



OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County
School Boards
Association**

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

February 2009 Edition

A Message from the OCSBA President – Susan Henry



As we begin 2009 the focus for much of the state and most of the nation remains in the area of finance. As the country struggled this past year through the mortgage fiasco, record gas prices, stock market scares, and bank bailouts, California students continue to be asked to do more, to achieve more, with less. This is nothing new to Orange County school board trustees as California continues to rank among the lowest states in per pupil spending. As auto makers, financial corporations, and others plead for assistance to stabilize the economy of the present, we, as student advocates, are asking “What about the *future* of the economy of our country – the future of our youth?” - Where is their “bailout?”

In education our financial concerns are many: an unresolved state budget, unfunded mandates, special education encroachment, rising health care premiums, and declining enrollment. Now that the focus of the country is also on finance, perhaps the time is right to re-evaluate what we, as a nation, consider to be financially important. What we value. What we consider wealth to be. An ancient text, the Naladiyar (ca. 5th-6th century), puts wealth in perspective:

“Learning is the best of all wealth; it is easy to carry, thieves cannot steal it, and tyrants cannot seize it; neither fire nor water can destroy it; and far from decreasing, it increases by giving.”

As we begin 2009 we will all be tasked with financial decisions in our districts. Some will be more difficult than others. Your thoughtful consideration will be required, your resolve may be tested, but do not underestimate the importance of your actions. Through public service to our schools we can all increase our wealth by giving.

Susan Henry

Determining the Level of Parent Involvement at School

By Karin Freeman, Board Member Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District and Board Member North Orange County Regional Occupational Program

At the December California School Boards Association conference, one of the sessions I attended (name forgotten) discussed outreach to minority populations within a district. One of the panelists said that it is easy to attribute lack of parent/community participation to apathy or language barriers or whatever. She began her remarks with this quote:

(Continued on page 2)



Career Success Begins at Regional Occupational Programs

By Marilyn Buchi,

*Board Member, North Orange County Regional Occupational Program and
Board Member, Fullerton Joint Union High School District*

If you were in high school in the 60s, 70s or 80s, your memory of career education is probably auto shop and home economics. Today, Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) have changed the substance of career education to include rigorous, exciting, hands-on training in real-world occupations, such as engineering or health sciences that lends relevance to students' academic education and builds skills for bright futures. Students enrolled in WASC-accredited ROP classes can stay motivated, explore careers, and be well prepared for college while earning credits towards high school graduation. In some cases, students can earn A-G elective credits for entry into the UC system, and advanced placement or credit at local colleges for their ROP courses.

According to the latest study of more than 4,000 California high school graduates, conducted by UC Riverside's Dr. Douglas Mitchell, students who take ROP classes in high school are more likely to raise their grade point average in high school, more likely to attend college, and earn more than their non-ROP student counterparts. Dr. Mitchell said, "The results of this study seem to indicate that today's graduates might not have to face a choice of college or work, but with a combination of academic and career studies, they can in fact achieve both."

In California there are 75 ROP. Four of the best are located in Orange County and together serve about 64,000 students annually. For more information, visit the web sites:

North Orange County ROP	http://www.nocrop.us
Central County ROP	http://www.ccrop.org
Coastline ROP	http://coastlinerop.net
Capo-Laguna Beach ROP	http://www.capolagrop.k12.ca.us

Determining the Level of Parent Involvement at School

(Continued from page 1)

"The level of parent involvement at school is not determined by parent interest or apathy. The level of parent involvement is determined by whether or not appropriate strategies and structures are in place to facilitate the participation of parents."

—Milbrey McLaughlin, Stanford University

Having recently done a Golden Bell validation at Franklin Elementary School in Anaheim, this quote reinforced my beliefs that there is a strong return on "investment" when schools find ways to make parents feel welcome and encouraged to be part of the school experience of their children. Even with the worsening budget, we can find ways to entreat parents to be a part of day-to-day school life.

Excerpts from the Orange County Superintendent of Schools Financial Report 2007-2008

The 2007-08 Financial Report for Orange County school districts was compiled and published by the Office of the Orange County Superintendent of Schools. It contains data for the twelve elementary, three high school, twelve unified, four regional occupational programs, and four community college districts operating within Orange County.

Information contained in this report has been compiled from various state documents, along with county reports of tax rates and assessed valuations supplied by the Orange County Auditor-Controller's Office.

The following information highlights 2007-08 data shown in this report:

- ◆ The California statutory cost of living adjustment (COLA) in 2007-08 was 4.53%. The 2007 Budget Act provided a \$2.1 billion increase to education funding for a total of \$57.1 billion. The Proposition 98 per pupil funding increased by 4.2% from \$8,218 per pupil in 2006-07 to \$8,564 in 2007-08.
- ◆ Of the \$2.1 billion increased funding, \$151 million was designated for special education and \$431 million was for state categorical funding related to: Arts, Music, Physical Education, Instructional Materials, Preschool Facilities, Career Technical Education and funds directed to aid low performing schools and English Language Learners.
- ◆ K-12 enrollment decreased by 0.2% from 504,072 pupils in 2006-07 to 503,307 pupils in 2007-08. Current data indicates that countywide enrollment may increase slightly in 2008-09. (Figures exclude County ROP and Adults in Correctional Facilities)
- ◆ K-12 annual average daily attendance (ADA) increased by .23% from 503,782 in 2006-07 to 504,960 in 2007-08. (Excludes County ROP and Adults in Correctional Facilities)
- ◆ Total K-12 Revenues for all funds increased by 0.19% from \$5,657,934,115 in 2006-07 to \$5,668,480,806 in 2007-08.
- ◆ Total K-12 Expenditures for all funds increased by 2.0% from \$5,470,659,198 in 2006-07 to \$5,579,920,168 in 2007-08.
- ◆ General Fund unaudited actual ending balances for the K-12 school districts increased by 2.3% from \$537,235,996 in 2006-07 to \$549,458,194 in 2007-08.
- ◆ State Lottery revenue per student decreased from \$144.62 in 2006-07 to \$131.19 in 2007-08. State Lottery revenue represents approximately 1.7% of total General Fund revenue.
- ◆ The funded Statutory Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2006-07 was 5.92%; for 2007-08 the funded COLA was 4.53%.

For a full reprint of the Financial Report, please go to the Orange County Department of Education website at <http://www.ocde.us/downloads/FinancialReport2007-2008.pdf>



Political Action Group Efforts
 March 4, 2009
 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

“The Latest Federal and State Information”

Presented by

Michael Kilbourn, President

Legislative and Management Strategies, Inc., and

Bob Canavan, President/CEO

Federal Management Strategies

Michael Kilbourn will provide insight into the Sacramento scene and the potential budget and legislative impact to education. Bob Canavan, federal lobbyist will call into the meeting with Washington, D.C. latest news.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

2009 Marian Bergeson Award
 Nominations Due

Friday, March 13, 2009



2009 - 2010 OCSBA
 Board of Directors Applications Due

Wednesday, March 4, 2009



OCSBA ANNUAL DINNER
 MEETING/

2009-2010 Board Elections

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

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



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

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Dinner Speaker

“Creating Resiliency in Our Youth”

Presented by

Susie Vandelip

Owner, LEGACY

Author of “52 Ways to Protect Your Teen – Guiding
 Teens to Good Choices and Success”

We are fortunate to have the creator of LEGACY OF HOPE®, a nationally-acclaimed school assembly, teacher-in-service and parent awareness program that incorporates the 40 developmental assets plus current research on underage drinking and drug use, bullying, self-harm, teen sexuality, and gangs. Seen by over one million youth, educators and parents across the United States and Canada, it is highly effective in bonding youth with needed resources within schools and communities. Ms. Vanderlip will portray a series of characters that are dealing with real life teen, young adult and family issues. She deeply touches youth and adults with a profound message of hope, emotional wisdom, and resiliency. Her style will help stimulate positive communication between districts, parents and teens while motivating young people to healthy choices. Legacy is a wonderful resource for your district.



MARTHA FLUOR, Board Member, Newport-Mesa Unified School District, on becoming Vice President of the California School Boards Association.

DON SEDGWICK, Board Member, Saddleback Valley Unified School District, on taking over Ms. Fluor’s OCSBA Board of Director’s position as our CSBA Region 15 Representative.