



OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County
School Boards
Association**

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2009-2010

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

Fall 2009 Edition



A Message from the OCSBA President – Sharon Wallin

As we begin this new school year, our classes are larger, our talented teachers are fewer in number, and our anxiety about California's fiscal crisis continues to loom. We also start this new school year with great enthusiasm, hope and commitment. We are passionate when we see those young faces walk into school the first day, eager to learn. We are hopeful that each student will reach his or her potential. We

are committed to the belief that education is a fundamental human right and essential for a brighter future.

There is no more important time to come together as an educational community with common purpose and resolve. Our students are depending on our leadership now more than ever. In the face of many challenges, we hope the programs provided by the Orange County School Boards Association will enable us to learn more, share more and strengthen our commitment. I encourage each of you to attend our dinner meetings. With the generous sponsorship of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, OCSBA has reduced the dinner price and we will strive to provide speakers that will enlighten you. Our next dinner meeting will be on October 14 at the Irvine Marriott at 5:30 pm. Jennifer Kuhn, Director of K-12 Education at the California Legislative Analyst's Office, will be our speaker.

I look forward to meeting each of you and welcome your input and suggestions. Let's work together so that Orange County will continue to be a shining example of public education at its best.

Sharon Wallin

CSBA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

OCSBA will once again host a reception for Orange County board members and district administrators on

Thursday, December 3, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
at the CSBA Annual Education Conference
in San Diego at the
Marriott Hotel & Marina, Del Mar Room.



To register for the CSBA Annual Education Conference, please go to: www.csba.org

If you plan to attend, we encourage board members to carpool. Please contact Suzie Swartz at suzieswartz@prodigy.net or 949-830-5924, for carpooling arrangements.



The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to count every person living in the United States every ten years. The numbers are then used to help distribute federal resources and decide how many representatives each state will have in Congress. Participation is required by law and the information provided to the Census Bureau is confidential, and will not be shared with law enforcement, immigration, or any other government entity.

Every year, more than \$400 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on results of the Census count. That is more than \$4 trillion over a ten year period. In regards to educational funding, school districts receive Title I funds based on Census data. For the 2009-10 fiscal year, Orange County school districts received approximately \$76 million in Title I funds and \$47 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal stimulus funds based on previous Census data.

One of the ways the U.S. Census is planning on reaching residents is through our students. The U.S. Census Bureau recently sent out information to local school districts that included sample lesson plans and United States maps showing which states have the largest populations. Their goal is to increase awareness about the upcoming count, and to ensure school districts encourage students to be trusted messengers by reminding their parents or guardians to complete and mail their census forms.

In March, 2010, Census questionnaires will be sent out to households throughout the U.S. Please help ensure an accurate and fair count of the population by participating in the Census and by encouraging others to participate. The Census is not only a requirement, but a means to ensure you are counted so that local decision-makers can accurately decide community planning efforts. Participating in the Census is a right and a responsibility.



Welcome
New District Superintendent

KATHY KESSLER
Huntington Beach City School District

A native Californian, Kathy Kessler attended schools in Southern California receiving a bachelor's degree from California State University, Long Beach. She later completed a master's degree in educational administration from CSU, Fullerton. Kathy has been an educator for over 36 years as a teacher, reading specialist, elementary school principal, assistant superintendent of Human Resources and is now the Superintendent of Huntington Beach City School District.



In memory of
Pat Harney
Board President
of the
Fountain Valley
School District
2002-2009





“Back to School... Are We Still Solvent?”

*Presented by Ron Bennett, President/COE School Services of California
on September 16, 2009*

Presentation highlights provided by Suzie Swartz, OCSBA Newsletter Editor

At the OCSBA special meeting held at the Orange County Department of Education on September 16, Ron Bennett, President/COE School Services of California presented a workshop on the State Budget and Economy with an emphasis on:

- Proposition 98
- The Education Budget
- What School Boards Should Be Doing

California’s budget deficit is among the worst of the 50 states, and it may take longer for our state’s economy to turn around. As California continues to cut education more than the other low-ranked states, we will continue to fall further below the national average and may well become last in education spending.

It will be difficult for school districts to plan for the future. It took only 18 months to go from a positive increase in the Revenue Limit to a negative 14.7% Revenue Limit deficit. (On average, districts should have received \$6411 per ADA but this year will only get \$4984 – a devastating deficit of \$1427 per ADA).

Questions remain: How and when will the state ever pay back the \$11 billion owed to our schools as under Prop. 98? Answer: There’s no telling.

What should school boards and administrators do? Relationships are critical. Setting priorities will be very difficult. Staffing and position control are key – 90% of the expenditures are for staff (salaries and benefits) and 90% of the cuts will be staff related.

The focus must be on sensitive, effective communications with teachers and staff and families, to promote a better understanding of the tougher times ahead. It is not possible for 2010-11 to be “a good year.” Unemployment isn’t expected to go down in California until 2011, and after that, it will take another 24 months for the tax revenue to catch up.



Effects of the California High School Exit Exam on Student Persistence, Achievement, and Graduation

A new Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) policy brief summarizes the findings from a study investigating the impact of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on California’s lowest performing students. Utilizing longitudinal data from four large urban school districts, Sean Reardon from Stanford and Michal Kurlaender from UC-Davis compared students who graduated just before (2005) and after (2006-07) when the exit exam became a requirement for graduation from California high schools.

They found that the CAHSEE requirement had no positive effects on students’ academic skills, and a large negative impact on graduation rates that fell disproportionately on minority students and on female students. The authors conclude that policymakers should reevaluate the utility of the high school exit exam in California’s accountability system.

You can download the PDF from the PACE web site at
<http://gse.berkeley.edu/research/pace/reports/PB.09-3.pdf>



OCSBA/ACSA Region XVII Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Irvine Marriott Hotel

Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Political Action Group Efforts (PAGE) Meeting – 5:30 P.M.

Michael Kilbourn, President

Legislative and Management Strategies, Inc.

presents

“Sacramento Scene”

As a follow up to our May PAGE meeting, Michael Kilbourn will provide insight into the Sacramento scene and the budget and legislative impacts to education. After 29 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. Mike will address your issues and concerns.

Maureen DiMarco Award Presentation



Honoring individuals and organizations for their exemplary and far-reaching leadership addressing the needs of young people.

Thank You SchoolsFirst

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



Dinner Speaker

Jennifer Kuhn

Director of K-12 Education

California Legislative Analyst’s Office

presents

“Preparing for the Next Round of Budget Adjustments: How Education Might Fare”

Jennifer Kuhn is director of the California Legislative Analyst Office’s (LAO) K-12 Education section. She joined the office in 1999 following the completion of her doctorate in Political Science at the University of California, San Diego. During her ten years in the Education section, she has covered a wide variety of issues in both K-12 education and higher education, including teacher issues, financial aid, student fees, school facilities, and Proposition 98.

Jennifer will provide the LAO’s perspective on what to expect in the next round of budget adjustments.

SAVE THE DATES!



OCSBA/ACSA Region XVII Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2009, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

OCSBA Reception at CSBA Annual Conference

Thursday, December 3, 2009, Marriott Hotel & Marina
Del Mar Room 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

OCSBA/ACSA REGION XVII Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2010, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2010-2011 Board Elections

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM