



OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

September 2012 Edition

Orange County School Boards Association

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*A Message from the
OCSBA President
Suzie Swartz*

Our schools have painfully suffered budget cut after budget cut, increased class sizes, loss of programs, layoffs, salary reductions, fewer school days and more, year after year.

Yet, we remain steadfast in our commitment to educate our students. We remain resolute in our efforts.

Here we are still standing together, with our arms outstretched and our classroom doors wide open, welcoming students to a new school year. And, I marvel how our students continue to make progress – modest as it may be.

Nine straight years of students’ academic achievement gains don’t happen by accident, especially during the fiscal crisis we continue to endure. It is truly a testament to our governing boards’ extraordinary focus, coupled with the dedication and hard work of our administrators, teachers, office staff and parents that keeps our students moving forward.

We should take pride and find strength in knowing that we are still headed in the right direction. Others are taking notice, too.

I leave you with the following headline and lead sentence from an Orange County Register article dated August 31, 2012:

More O.C. students passing exams in English, math and science

“Orange County’s public school students made modest gains for the ninth straight year on a slew of standardized tests aimed at measuring how well they are learning math, English, science and social studies, according to figures released Friday.”

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting in October!

Suzie Swartz

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*Al Mijares, Ph.D.
Orange County
Superintendent of
Schools*

Introducing Our New Orange County Superintendent of Schools, Al Mijares, Ph.D.

Dr. Al Mijares has been a dedicated educator for 34 years, and he is excited to begin working with teachers, support staff, administrators, superintendents, school board members, and community partners to ensure that Orange County districts remain the strongest in the state. A native of California, born in Pasadena, Dr. Mijares graduated from Simi Valley High School in 1971, and he received a scholarship to California State University, Northridge, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Child Development/Special Education. He earned his Master's degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley, and his doctorate from the University of Southern California.

Al's distinguished career includes several years of successful teaching experience in K-12 classrooms as well as serving as a principal in the Moreno Valley Unified School District and as Superintendent of the Bakersfield City School District and Coachella Valley Unified School District. He has held faculty positions as an adjunct professor at Chapman University and taught part-time at both Pepperdine University and Compton College.

Since August 2006, Dr. Mijares served for the College Board as Vice President of the Western Region. Before that, he served as Superintendent of the Santa Ana Unified School District for more than eleven years.

Al and his wife of 39 years, Jackie, are the proud parents of five grown sons, all educated in the Orange County public school system.

Dr. Mijares looks forward to supporting the work of school board members throughout the county in working together to ensure a world-class education where every student succeeds.



254 Orange County Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

Two hundred fifty-four Orange County high school students who aced their Preliminary SAT exams have been named National Merit semifinalists, an elite designation awarded to just one percent of test-takers nationwide.

The honorees, who will have the opportunity to compete for finalist status and college scholarships, were announced by the Evanston, Illinois based National Merit Scholarship Corporation. In California, semifinalists were required to score a minimum of 220 out of 240 on their PSAT as juniors.

The semifinalists will be invited to apply to become finalists by submitting a personal essay, high school grades, a school recommendation, and their SAT score to confirm PSAT performance. Finalists become eligible to compete for the prestigious National Merit Scholar designation and scholarship money.

Welcome New District Superintendents



ROBERT PLETKA, Ed.D. – Fullerton School District

The Board of Trustees for Fullerton School District has selected Dr. Robert Pletka as district superintendent. Dr. Pletka previously served as the superintendent of El Centro Elementary School District. Dr. Pletka has authored two books, *Educating the Net Generation: How to engage students in the 21st century* and *My So-Called Digital Life*, and has led technology development in all of his assignments. Prior to becoming the superintendent of El Centro, Dr. Pletka served as associate superintendent of the Vista Unified School District. Earlier he was director of instruction and technology for the Covina-Valley Unified School District and has taught as an elementary and middle school teacher in the Lake Elsinore Unified School District.

FRED NAVARRO, Ed.D. – Newport-Mesa Unified School District

The Newport-Mesa Board of Education has appointed Dr. Fred Navarro as the new superintendent. Dr. Navarro previously served as superintendent of the Lennox School District in Los Angeles County, a position he held since January 2011. In his 30 years of experience, Dr. Navarro has been assistant superintendent at the Anaheim Union High School District, a principal at Costa Mesa High School, and director of secondary instruction at the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. Dr. Navarro is known for his strong communication and collaboration skills.

DOUG DOMENE – Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Doug Domene as their new superintendent. Mr. Domene began his teaching career at Whittier Christian School. He joined the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District in 1986. During his 19-year tenure at both Esperanza and El Dorado High Schools, Domene taught English, coached baseball, worked as dean of attendance, and served as an assistant principal and summer school principal. In 2007, Domene was promoted to director of Executive Services and played a pivotal role supporting the Superintendent's Office. Since 2009, Mr. Domene has successfully managed the fiscal and operational aspects of the district as the assistant superintendent of business services.



CSBA Annual Education Conference and Trade Show **November 29 - December 1, 2012** **San Francisco**

The Annual Education Conference is CSBA's premier continuing education program - delivering practical solutions to help governance teams from districts and county offices of education improve student learning and achievement.

More than 200 breakout sessions, general sessions, and the trade show will be at Moscone West, San Francisco. Ticketed meal functions will be held at the headquarters hotel, The Westin St. Francis.

Due to the location in Northern California, OCSBA will not be hosting a reception at the conference this year.

To register for the CSBA Annual Education Conference, please go to:

<http://aec.csba.org/Programs/Registration/RegisterNow.aspx>



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

Wednesday, October 24, 2012
Irvine Marriott Hotel



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



Dinner Speaker

Niklas Myhr, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Marketing
Argyros School of Business and Economics
Chapman University

presents

“The Power of Social Media”

Dr. Niklas Myhr teaches and conducts research on Social Media Marketing and Global Marketing. Dr. Myhr holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Recently Dr. Myhr was named one of America’s Top Social Media Savvy Professors. He has also worked with executive education programs held for large Scandinavian multinationals in Europe, the United States, and China. Dr. Myhr will be speaking about:

- Social Media v. Traditional Media
- Using Social Media to Learn, Connect, Engage, and Create
- Social Media Trends and Predictions



SAVE THE DATES!

Joint ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, October 24, 2012
PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Orange County New Board Members Reception
Wednesday, January 23, 2012
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Joint ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/
2013-2014 Board Elections**
Wednesday, April 17, 2013
PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

PAGE Meeting

Anjan Batra, MD

Medical Director of Electrophysiology
CHOC Children’s Heart Institute
CHOC Children’s Specialist

and

Marc Lerner, MD, FAAP

Medical Officer
Orange County Department of Education

present

**“Health Preparedness and
Medical Emergencies in Schools”**

Dr. Batra is a founder of the Life Threatening Events Associated with Pediatric Sports (LEAPS) Coalition in Orange County, and will discuss the implementation of a program to place Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in schools. In August 2011, Dr. Lerner became the first medical officer for the Orange County Department of Education. Dr. Lerner will address his activities as the new medical officer and priorities of OCDE’s Center for Healthy Kids & Schools.

**Maureen DiMarco Award
Presentation**

*Honoring an individual or organization
for exemplary and far-reaching
countywide leadership in addressing the
broad needs of public education.*

Thank You SchoolsFirst

*We extend our sincere gratitude to
SchoolsFirst for their support of this Joint
ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Dinner Meeting.
Through partnership with SchoolsFirst
Federal Credit Union, ACSA and OCSBA are
able to discount dinner prices from the usual
\$51.00 per person to \$31.00.*