



**OCSBA**  
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County  
School Boards  
Association**

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# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

September 2011 Edition



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

The results of last spring’s standardized tests are in and our test scores are up!

Rising test scores don’t happen by accident especially during a fiscal crisis like the one we continue to weather. This steady improvement is truly a testament to our governing boards’ steadfast focus coupled with the dedication and hard work of our administrators, teachers, office staff, and parents.

Though times remain fiscally challenging, we must stay focused and vigilant – we must continue to evaluate our strategies to understand what worked so well and what needs to be improved, and then translate that into the classroom. We must continue to build upon our strengths and strengthen our weaknesses to provide the best education possible.

We are definitely headed in the right direction and others are taking notice, too. I leave you with the following headline and lead sentence from The Orange County Register, dated August 15, 2011

**STAR tests: O.C. scores rise again**

“Orange County’s public school students again made steady progress in a series of standardized tests in math, English and other core subjects, figures released Monday revealed.”

Cheers! I look forward to seeing you on October 19.

*Suzie Swartz*



## **OCSBA Networking Reception and CSBA Annual Education Conference**

**SchoolsFirst**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
Serving School Employees at OCTFCU Since 1974

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

Thursday, December 1, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

at the CSBA Annual Education Conference in San Diego at the  
Marriott Marquis and Marina

Reception graciously sponsored by School First Federal Credit Union

To register for the CSBA Annual Education Conference, please go to: [www.csba.org](http://www.csba.org)



## **State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Congratulates California Winners of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program**

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson congratulated 20 California public schools and one private school that were named by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan as national Blue Ribbon Schools for 2010-11. The Orange County recipients of the prestigious recognition are Charles G. Emery Elementary in the Buena Park School District, Ethan B. Allen Elementary in the Garden Grove Unified School District, and John Muir Fundamental Elementary and Jim Thorpe Fundamental Elementary, both in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program (BRSP) is a U.S. Department of Education program. BRSP honors public and private schools from elementary through high schools, whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students. Public schools are nominated by the Chief State School Officers, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education.

Blue Ribbon Schools are honored at a national awards ceremony in Washington, DC in the fall, where each winner receives a plaque and flag. Blue Ribbon winners may fly this flag at their schools as a mark of excellence and a symbol of quality. These schools serve as examples of excellence for other schools throughout the nation. Details of their achievements are shared on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>.

For more information on California's past winners, please visit the California Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/br/>.



## **Governor's Council on Physical Fitness Announces Santa Ana School Wins Fitness Center**

The Governor's Council (Council) on Physical Fitness awarded a \$100,000 fitness center to Walker Elementary in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

Walker was one of six schools statewide chosen by the council as 2011 Gold Medalists for their ongoing work to encourage and support fitness. It was the only Orange County school to receive the award.

The Council will construct the center at the campus later this fall. The center will feature treadmills, weight machines and other equipment for students to use. The centers will be funded by corporate sponsorships. Walker's center will be funded by the Coca Cola Co.

Each year, schools apply for the grants by submitting detailed plans of how they plan to boost fitness levels among students. Statewide, more than 2,000 schools and 1.3 million students competed in the challenge, which asks students to remain active for 30 to 60 minutes a day, at least three times a week for a month.

# *Welcome New Chancellor and Superintendents*

## **ANDREW C. JONES, Ed.D. – Coast Community College District**

A senior college administrator for more than 30 years, Andrew C. Jones, Ed.D., previously served as the vice chancellor of educational services for the Dallas County Community College District and president of the Community College of Baltimore County. Dr. Jones has held previous roles as the director of special services, associate professor of adult and continuing education, assistant to the president, Title I director, dean, vice president for academic and student affairs, and provost/professor of education. He has been an advocate for equal access and student success at the community college level. Jones earned his doctorate in education and public policy from Temple University, holds a master's degree in information sciences and had undergraduate preparation in economics at the University of Maryland.

## **BEVERLY M. HEMPSTEAD – Cypress School District**

The Cypress School District Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Beverly Hempstead as district superintendent, effective July 1, 2011. She has served in the Ocean View district for 34 years as a deputy superintendent, director of human resources, elementary school principal, and special education teacher. Her excellent credentials, experience and background in education will support the district's focus on high student achievement.

## **GREGORY HAULK – Huntington Beach City School District**

Huntington Beach native, Gregory Haulk, has been chosen as the new superintendent of the Huntington Beach City School District. Haulk earned his teaching credential from the University of La Verne and later received a master's in education and administrative credential from National University in San Diego. For the past 20 years, he moved through the ranks of education, teaching second grade and serving as assistant principal and later principal. He has been a superintendent for ten years, the latter four at the Eureka City School District. Haulk said his main goal is to continue the school district's track record of excellence.

## **GREGORY S. PLUTKO, Ed.D. – Huntington Beach Union High School District**

The Huntington Beach Union High School District has named Greg Plutko as its new superintendent. Plutko, who was the deputy superintendent of the Corona-Norco Unified School District, has taught, coached, and served in almost every field within a school for more than 20 years. He has taught history, English, and geography, coached basketball, served as director of staff development and technology, and worked as a principal and assistant principal. Plutko received a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in educational administration from Azusa Pacific University. He also earned an educational doctorate in organizational leadership from the University of La Verne.

## **TERRY L. WALKER – Irvine Unified School District**

The Irvine Unified School District Board of Education has selected Terry Walker to serve as the next superintendent of schools. Walker had been the Irvine Unified School District's assistant superintendent in charge of human resources. He also has been the director of human resources and a teacher of the year. Walker has a master's degree in education administration leadership from Pepperdine University and a master's degree in educational technology leadership from the University of California, Irvine. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

(Continued on Page 4)

# *Welcome New Chancellor and Superintendents*

*(continued from Page 3)*

## **SHERRY KROPP, Ed.D. – Los Alamitos Unified School District**

The Trustees of the Los Alamitos Unified School District are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sherry Kropp to the Superintendent's position. Kropp has been part of Los Alamitos education since 1985. She began her career as a math and science teacher at Los Alamitos high School and has been moving up the career ladder ever since. Before promotion to the district's top job, Kropp was assistant superintendent of educational services. She has also served the district as assistant principal, principal, and director of instruction and special projects. Kropp received her doctorate in education from Alliant International University, San Diego.

## **WILLIAM V. LOOSE, Ed.D. – Ocean View School District**

The Ocean View School District has named William Loose as its next superintendent. Dr. Loose has been Ocean View's assistant superintendent of administrative services since January 2008. He has more than 36 years experience in K-12 education, including three years as a superintendent. He has also served as teacher, district level coordinator, middle school administrator, personnel director, assistant superintendent of human resources, and deputy superintendent. Dr. Loose holds a doctoral degree from Pepperdine University and serves as an adjunct professor for Azusa Pacific University in the educational leadership credential program.

## **MICHAEL L. CHRISTENSEN – Orange Unified School District**

The Orange Unified School Board has picked one of the communities own, Michael Christensen, as their new superintendent. Christensen, who has held numerous titles in the Orange Unified School District, including executive director of facilities and planning and executive director of administrative services, was the first ever Orange Unified School District deputy superintendent. In December, Greater Orange Communication Organization named Christensen the 2010 the Greater Orange Person of the Year (GOPY) describing Christensen as "an irreplaceable asset to the Greater Orange Communities."

## **THELMA MELÉNDEZ DE SANTA ANA, Ph.D. – Santa Ana Unified School District**

Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana has taken over the reins as superintendent of the Santa Ana Unified School District. Meléndez began her nearly 30 year education career as a bilingual teacher in Montebello, CA. She rose through the ranks as a principal before moving to the Pomona Unified School District, where she served as an administrator and later the district's first Hispanic superintendent. In 2009, she was the California Superintendent of the Year. Before being appointed superintendent of the Santa Ana Unified School District, she served as assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education at the U.S. Department of Education.

## **GREGORY A. FRANKLIN, Ed.D. – Tustin Unified School District**

Dr. Gregory A. Franklin has been appointed superintendent of the Tustin Unified School District. Franklin has worked in public education for the past 25 years, most recently as superintendent of the Los Alamitos Unified School District. Prior to that, he was assistant superintendent of educational services for the Glendale Unified School District. Franklin has also been assistant superintendent of human resources in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District, principal of Fullerton Union High School and Bonita High School in the Bonita Unified School District, and assistant principal at Saddleback High School in the Santa Ana Unified School District. He began his career as a teacher at Saddleback High School. He holds a doctorate in educational leadership from USC.



**Joint OCSBA/ACSA Region XVII  
Dinner Meeting**

Wednesday, October 19, 2011  
Irvine Marriott Hotel



**PAGE ~ 5:30 p.m.**  
**Social Hour ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Dinner ~ 6:30 p.m.**



**Dinner Speaker**

**Jack O'Connell**

Chief Education Officer

*School Innovations & Advocacy (SI&A), and  
Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Jack O'Connell is considered a leader amongst state school chiefs nationwide and brings years of experience and expertise to the SI&A team as its Chief Education Officer. During his two terms as State Superintendent of Public Instruction and twenty years as both a state Senator and Assembly member, Mr. O'Connell focused on closing the achievement gap and preparing students for a rapidly changing global economy. He remains a strong supporter and facilitator of partnerships between schools, businesses, communities, and philanthropies in order to engage students with challenging, real-world education experiences.



**PAGE Meeting**

**Michael Kilbourn**

President

*Legislative and Management Strategies, Inc.*

*Presents*

***"Sacramento Scene"***

Michael Kilbourn will provide insight into the Sacramento scene and the expected fiscal and legislative impacts to education. After more than 30 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.

***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 the usual \$51.00 per person to \$31.00.*



**SAVE THE  
DATES!**



**ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting**

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 – PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**OCSBA Reception at CSBA Annual Conference**

Thursday, December 1, 2011 – 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina

**ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting**

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 – PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2012-2013 Board Elections**

Wednesday, May 2, 2012 – PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.