



**Orange  
County  
School  
Boards  
Association**

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2003-2004

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# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

January 2004 Edition

**FEBRUARY 18, 2004**

## OCSBA/ACSA DINNER MEETING

**FEATURED SPEAKER - SIR KEN ROBINSON**

**SR. ADVISER FOR THE J. PAUL GETTY TRUST**

### **OUT OF OUR MINDS: LEARNING TO BE CREATIVE**

Throughout the world, education systems are being reformed to meet the challenges of increasingly rapid economic, technological and cultural change.

In this address, Sir Ken Robinson will propose that promoting creativity is now as important as raising standards of literacy and numeracy.

He will focus on three vital questions for the future of education:



- *Why is it essential to promote creativity?* Organizations everywhere are concerned as never before with promoting creativity and innovation. Why is this essential?
- *What's the problem?* Why do so many adults think they're not creative? Most children are buzzing with ideas. What happens to them as they grow up?
- *What should be done?* Is everyone creative or just a select few? Can creativity be developed? What are the implications for education?

## **November 19, 2003 OCSBA PAGE Meeting Points**

### **"The Times They are a Changing"**

Michael Kilbourn, President  
Legislative & Management Strategies

- The honeymoon between the governor and the legislature is over.
- Budget news will be changing over next few months.
- Governor's budget deficit reduction bond has equal potential for a positive or negative effect on local and statewide school bonds ("Sticker Shock" may cause people to vote only for local bond or may have opposite effect where people vote for just one statewide bond).

# California School Boards Association 2003 GOLDEN BELL AWARDS

Eight of our Orange County school districts were honored for excellence in promoting outstanding programs at the CSBA conference in San Diego. These programs address students' changing needs.

## We congratulate:

### **Anaheim Union High School District**

☞ OPEN HOUSE: "RENAISSANCE EXPERIENCE"  
AND "AMERICAN EXPERIENCE"  
LEXINGTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

☞ "DARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL: RENAISSANCE!"  
BROOKHURST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### **Anaheim City/Magnolia School District**

☞ ANAHEIM ACHIEVES  
23 SCHOOL SITES

### **Buena Park School District**

☞ B.L.O.C.K.S.: BUILDING LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN'S  
KINDERGARTEN SUCCESS  
GILBERT & PENDLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

☞ PARENT UNIVERSITY  
ARTHUR F. COREY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Capistrano Unified School District**

☞ CLUB @ THE HUB  
MARCO FORSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

☞ HEALTH AND MEDICAL OCCUPATIONS  
ACADEMY  
DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

☞ MIND INSTITUTE  
OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Huntington Beach City School District**

☞ AFTER SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY  
J. R. PERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Newport-Mesa Unified School District**

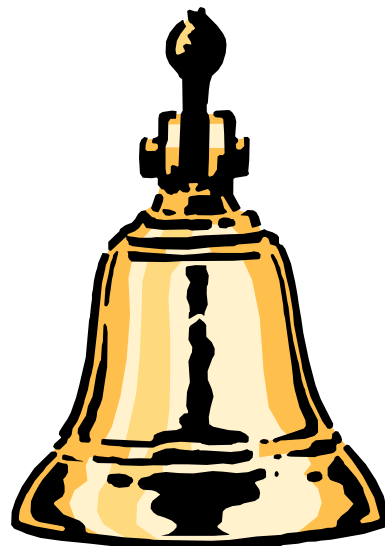
☞ COLLABORATIVE CO-TEACHING  
KINDERGARTEN  
LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Saddleback Valley Unified School District**

☞ KEEPING EVERY CHILD ON TARGET  
RALPH A. GATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Tustin Unified School District**

☞ STUDENT RECYCLING CENTER  
FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL



# Special Education Encroachment on Orange County

by Mary Fuhrman, Newsletter Editor, OCSBA

*(Information contributed by Wendy Benkert, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Business Services)*

To highlight the impact of rising special education costs on local school district general funds and present a stronger case for full federal funding of the special education promise, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has prepared a draft analysis. In order to prepare the analysis, while minimizing the level of effort required of local district staff, OCDE utilized information contained in districts' annual unaudited financial reports.

Local school districts rely on a number of sources, including program and account code guidelines, to determine how they should account for special education services. As with any program guideline or account structure there are items that are not clearly defined, and as such are open to interpretation. As a result, individual districts may account for similar transactions differently depending upon district interpretation. In an effort to provide the most accurate data, OCDE is currently in the process of reviewing the analysis with districts to determine the potential impact of varying interpretations. However, the analysis did confirm that countywide, districts received substantially less revenue, approximately \$153.5 million, than was expended to provide special education services.

One major cause of these growing costs is the vastly increased legal fees that districts are obligated to pay. An increasing number of attorneys and advocates solicit clients who have Individualized Education Plans resulting in special services causing higher legal fees. The superintendents of the county have identified the legal fees of the districts for 2002-03. These can vary greatly from year to year depending on how many or how serious the cases might be for the year. The total legal fees, as currently reported for the last school year were almost \$4.5 million. Ron Wenkart, General Counsel for OCDE, is working with Congressman Chris Cox to enact a federal limit on legal fees. Congressman Cox has agreed to take the proposal to the Republican caucus.

Board members should be inquiring what is happening at their own districts and using the information to inform our congressmen of the need for some relief. Let Washington know what is happening in your district.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Paul Lewanski  
Tustin Unified School District

2004 California  
Teacher of the Year



# SAVE THE DATE

April 21, 2004  
Orange County  
School Boards Association  
Dinner Meeting

*Featured Speaker*  
**Judge Pamela Iles**  
Harbor Justice Center



Elect the 2004-2005 OCSBA Board  
Announce Marian Bergeson Award Winner  
Announce Maureen DiMarco Award Winner

**Orange County School Boards Association**  
 would like to welcome Orange County's newest Superintendents/Director.

**Diana Schneider, Senior Director**  
 Central County Regional Occupational Program (effective 1/20/04)

**Joe Gillentine, Ed.D., Superintendent**  
 Lowell Joint School District (effective 1/1/04)

**George Giokaris, Ed.D., Superintendent**  
 Fullerton Joint Union High School District (effective 2/1/04)

**Sheri Lowenstein, Superintendent**  
 Westminster School District (effective 7/1/04)



**February 18, 2004 PAGE Meeting**  
**Proposition 55 - Maximizing Dollars for**  
**Orange County Schools**

*Presented by*

**Nina Young**

Executive Director, Facilities/Contracts - Orange County Department of Education

and

**David Doomey**

Associate Superintendent, Facilities Planning - Capistrano Unified School District

Nina Young and David Doomey will present pertinent information concerning Proposition 55, the Facilities Bond. Highlights will include: economic impact, facility needs, modernization, new construction, and the

***Orange County School Boards Association***  
***Board of Directors***  
**2003-2004**

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