



**Orange
County
School
Boards
Association**

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2004-2005

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

November 2004 Edition

A Message from the OCSBA President - Meg

One of the unique aspects of being a school board member is that you are part of a multi-person team. This isn't news to any of us. We all put quite a lot of effort into becoming part of the team. But when we first took our oath of office, we suddenly realized that we had lost a part of our individuality and had become part of this group united by our collected belief in public education. In order to most effectively function as a board, we need to build relationships.

As a board, we need to respect, learn, and utilize one another's strengths. To work as a cohesive unit, we must build trust with one another on our boards and with others in the educational community. Established policies help to strengthen trust among the members and communication flows more smoothly to everyone. When everyone knows the rules and has the same information, individual members know that they will be

listened to and that their ideas will be respected no matter what action is finally taken.

While honoring all national, state, and local laws and regulations, school board members must take their passion for public education and work towards building collaborative relationships with everyone in the educational community. By promising mutual respect, a school board can develop trust that will strengthen the board. We all want what is best for our students. Respect and trust of one another help us to work more effectively to that goal.



Orange County School Boards Association Open House

The OCSBA Board of Directors invites Orange County school board members and administrators to drop by our open house at the CSBA Education Conference in San Francisco. Come meet and visit with other conferees from districts throughout our county and state. We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.

**Thursday, December 2, 2004 • 5:30-7:00 p.m.
San Francisco Marriott Hotel
Pacific J Room**

**Generously sponsored by:
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California District Wins Public Education Prize

The Garden Grove Unified School District of California won the largest annual award in public education, a \$500,000 prize, from The Broad Foundation. The Foundation supports urban districts that greatly improve achievement and reduce learning gaps between the rich and the poor and between different racial and ethnic groups.

The 50,000-student Garden Grove district has shown improvement in reading and math at every school level, and nearly 95 percent of its schools have met their progress goals under federal law. Almost 60 percent of its students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches and 50 percent are limited-English learners.

"Garden Grove is an example of standards-based education at its best, and the district's frequent testing, assessment and intervention has paid off," said Eli Broad, who created the Foundation with his wife Edythe to reward creative leadership and increase public confidence in schools. The money goes to graduating high school seniors for college scholarships.

In Memory of Lynn Hamtil GGUSD Board Member and Former ACSA Region 17 Secretary

Lynn Hamtil, Garden Grove Unified SD Board Member, and former ACSA Region 17 Secretary, died in September, 2004, from complications of a respiratory disease.

Lynn was first elected to the five-member Garden Grove Unified board in 1979 and served several years as its president and vice-president.



Orange County School Boards Association Board of Directors

2004-2005

(Effective July 1, 2004)

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President, Meg Cutuli, Los Alamitos Unified
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Eleven Orange County Schools Earn Nation's Top Award

Eleven Orange County schools were named Blue Ribbon schools, the nation's top honor for individual campuses based on student achievement. Orange County schools took home a fourth of all the awards given out in California, which are presented annually by the U.S. Department of Education. "This award means so much to teachers, students, and the community," County Superintendent Bill Habermehl said. "This is a credit to all the hard work going on in our schools."

The schools qualified because they rank among the top 10 percent of the state in test scores and made the highest jumps over three years on the Academic Performance Index. The Orange County winners are:

Parks Junior High, Fullerton
Stanley Elementary, Garden Grove
Canyon View Elementary, Irvine
Weaver Elementary, Los Alamitos
Our Savior's Lutheran School, San Clemente
Bernardo Yorba Middle School, Yorba Linda

La Paz Intermediate, Mission Viejo
Valencia Elementary, Laguna Hills
St. Anne School, Laguna Niguel
Gates Elementary, Lake Forest
Brookhaven Elementary, Placentia

Parks Junior High, Bernardo Yorba Middle School, and La Paz Intermediate also won the 2003 California Distinguished Schools award – the state's top school award.

Later this year, the principals from each of these schools will head to Washington, D.C., for a reception with President George W. Bush.

NCLB Panel Voices Concerns

by Marilyn Buchi, Member, Board of Trustees, Fullerton Joint Union High School District

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act was the topic in September of a North Orange County League of Women Voters panel presentation and community forum. The outstanding panelists had the necessary knowledge of the NCLB Act and delivered important perspectives from their vantage points – parent, teacher, business, policy, law, and administration. Panel "bookends" OCDE Attorney Ron Wenkart and CSBA's Rick Pratt, likely the most content-knowledgeable, were direct, realistic, supportive of the goal of NCLB, and were able to objectively frame and wrap up, respectively, the implementation issues of the Act and whether it serves the children. The panel consensus was support for the intent of the law--closing the achievement gap and for leaving no child behind--but also expressed huge concerns with such issues as achievement measurement, fairness to students, participation rate, and definition of Highly Qualified Teacher. The ultimate goal of every student proficient by 2014 is clearly unattainable.



The State League of Women Voters is in the process of updating its position on education. Among the topics to be considered are charter schools, preschool, and NCLB. One of the purposes of the NCLB forum was to inform those who will be working locally on the education study and, of course, to provide information to the general public.

California Performance Review: It Sounded Like a Good Idea

by Marcia Milchiker

Member, Board of Trustees, South Orange County Community College District

While many of the California Performance Review's (CPR) 1,200 recommendations merit further consideration, one is of particular concern to California's 109 community colleges and their more than 2.8 million students. The CPR recommends that the community college system chancellor report to an Under-Secretary of Education who would also have oversight over student financial aid administration and private institutions.

State law now provides for an independent 17-member Board of Governors for California community colleges, appointed by the Governor. All three systems of California public higher education currently have independent governing boards. Only the community colleges Board of Governors is proposed for elimination by the CPR report.

The Board of Governors President, Catherine Unger, emphasized the importance of maintaining an independent governing body to oversee the nation's largest system of higher education. "The community college system is already the most cost-effective segment of higher education in the state, and consolidation of the Chancellor's Office with several dissimilar agencies within the bureaucracy of the executive branch of state government would jeopardize the system's effectiveness with little apparent cost savings, while diminishing our standing as a system of higher education in California."

More information is available on their website
www.cccco.edu

Legislation Update

AB825 and SB311

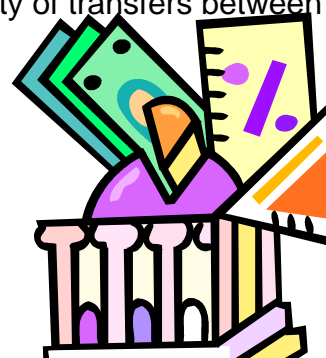
by John Fogarty, Administrator

Business Services, Orange County Department of Education

Assembly Bill 825 was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 29, 2004. This bill offers flexibility to school districts by consolidating over two dozen existing categorical programs into six block grants. The six created block grants are: Pupil Retention Block Grant, Teacher Credentialing Block Grant, Professional Development Block Grant, School Safety Consolidated Competitive Grant, Targeted Instructional Improvement Block Grant, and the School and Library Improvement Block Grant. The bill allows the flexibility of transfers between the block grants, with certain limitations, and into other categorical programs. This legislation takes effect in 2005-06.

Senate Bill 311 was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2004. This bill institutes, for 2004-05 through 2008-09, a sliding scale of penalties for the K-3 class size reduction program.

Updates will be provided as details become clear.



2004 Maureen DiMarco Award Winner Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher

The Orange County School Boards Association (OCSBA) has selected Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher as the 2004 Maureen DiMarco Award recipient. Past recipients of the award include Pam Iles, Bob Lindsay, Marilyn Buchi, Joanne Stanton, Marian Bergeson, Maureen DiMarco, and William Steiner.

The Maureen DiMarco Award honors exemplary leadership and is awarded only in years when the committee determines that a truly worthy recipient exists. The Maureen DiMarco Award Committee consists of five members, including the immediate past president of OCSBA who serves as the chair of the committee, and past presidents from the previous four years. The criteria for selection for the award includes addressing the needs of our young people by exhibiting vision, exemplary and far-reaching leadership, and inspiring others to action. The recipient may or may not have served as a school board member.

Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher serves the 72nd District, located within Orange County including the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Fullerton, La Habra, Orange, Placentia, and Yorba Linda. She was first elected to the Assembly in 2000 after serving six years on the Brea City Council, including one year as Mayor. A teacher by profession, as well as a full-time mother of four, Lynn began her career in public service after winning election on the school board for the Brea Olinda Unified School District. Because of her background in education, and her deep love for children, Lynn is always searching for new and innovative ways to improve schools and to attract the “best and the brightest” teachers. She also fuels her passion for teaching by routinely volunteering her time at local schools to educate youngsters about the important issues affecting their communities and California.



Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher is joined by her husband Don, and Meg Cutuli, President of OCSBA.



November 17, 2004 OCSBA/ACSA Dinner Meeting

Jeannine Martineau

Member, California State Board of Education

Boon or Boondoggle... State and Federal Regulations

Jeannine will share pertinent information to assist districts in understanding the impact of state and federal regulations on local policies. She will address a myriad of information, including what the state board is doing to help districts with NCLB regulations, AYP, API, class-size reduction and much more.

Jeannine is a member of the California State Board of Education and the 2004 Past President of the California School Boards Association. Jeannine has also been very active at the national level, serving as a presenter and Delegate to the

National School Boards Association and is the only school board member on the Joint Committee on Standards for Education Evaluation, a nonprofit group whose members represent 18 national education organizations. She served as a senior advisor to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger during his election campaign and as a member of his transition team. Through her varied experiences Jeannine has gained valuable insight to reflect on state regulations vs. local reality.

November 17, 2004 PAGE Meeting

Encouraging Students to Live Productive, Healthy Lives

Mike Darnold

President, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence - Orange County

Over the last seven years, Mike has spoken in front of over 100,000 students, educators, and parents in schools throughout Southern California. Mike's goal is to inform kids, parents, and educators about the truth of addiction, the dangers of substance abuse, and to support youth who are trying to live sober lives. Mike brings young people in recovery into schools to share their experience and hope. Everyone benefits from this informative experience. Mike will provide an overview of the dangers of substance abuse and ways school districts can support students to live productive, healthy lives.

Bullet Points for September 29, 2004 PAGE Meeting

by Suzie Swartz, Vice President of Programs

Topic: "Outlook from Sacramento, Budget and Political Issues for Education"

Speaker: Scott Plotkin, Executive Director CSBA, Guest Speaker

- There are concerns whether or not the Governor can keep his budget deal with the education coalition regarding no mid-year cuts and restoring the \$4 billion in new money for 2004-05. A lot will depend on state tax revenue exceeding projections and the impact of term limits when all older legislators with institutional history are termed out.
- There is now broader bi-partisan support for an initiative to lower the approval threshold for a parcel tax to 55%. It is expected that there will be a big push for signature gathering in 2005 to qualify the initiative for the November 2006 ballot.
- Rob Reiner is now working closely with CSBA to revive and revamp a preschool initiative. The circulation of petitions could begin in 2005 to gather signatures.