentle, universal, in good taste, and always age appropriate. Pat has published six books relating to youth culture and has spent a number of years in the television industry. His work hosting and producing teenage talk shows has earned him three Emmy awards.



OCSBA
 Orange County School Boards Association

DATES TO REMEMBER

2008 Marian Bergeson Award
 Nominations Due
Friday, March 7, 2008



2008 - 2009 OCSBA
 Board of Directors Applications Due
Friday, March 7, 2008



OCSBA ANNUAL DINNER MEETING/
 2008-2009 Board Elections
Wednesday, May 7, 2008

PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30



**EDUCATION NEWS ARTICLES
 AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL**

Each day, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) provides a brief summary of articles from The Orange County Register, Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, USA Today, New York Times, CNN, and Washington Post that are of interest to the educational community. The article summaries are posted on the OCDE website at <http://news.ocde.us>. For those who wish to read the entire article, a link follows at the end of each summary.

If you would like to subscribe to receive a link to the education news articles, please contact jtrop@ocde.us.