



**Orange
County
School
Boards
Association**

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2003-2004

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

November 2003 Edition

A Message from the OCSBA President – Bill Dunton



**Crisis: a time of danger or anxious waiting.
(World Book Dictionary)**

"The sky is falling!" (Chicken-Little)

The media continually bemoans ad nauseam about one real or imagined "crisis" after another. They want us to be fearful of everything, to believe that conspiracy lurks behind every bush and tree. (Ergo "everything" has to be either illegal, immoral or fattening!) And they believe "everything" labeled "crisis" can be instantaneously solved by television talking heads, newspaper editorials, or governmental intervention.

"Don't worry," they postulate, "Big brother will solve all your problems -- and we'll even tell you which procedure(s) should be used and what the final outcome will be." As a matter of fact, the day after the recall election was verified, AOL had as its question of the day, "Is too much democracy a problem?" Too much democracy? What a concept! I can just hear the muted mutterings of our Founding Fathers!

It's astounding how many political and economic events have been labeled as a "crisis" during the existence of these United States of America. In our lifetimes there was the Great Depression, the sudden death of Franklin Roosevelt after being elected President four times, the President Kennedy assassination, Vice President Agnew's resignation, President Nixon's resignation, Gerald Ford became President after being appointed Vice President, President Reagan was shot, President Clinton was almost impeached, the Supreme Court decided weeks after the election whether or not George W. Bush had won Florida's electoral votes, California had an energy "crisis," California had a budget "crisis" in 2003 and California would/could/might have yet another budget "crisis" in 2004.

Now we have just lived through one more "crisis" -- the recall of a Governor. The California populace stayed calm in great part because of civics lessons taught in public schools. We knew that we and our neighbors would respond in a positive way, using the ballot box rather than resorting to bloody street violence or ugly mob rule like some third world countries face daily!

It seems to me that even the severest critics of our educational system should be on their knees giving thanks for generations of dedicated public school teachers, administrators and school boards alike (thousands of human beings who have kept the resplendence of American liberty glistening brightly) instead of continually carping about the appalling education our young people supposedly experience.

Continued on page 3



Lynn Daucher's Education Bills

Many of you remember the speech of Ron Bennett, President of School Services of California, Inc., at the September OCSBA dinner meeting when he referred to the education bills carried by Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher. Lynn is a former board member of Brea Olinda Unified School District and served on the Brea City Council. For your information, the following bill descriptions were sent by her office.

AB 8 - Riverside CAT program/LEAPP (Dave)

AB 8 establishes the Local Education and Accountability Pilot Program, which would loan participating county offices of education funds to implement a local pilot program for enhancing the student performance at high priority schools. Any funds received by a participating county office of education (COE) would be paid back to the state with interest, should the COE's program not meet the expected student performance results. AB 8 is modeled after Riverside County's County Achievement Team program, which has been able to dramatically improve student scores, while spending half of what the state currently spends on underperforming schools. **Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file**

AB 42 Class Size Reduction Flexibility (Chris)

AB 42 would allow schools to implement Class Size Reduction (CSR) in the order that the school feels is best for its students. In addition, it would allow for CSR classes to have a maximum of 22 students, provided the site-wide average did not exceed 20 kids per class. AB 42 was the center of attention earlier this year during a push for CSR reform. The bill was held in the Assembly Education Committee in deference to Senator Sher, author of SB 556, an identical bill at the time. **Status: Assembly Education**

AB 86 - Home Rule (Dave)

AB 86 is a 'quick and dirty' way of achieving Home Rule, a concept supported by the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education which calls for significantly greater local control of school resources. AB 86 frees home rule school districts from many of the statutory and regulatory burdens placed upon them by the state and consolidates the district's categorical funding into a block grant, allowing school leaders to distribute the funds in a manner that most benefits the students of the district. **Status: Died in Assembly Education, 5/7/03**

AB 294 - Online Education (Chris)

AB 294 is the cleanup measure to last year's AB 885, which allows school districts to offer online courses in their high schools under certain circumstances. When the Governor signed into law AB 885, he requested certain technical amendments to address some concerns he had with the measure. AB 294 is the fulfillment of that request.

Developments: The implementation date for the program may be pushed back by one year.

Status: Signed into law, 9/20/03

AB 608 - Teacher Arrests (Dave)

AB 608 requires law enforcement, including the CHP, to notify school district leadership (superintendents and board members) when an employee of the district is arrested for a drug or sexual offense and to notify the Commission on Teacher Credentialing if the employee is a teacher. Additionally, the bill would place the same requirements upon law enforcement if a teacher of a private school is arrested. The bill arose out of an incident within the Brea Olinda Unified School District when Jon Looney, a teacher at Brea Olinda High School, was arrested for methamphetamines. He had an earlier arrest of which the district was unaware since the arrest was made by a CHP officer. **Status: Signed into law, 9/25/03**

AB 1337 - Special Education: Hearing Officers (Chris)

AB 1337 in its current form will prohibit a hearing officer (in the case of a dispute arising between the parents of a special needs child and a public school district over where to place that child, i.e. public school vs. private school) from placing a special needs (special education) pupil with a nonpublic school or nonpublic agency unless the hearing officer issues a written finding that a public school district's program or program offer has not complied with federal and state law. In its current form, AB 1337 has removed all known opposition. No further amendments are slated to be taken.

Status: Pending approval by the governor, 10/8/03

CSBA BACK TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

The conference in Rancho Cucamonga on September 24 opened with Scott Plotkin, CSBA Executive Director, discussing the Top 10 School Issues for 2003. To view these issues, please go to the CSBA website at http://www.csba.org/ce/bts_issues.htm At the conference other CSBA staff members discussed;

Charter Schools

Phil Escamilla gave an update on charter school legislation (AB 1137) which seeks to provide oversight standards as well as methods to review academic performance. Each chartering authority must identify one staff member as a contact person who must annually visit the charter school and ensure it is complying with specified reporting requirements. Further fiscal monitoring is required also with specific time periods.

Legislative Update

Rick Pratt and his staff reported on recent legislation including Workmen's Compensation Reform, four bills on Assessment and Accountability, four bills on Curriculum and Instruction, four bills on Conditions of Children, three bills on Employee Relations, seven bills on Facilities, three bills on Funding and Finance, six bills on Governance and Structure, and one bill on School Transportation.

State Budget Overview

Rick Pratt gave a more extensive discussion of the budget and its effects on school districts. Even though the Prop.98 funding is an increase of \$1.8 billion over the May Revise, since our Prop. 98 funding was decreased by \$800 million in 2002-2003 pursuant to midyear cuts, the average ADA funding of \$6.887 is \$180 below the original budget. We will receive a deficit of 3.002 in 2003-04 due to a compound impact of no COLA and a 1.198 % reduction in revenue limits. The average combined impact will be:

Elementary School Districts	-\$140
High School Districts	-\$168
Unified Districts	-\$145

Rather explicit rules have been enacted in what measures boards can take to backfill this loss in spending power. The state has a \$10.7 billion bond to repay. They have instituted a "Triple Flip" using the ½ cent sales tax. First, the state increases its share of the sales tax by ½ cent decreasing the local cities share. Second, they transferred \$2.3 billion from the school property taxes to the cities to make up their loss. Third, they increased the revenue limit to schools from the General Fund of backfill the schools. Starting next year, \$2.3 billion per year for the next five years will have to be cut from the General Fund to make the annual loan payments.

Bill Dunton's President's Message continued from Page 1

Wouldn't it have been a hoot to have been teaching in a social science classroom these past few weeks? I remember the maxim of the cold war for school kids, i.e., "duck and cover." Well, we did neither during the recall, and California did not fall into the ocean, nor did the sun come up in the west!

Yikes! Help! We have another "crisis"! Now the media pundits are certain California is destined for a trip to perdition in the proverbial hand-basket because we elected a governor with no "political" experience. Please! Californians know all too well that political experience is not a guarantee for common sense.

So, considering Ben Franklin's advice ("If you fail to prepare, you are preparing to fail.") as School Board members we need to forge a rationale to persuade Governor Schwarzenegger that education is the keystone of his continuing commitment to the people of California. He must understand that it is not enough to declaim that lofty goal -- we need concrete evidence of his intentions!

And finally, to assist us through the next "crisis" remember a quote from John Shedd, "A ship in a harbor is safe, but that's not what ships are for."

Chicken-Little -- you were SO wrong!



No Child Left Behind

Staff stressed that districts must be informing the public what Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) means and plan how to meet the letter and the spirit of the law. The definition of AYP is “a new federal mechanism to hold schools, districts and states accountable for student achievement.” Its goal is to have 100 % of students proficient by 2014. They suggested face to face public meetings to explain the components of the program and how the state and federal programs intertwine. It is well to assume the audience will have little or no information about AYP and NCLB. One point mentioned is that due to our mobility rates, some students might be "disenrolled" for a period of time making them ineligible for the tests if they are not continuously enrolled as of CBEDS in October. It is necessary to have careful and complete attendance reporting. Boards should ask staff to present some aspect of student achievement regularly at meetings and schedule study sessions to learn more about the district's student achievement data. Board members are encouraged to contact political leaders and identify benefits of NCLB and its challenges in implementation.

Concerning the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) section of NCLB, staff emphasize the definitions of “New” vs. “Not New” in meeting the requirements. “New” to the profession means the teacher has a bachelors degree and received a credential or began an approved internship program after July 1, 2002. “Not New” means having a degree, and received a credential or were enrolled in, or had completed, an approved internship program before July 1, 2002. “New” teachers must take pass a rigorous state test to become Highly Qualified. High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) can be used by “not new” elementary and secondary teachers to demonstrate core academic subject-matter expertise. The evaluation will be on a “point” format. Points will be given for years of service, core academic content coursework, standards aligned professional development in core academic content, leadership roles and awards in core content area, and direct observation and portfolio assessment in core area. The teacher's supervising administrator is responsible for overseeing the HOUSSE evaluation. National Board Certification in the core content area taught automatically makes secondary teachers NCLB compliant; this is not so for elementary teachers. They did change “grade level” to “grade span” so teachers wouldn't have to requalify if they were reassigned to a different grade level. A teacher's handbook and evaluation forms will be out this fall. It is estimated that 200,000 –300,000 teachers will use the HOUSSE method.

Districts should encourage all emergency permit teachers and non-NCLB compliant teachers to take the CSET as soon as possible and move eligible emergency permit teachers into internship programs. Under notification to parents requirements, Title I schools must notify parents when their child has been assigned to a teacher who does not meet the Highly Qualified Teacher qualifications for at least 4 weeks (i.e. short- and long-term subs on emergency permits.) NCLB has a goal of 100 % of classes taught by a Highly Qualified Teacher in 2005-2006. School boards must be knowledgeable and set goals to conform to the legislation. New policies must be adopted and CSBA will be sending samples in a month. It is necessary to allocate the Title I & II resources effectively.

Presented by Samantha Dobbins Tran, Stephanie Farland, and Sal Villasenor at the CSBA Back to School Conference on September 24, 2003, as reported by Mary Fuhrman.

Main Points from the September OCSBA PAGE Meeting

“Surviving in Our Challenging Educational Marketplace”
Jacqueline Price, Assistant Superintendent

- Public schools are no longer a monopoly
- Public schools need to convey our expertise to our customers
- Public schools need to be proactive in assessing our community needs
- Craft and communicate key message points
- Hold employees and ourselves accountable including non-verbal messages sent via dress and body language
- Have campuses send a messages of “Welcome”
- Review quality and tone of all written correspondence
- Strive for same-day response timeline by employees to customer calls and notes
- Provide telephone etiquette training and employee orientations
- Encourage all employees to serve as goodwill ambassadors
- Provide inexpensive business cards for all employees
- Consider implementing a “Customer Service Policy” and a “Civility Code of Conduct.” (Available from Capistrano Unified School District)

A New Path to the University of California: The Dual Admissions Program (DAP)

By Marcia Milchiker, OCSBA Community College Representative

The Dual Admissions Program (DAP) represents a new admissions path to UC, over and above those that currently exist. Under DAP, students who fall between the top 4 percent and 12.5 percent of their high school graduating class are invited to apply to UC during the regular November 1-30, 2003 application filing period. DAP-qualified applicants, if admitted, will receive an offer of guaranteed admission from a specific UC campus, provided they first complete a transfer program at a California community college. Participating students will enter a community college in fall 2004. This means that the first students transferring to UC through the DAP program would do so in fall 2006 (although DAP students will have up to four years to complete the program).

UC implemented DAP in partnership with California high schools and community colleges. DAP will *not* replace opportunities for current or prospective students that enroll on community colleges and who plan to become UC-eligible by the traditional transfer path. Moreover, UC campuses are not expected to eliminate their current transfer admission guarantee programs, since these programs often serve somewhat different student constituencies.

DAP is geared for students who plan to begin their higher education at one of California’s community colleges, taking advantage of the low cost, ease of access, and excellent academic programs the community colleges offer. DAP will facilitate transfer, providing better advising, enhanced articulation of coursework, and the security of admission to a particular UC campus upon successfully completing lower-division coursework.

The University notified students of their DAP status at the beginning of their senior year of high school.

For more information, send an e-mail to dap@ucop.edu or visit the expanded DAP Web site <http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/dap>

OCSBA Dinner Meeting
November 19, 2003
Guest Speaker



Richard Erdmann
 President
 Syfr Corporation

Never more critical than in times of crisis, leadership is the driving force behind progress. Richard Erdmann looks at the art of leadership from historical parallels but within the context of current public education challenges.

PAGE Meeting
November 19, 2003
Guest Speaker

Michael Kilbourn
 President
 Legislative & Management Strategies

The Times They are a Changing

Michael Kilbourn will provide insight to the changes we can expect in Sacramento and the impact to education. After 23 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.

OCSBA Dinner Meetings



Irvine Marriott
 18000 Von Karman Ave.
 Irvine
 5:30 p.m. PAGE Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Social
 6:30 p.m. Dinner

November 19, 2003*
February 18, 2004*
April 21, 2004

*Joint ACSA Dinner Meeting

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 AND TRADE SHOW

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