

CUCPTSA Legislation Newsletter – September 2010

LOCAL

CUSD Budget

The Board of Trustees passed a budget for the 2010/2011 school year on June 29 reflecting reductions of \$34 million. Furloughs and salary concessions equaling 10% for CUEA (Teacher's Union), Teamsters (Bus Drivers), and CUMA (Management) accounted for \$22 million in savings to the district. Negotiations are still ongoing with CSEA (Classified Union). In addition, the district has made further cuts through faculty and staff lay-offs and program reductions. The district will also temporarily reduce the reserves (2% to 0.17%) to bring the budget into balance.

For the 2011/2012 school year, it is anticipated that CUSD will have to make cuts of approximately \$11.5 million, and then an additional \$6 million in cuts for the 2012/2013 school year. While those numbers will likely change, reductions for the 2011/2012 school year will need to be identified by December 2010.

Staff has developed a contingency plan that can be implemented at any point if needed. The contingency plan would involve:

- Additional layoffs - \$3 million
- Borrowing from Self Insured Workers Comp - \$1.5 million
- Staff development grant balance - \$.3 million
- Deferred Maintenance fund - \$3.5 million

Total - \$ 8.3 million

Local Election Update: CUSD Issues on the November 2 Ballot

1. Five trustee positions will be determined:
Trustee Area 3 (recall election):
 John Alpay
 Mike Winsten (incumbent)
Trustee Area 4:
 Saam Alikhani
 Anna Bryson (incumbent)
Trustee Area 5 (recall election):
 Paul Hubbard
 Ken Lopez Maddox (incumbent)
 Gary Miller
 Gary Pritchard
Trustee Area 6:
 Ellen Addonizio (incumbent)
 Martha McNicholas
Trustee Area 7:
 Larry Christensen (incumbent)
 Lynn Hatton
2. Measure "H" proposes to change the manner in which members of the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District are elected. CUSD is divided into seven geographical regions or "trustee areas." Currently, each governing board member must reside in the trustee area that he or she represents, but is elected by all voters living within the entire district.
 - Voting "Yes" on Measure H will result in a change in the manner in which members of the Board of Trustees are elected (currently a "from trustee area" method) to a "by trustee area" method of election. Only those voters residing within a trustee area will

elect the trustee for that particular trustee area. If Measure H passes it will take effect in the November 2012 CUSD Board of Trustee election.

- Voting “No” on Measure H will not change the current method of electing members of the Board of Trustees. Each governing board member will continue to be elected by the voters of the entire school district.

Voter Registration Information -- Encourage voter registration!

- Obtain voter registration forms from your county elections office, library, post office or DMV office and place in the school office.
- Advertise to parents, staff and high school seniors that the forms are available.
- Let people know that they need to register or re-register at least 15 days before an election if they:
 - a. Change their name
 - b. Change their residence or mailing address
 - c. Become a citizen
 - d. Will turn 18 by the next election
 - e. Have not voted in the past eight years
 - f. Change their political party choice.
- Encourage people to register for permanent vote-by-mail status
 - a. This provides protection if a voter is ill or called out of town during an election
 - b. Ballots can be mailed to election office or dropped off at any polling place on Election Day.
- Consider holding a voter registration drive
 - a. View and follow a California guide to voter registration drives at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/guides/guide-to-vr-drives-2010.pdf>
Be sure to read the guidelines on requesting more than 50 voter registration cards.
 - b. Have a table to pass out and collect forms at school events, such as Back to School night: Fill out a Facilities Use Form, set up a table (patriotic theme would be great) with nothing else on it but the voter registration forms, and you don't have to man it!
 - c. Work with high schools to register seniors as they become 18.

Important Dates/Deadlines for the November 2, 2010 Election:

- October 4-26 – Applications for vote-by-mail ballots
- October 18 – Last day to register to vote
- November 2 – Election day (polls open from 7am – 8pm)

Monthly 2010/2011 CUSD Board Meetings (Tuesdays 7:00 pm)

September 14	February 8
October 12	March 8
November 9	April 12
December 7	May 10
January 11	June 7, 21

Special 2010 CUSD Monthly Board Meetings (Tuesdays Time TBD)

September 28	November TBD
October 26	December TBD

STATE

Budget Update

On August 3, Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg and Assembly Speaker John Perez announced a new Democratic budget proposal that was adopted later that week, along party lines, by the Budget Conference Committee. Republican legislators and the Governor have reacted negatively to the proposal, and there appears

to be no progress in reaching a deal anytime soon. The Constitutional deadline for a state budget to be in place was June 30, so the 2010-11 state budget is now over two months late.

The new Democratic budget plan contains a package of solutions totaling \$18.5 billion. Highlights of the plan relating to K-12 education include restoration of \$1.5 billion for revenue limits, \$1.4 billion for state-funded child care, and \$300 million for class size reduction. However, it suspends the Proposition 98 guarantee for schools. Targeted cuts of \$8.3 billion are also part of the plan, but the plan rejects the Governor's proposed elimination of CalWORKs and other health and human services programs. It also recognizes the need for additional revenue. It would delay the start of the new corporate tax breaks that were part of last year's budget deal and calls for a new oil severance tax and additional revenue generated from tax reform. .

On August 31st, the last day of the 2009-10 legislative session, the legislature conducted floor votes on competing Democratic and Republican budget plans, both of which fell short mostly along party lines.

Governor Schwarzenegger has met with the Senate & Assembly leaders from both parties (typically known as the "Big 5") several times recently but no budget agreement has been forthcoming.
(Excerpted from *State PTA Sacramento Update – August 2010 and Sac Bee*)

State Election Update

In the November 2, 2010 election, California voters will choose a new Governor and representatives for U.S. and state government. Voters will also be asked to vote YES or NO on judges for the State Supreme Court and on proposed state laws ("propositions").

Below are just some of the highlights of this important upcoming election. For full details, please go to either: The California Secretary of State's website:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/2010-elections/2010-election-information/november-2010/short-certified-list.pdf>

OR

The nonpartisan Easy Voter Guide Project www.easyvoter.org

Although PTA does not support or oppose candidates, we do provide opportunities to educate our members about those seeking key offices that will impact the lives of children and family in California.

Governor Candidates

Carlos Alvarez, *Peace & Freedom*

Jerry Brown, *Democratic*

Chelene Nightingale, *American Independent*

Dale F. Ogden, *Libertarian*

Laura Wells, *Green*

Meg Whitman, *Republican*

Superintendent of Public Instruction Candidates (non-partisan office)

Larry Aceves

Tom Torlakson

Senate Districts representing Capistrano Unified School District

Note: Senate Districts 33 (Walters) & 35 (Harman) are not up for election.

District 38

Gila Jones, *Democratic*
Kristi Stone, *Libertarian*
Mark Wyland, *Republican**

Assembly Districts representing Capistrano Unified School District

District 70:

Melissa Fox, *Democratic*
Deborah Tharp, *Libertarian*
Donald P. (Don) Wagner, *Republican*

District 71:

Gary Kephart, *Democratic*
Jeff Miller, *Republican**

District 73:

Diane Harkey, *Republican**
Judy Jones, *Democratic*

*** indicates incumbent**

Propositions

There will be a total of nine propositions on the Nov 2010 ballot:

Proposition 19: Marijuana. Legalization & regulation.
Proposition 20: Congressional Redistricting by Commission
Proposition 21: State Parks
Proposition 22: Transportation and Government Funds
Proposition 23: Global Warming Law
Proposition 24: Business Taxes
Proposition 25: State Budget
Proposition 26: Taxes and Fees
Proposition 27: Redistricting by the Legislature

State PTA has taken positions on three of the propositions:

Proposition 25 – SUPPORT. State Budget. This would change the legislative vote requirement necessary to pass the state budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. It also contains a provision, whereby if the Legislature fails to pass a budget bill by June 15, all members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit any reimbursement for salary and expenses for every day until the budget bill is finally passed.

Proposition 24 – SUPPORT. Business Taxes. This would repeal recent changes to business taxes, which have yet to take effect, up to \$1.3 billion in additional annual general fund revenue is forecast.

Proposition 19 – NEUTRAL. Legalization and regulation of marijuana. CAPTA's analysis determined that we it did not have any relevant PTA authority, as directed by its members at conventions, to take a position on this measure.

According to CAPTA's legislative policy, while PTA units, councils and districts are not required to work actively for any position, they may not officially oppose a stand taken by the California State PTA Board of Managers.

Equally important, PTA units, councils and districts are not required to take a vote in order to take action in support of the California State PTA position on any statewide ballot measure.

For questions on allowable PTA election-year activities, see Toolkit section 4.3.

Watch your mailbox for a Special Election issue of PTA in California, which you should receive in mid-September. This issue will include PTA analyses on Propositions 25, 24 & 19 and will also include answers to questions of interest to PTA members from the two top candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction, as well as other relevant election information and activities. The information will also be available on the CAPTA website – www.capta.org

REMEMBER TO...



ON NOVEMBER 2ND!

SB 1381 (Simitian) – Kindergarten: Age of Admission

California is one of only four states where a child is allowed to enter kindergarten if his/her 5th birthday falls on or before December 2 of the school year. This translates to 25% of a class, or 100,000 students, as being “younger fives” struggling to meet the expectations of the kindergarten curriculum.

SB 1381 would change the required 5th birthday for kindergarten admission and 6th birthday for first grade admission to November 1 for the 2012-13 school year, October 1 for the 2013-14 school year, and September 1 for the 2014-15 school year and each school year thereafter. Phasing in the change over three years allows for a smoother transition and less drastic impact on a single cohort year of students.

The Legislative Analyst estimates a savings of \$700 million a year until the students of these smaller classes graduate in 2026, 2027, and 2028. The money would remain within Proposition 98 with a portion of the funds being used to create an age- and developmentally- appropriate “transitional kindergarten” specifically and exclusively for children with fall birthdays whose entry into kindergarten is delayed by this legislation. It is unclear as to whether or not the “transitional kindergarten” continues to exist once the bill is completely phased in (2014/15).

Under this bill, a child born after September 1st may still be admitted to kindergarten on a case-by-case basis, if the parent or guardian applies for early admission and the school district agrees that it would be in the best interest of the child.

SB 1381 passed in the State Assembly (51-18) with 6 “aye” votes from Republicans including A/M Jeff Miller (Assemblymembers Harkey & DeVore voted “no”). The bill also passed in the Senate (51-18) with all Republicans and 2 Democrats voting “no”. California State PTA took a “support” position on this bill which is awaiting signature by the governor. If signed, the bill would first take effect in Fall, 2012 affecting children born in November, 2007.

For more information, visit Senator Simitian’s website at http://www.senatorsimitian.com/entry/sb_1381_kindergarten_age/

FEDERAL

Education Jobs Fund

In August, Congress passed the \$10 billion Education Jobs Fund, which is intended to assist school districts facing steep budget cuts during the 2010-2011 school year. California was the first state nationwide to apply to receive its share of the funds, which is \$1.2 billion. CUSD is expected to receive 90% of its allotment this fall, or about \$8.63 million. This money must be used to hire or retain teachers and other employees who deliver services to students at school sites, and cannot be used to pay off debts, to build reserves, or for district administrative expenses.

Common Core Standards Update

California's existing English and Math standards were created in 1997. Although California's old standards have high expectations, these standards do not equate to high-levels of student achievement.

The State Board of Education (SBE) unanimously approved the new "Common Core State Standards" on Aug. 2nd. The SBE must now present a plan and schedule for implementing this standard to the Governor and legislature.

The big debate over adopting the Common Core Standards was over when students should be proficient in Algebra 1. In California it is 8th grade but the new standard is 9th. A modification of this portion of the standards could allow multiple paths for eighth-graders, such as a one-year algebra course, a two-year course or an algebra-readiness curriculum to prepare students to take algebra in ninth grade.

In English, the new standards shift some emphasis away from literature and toward nonfiction and the ability to research, analyze and write about factual topics.

Developing curriculum guides, approving new materials and adjusting teacher training all lie in the future, as does an extensive revamping of the state's testing system.

Some officials said that a long, expensive process would take place before the effects are seen in classrooms.

For more information about California's adoption of the common core standards, see

<http://www.scoe.net/castandards/>.

Race to the Top Competition (Phase Two)

In August, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the winners of the second phase of the Race to the Top competition. California did not win, and its application ranked near the bottom of the applicants in the second round. The ten winning applicants include: the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Rhode Island. Obama has requested an additional \$1.35 billion in funding for Race to the Top in next year's budget, so there may be a third round of applications.

The Race to the Top Assessment competition

\$330 Million of the Race to the Top money was set aside for developing a new testing system. On Sep. 2nd the U.S. Department of Education awarded two groups of states grants to develop a new generation of tests. The new tests will be aligned to the Common Core Standards. The tests will assess students' knowledge of mathematics and English language arts from third grade through high school. In addition to measuring student achievement, growth in performance and teacher and principal effectiveness will also be measured. One group, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers is a coalition of 26 states including California and led by Florida. The other SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium is a coalition of 31. The PARCC consortium had the higher rating. It will test students' ability to read complex text, complete research projects, excel at classroom speaking and listening assignments, and work with digital media. PARCC will also

replace the one end-of-year high stakes accountability test with a series of assessments throughout the year that will be averaged into one score for accountability purposes, reducing the weight given to a single test administered on a single day, and providing valuable information to students and teachers throughout the year. The SMARTER coalition will test students using computer adaptive technology that will ask students tailored questions based on their previous answers. SMARTER will continue to use one test at the end of the year for accountability purposes, but will create a series of interim tests used to inform students, parents, and teachers about whether students are on track.

Federal Election Update

There are a number of federal seats up for election on Nov. 2. These include:

United States Senator

- Marsha Feinland, *Peace and Freedom*
- Gail Lightfoot, *Libertarian*
- Duane Roberts, *Green*
- Edward Noonan, *American Independent*
- Barbara Boxer, *Democratic* (Incumbent)
- Carly Fiorina, *Republican*

United States Representative; District 42

- Mark Lambert, *Libertarian*
- Gary Miller, *Republican* (Incumbent)
- Michael Williamson, *Democratic*

United States Representative; District 44

- Bill Hedrick, *Democratic*
- Ken Calvert, *Republican* (Incumbent)

United States Representative; District 48

- Beth Krom, *Democratic*
- Mike Binkley, *Libertarian*
- John Campbell, *Republican* (Incumbent)