



**OCSBA**  
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County  
School Boards  
Association**

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# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

**February 2013 Edition**



***A Message from the  
OCSBA President  
Suzie Swartz***

Happy 2013! The election is over; Proposition 30 has passed; Governor Brown has proposed a shift in

education funding with authentic local control; we are in transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS); and we have over 500,000 children in Orange County depending on us to stay focused on their education.

The Governor's education funding proposal still has months to go before we'll know what the true ramifications will be for our individual districts. However, the Common Core State Standards are here now.

The education community is all abuzz about Common Core – excitement and hope coupled with an understandable dose of confusion and anxiety that comes with change.

Have you reviewed the CCSS, and do you understand its implications for students, teachers, administrators, and parents?

Have you had discussions with your governance team about the implementation timelines (which seem to be a moving target for California), or concerns related to district resources, expectations for students and staff, or changes that will be surely felt in the classroom and at home?

Have you developed key messages to communicate your district's transition plan?

The questions may go on and on, but count your blessings. We have plentiful resources (both written and human!) right here in Orange County. We have strong school board members' and superintendents' networks along with the Orange County Department of Education to help guide us – check out <http://ocde.us/commoncoreca>.

Several school districts are already well on their way in communicating to stakeholders about the Common Core implementation – check out San Juan Unified School District's website <http://www.sanjuan.edu/Academics.cfm?subpage=159076>. Not only do they provide definitions and resources, but San Juan Unified School District also has separate pages on what CCSS means for teachers, site administrators and families along with pages for feedback/questions and feedback results with answers (you can continue to “drill down” deeper with additional links on the left side of the web page).

Just remember that no matter how well and how often we communicate with stakeholders, there will still be some with negative perceptions:

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## ***Message from the OCSBA President – Suzie Swartz***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

- There will be those that will claim we are destroying the school culture.
- There will be those who will still have no idea what’s going on.
- There will be those who will only see chaos.
- There will be those who will claim they were never asked for or given input.

That said, change for the better always comes with some discomfort and drawbacks. The transition to Common Core State Standards won’t be smooth, but I believe it’s the best opportunity we have to provide a meaningful 21<sup>st</sup> century education that will equip our students with the necessary critical workforce and citizenship skills, and truly close the achievement gap.

*Suzie Swartz*

## ***Huntington Beach High School’s Science Program Wins California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award***

Huntington Beach High School's Scientific Research Program has won the prestigious California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award for its innovative curriculum. Teacher Ken Ostrowski accepted the award at the annual CSBA conference in San Francisco.



The Scientific Research Program is not an average science class. There are experiments and tests, but everything that is accomplished must first be dreamed up, and then executed and analyzed by the 140 students in the program. The program has many facets and many options for students to explore. Most of the teens are in advanced placement environmental science classes. Others are members of the science and math competition teams. The Scientific Research Program started eight years ago.



## ***Maureen DiMarco Award Presented In Memory of Jan Harp Domene***

On Wednesday, October 24, 2012, the Orange County School Boards Association presented the Maureen DiMarco Award in memory of Jan Harp Domene, who was a Board Member for the Anaheim Union High School District. Mrs. Domene passed away in February 2012. Her husband, Greg, accepted the honor on her behalf.

Designed to recognize exemplary and far-reaching leadership in addressing the broad needs of young people, the award was first presented in 1993 to recognize the contributions of Maureen DiMarco, who served as California’s first Cabinet Secretary for Child Development and Education, President of California School Boards Association, and President of Orange County School Boards Association.

Jan Harp Domene began her involvement in public education in 1975 as a volunteer in her daughter’s classroom. She joined the school’s PTA and went on to become a leader for the organization, serving as president at the state and national level. During her years with the PTA, Jan facilitated collaborative partnerships with many education, health, safety, and child advocacy groups to benefit children and provide valuable resources to PTA members. She also held volunteer positions for the Red Cross, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Prevention of Youth Violence Task Force. Her legacy exemplifies the spirit of the Maureen DiMarco Award.



## *Current School Board Members with 20 or More Years of Service*

<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Year Appointed or Elected</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Esther Wallace	Magnolia School District	1979	33
Dr. Robert Singer	Fullerton Joint Union High School District	1980	32
Judy Franco	Newport-Mesa Unified School District	1981	31
Elizabeth Parker	Orange County Board of Education	1982	30
Marilyn Buchi	Fullerton Joint Union High School District	1983	29
Fred Schambeck	Lowell Joint School District	1983	29
Edward Erdtsieck	Savanna School District	1985	27
Bonnie Castrey	Huntington Beach Union High School District	1985	27
Marcia Milchiker	South Orange County Community College District	1985	27
Robert Hathaway	Fullerton Joint Union High School District	1985	27
Karin Freeman	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District	1986	26
Linda Navarro Edwards	La Habra City School District	1988	24
Barbara Clendineng	Magnolia School District	1988	24
Chris Brown	Savanna School District	1988	24
Barbara Kilponen	Fullerton Joint Union High School District	1988	24
Tracy Pellman	Ocean View School District	1990	22
Linda Weinstock	Savanna School District	1990	22
Leonard Lahtinen	North Orange County Community College District	1990	22
Michael Simons	Huntington Beach Union High School District	1991	21
Martha Fluor	Newport-Mesa Unified School District	1991	21
Brian Rechsteiner	Huntington Beach City School District	1992	20



### *Welcome New Superintendent* **GUSTAVO BALDERAS – Ocean View School District**

The Governing Board of the Ocean View School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Gustavo “Gus” Balderas as the new Superintendent of Schools, effective January 1, 2013. Mr. Balderas had been the Superintendent of the Madera Unified School District. Prior to his leadership in Madera Unified, he served for twenty years in Hillsboro, Oregon. He was a teacher, a counseling coordinator, assistant principal, principal, director of school improvement, the executive director of the office of school improvement, and the assistant superintendent of support services. Mr. Balderas is celebrated for his strong facilitation and collaboration skills.



## OCSBA/ACSA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 2013  
Irvine Marriott Hotel



### Dinner Speaker

#### Barbara Nemko

Napa County Superintendent of Schools  
and

#### Hall Davidson

Senior Director, Global Learning Initiatives  
Discovery Education

***“The Transition from Textbooks to  
Techbooks: What It Looks Like, Why It  
Works, Why It’s Time”***

Dr. Barbara Nemko has been the Napa County Superintendent of Schools since April 1997. She served on the Transition Team and the Technology Task Force for State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, and is a member of his “kitchen cabinet.”

Hall Davidson currently is a Senior Director with Discovery Education focusing on educational partnerships and Global Learning Initiatives. His expansive career in education has included teaching middle and high school as well as college courses. He has won an Emmy award for teaching math on television and spent 20 years with PBS stations. He is also on the Torlakson “kitchen cabinet.”

Hall and Barbara will present relevant and timely information addressing the implementation of techbooks.

### Political Action Group Efforts (PAGE) Meeting

#### Dr. Christine Olmstead

Administrator, Instructional Services Division  
Orange County Department of Education

presents

### ***“Transition to the Common Core”***

Dr. Christine Olmstead will provide a brief history on research and development on the Common Core State Standards, including:

- Implementation Plan for California
- Major Shifts in English Language Arts and Math
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- Next Generation Assessments
- What You Can Do Now



Through partnership with SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, OCSBA and ACSA are able to discount dinner prices from the usual \$51.00 per person to \$31.00 (tax, tip, self-parking included). We extend our sincere gratitude to SchoolsFirst for their ongoing support of public education.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 2013, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

### OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2013-2014 Board Elections

Wednesday, April 17, 2013, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

### OCSBA Fiscal Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Orange County Department of Education

