

Welcome Back to School!



SCCSBA August Newsletter

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President's Message - by Jodi Muirhead

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another school year! I always find this time of year to be exciting. Kids can't wait to see their friends from last year and make new friends. Teachers are energized about new possibilities in their classrooms. Parents are curious about what growth and new experiences their children will have. Administrators have been working for months on new programs and are holding their breath to see how successful they will be.

And board members? I hope you had a wonderful summer and are enthusiastically returning to meetings and activities in your district, committed to making a positive difference for the students at your schools.

I have always been a strong believer in learning something new every day. Our executive team at SCCSBA has been working over the summer to create a great line-up of speakers and activities for the upcoming year that I hope will help you broaden your knowledge base. I'm calling this year "Board Engagement 2.0, Stepping it up to the next level." Our goal is to go deeper on subjects that are important to you in your role as a board member.

Beyond the Masters in Governance Training and other CSBA trainings, there are important topics that have so much depth to them and we have only scratched the surface. In this year's series, we will quickly go through the basics and then dive in further, deeper than you have had before. There will be something for everyone, whether you are a new board member or have been on a board, or two, for many years.

Topics this year include student trauma; beyond the basics of the Brown Act; Superintendent Reviews; and demographic shifts in Santa Clara County. Plus, we will be partnering this year with the County Office of Education on 2 topics: charter schools and schools of choice; and innovations and collaborations in STEAM education.

Have a great start to your school year and I hope to see many of you at our September 8th networking lunch and our September 27th meeting as we continue to build capacity in each of us. All board members are welcome to all events!

Save the Dates for SCCSBA Meetings and Events for 2017-18

Thursday, September 14, 2017 - County-wide Teacher Recognition Celebration
Heritage Theater in Campbell, 6:15-9 p.m.

Wednesday, September 27, 2017 - SCCSBA Meeting - Topic: Student Trauma and Intervention with Guest Speakers Ryan Matlow, Ph.D and Travis Bradley, MPP from Stanford University
Oak Grove Room, SCCOE, 7:30-9 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 - SCCSBA Fall Dinner at MUR, Graham Middle School, 1175 Castro Street, Mountain View, 6-9 p.m.

Thursday, November 9, 2017 - SCCOE/SCCSBA Symposium: Schools of Choice
SCCOE, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 - SCCSBA Meeting - Topic: Superintendent Review and Evaluation with Guest Speaker Greg Dannis from DWK
Cupertino Room, SCCOE, 7:30-9 p.m.

Thursday - Saturday, November 30- December 2, 2017 - CSBA Annual Conference
San Diego Convention Center (SCCSBA Reception on November 30 from 5:30-7 p.m.)

Wednesday, January 24, 2018 - SCCSBA Meeting - Delegate Assembly Candidate Presentations, Nominating Committee Formation, Discussion Topic: Brown Act 2.0 - Stepping to the Next Level
Oak Grove Room, SCCOE, 7:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, January 27, 2018 - New Board Member Workshop at SCCOE

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 - SCCOE/SCCSBA Symposium - TK-12 Innovations and Collaboration in STEAM at SCCOE

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 - SCCSBA Meeting - Nomination of Officers, Guest Speaker: County Superintendent Jon R. Gundry
Oak Grove Room, SCCOE, 7:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, March 3, 2018 - SCCSBA Legislative Brunch (Venue TBD), 9 a.m. - Noon

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 - SCCSBA Meeting - Topic: Declining Birthrates & Demographic Trends in Santa Clara County School Districts with Guest Speaker Tom Williams from Enrollment PC
Oak Grove Room, SCCOE, 7:30-9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 - SCCSBA Hoffmann Awards Dinner (Venue TBD), 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 - SCCSBA Officers' Reorganization Dinner, Hong Fu Restaurant, 6:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, June 2, 2018 - Candidates' Workshop, 9 a.m.-Noon

Next SCCSBA Networking Lunch - Friday, September 8

Our next Networking Lunch will be held on Friday, September 8 at Country Gourmet (1314 South Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale). Everyone is invited to attend!

As part of our effort to outreach to different areas of our county, this year's monthly lunches will alternate between the first and second Friday of each month and will be located in different areas. Here is the schedule below for the whole year, with venues to be added later. If you have a great idea for a lunch venue, let Bonnie Mace know at execdirector@sccsba.org.

2017-18 Lunch Calendar

Friday, September 8 - Country Gourmet (Sunnyvale)
Friday, October 13 - Panera (South San Jose)
Friday, November 3 - Sweet Tomatoes (North San Jose)
Friday, January 12 - El Torito (Milpitas)
Friday, February 2 - Santa Clara (Restaurant TBD)
Friday, March 9 - Country Gourmet (Sunnyvale)
Friday, April 13 - Los Gatos/Saratoga (Restaurant TBD)
Friday, May 11 - Mt. View (Restaurant TBD)
Friday, June 1 - Campbell (Restaurant TBD)



CSBA Legislative Update

Based on your feedback, we are starting a new newsletter section - CSBA Legislative Update. Each month, we'll bring you the latest in state legislation straight from the desk of the CSBA.

According to CSBA, here's what to watch for in final weeks of 2017 legislative session:

Before the Senate and Assembly adjourned for their annual summer recess in July, education and other policy committees in both houses finished hearing the majority of this year's remaining fiscal bills. Once the summer recess ends in mid-August, legislators have four weeks to conclude their business and pass bills on to Gov. Jerry Brown's desk by Sept. 15.

Perhaps the most high-profile issue the Legislature will consider is a mandatory 8:30 a.m. or later start time for California's nearly 3,000 middle and high schools. Senate Bill 328 (Portantino, D-La Cañada Flintridge) is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, where it will be evaluated for its fiscal impact on school districts. While CSBA encourages school districts to review available research to determine if a change in start times is the right fit, CSBA opposes SB 328 because of the one-size-fits-all mandate that inherently dismisses the local circumstances of 1,000 school districts and county offices of education.

CSBA-sponsored bills

Also residing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee are a pair of CSBA-sponsored bills, both of which have received unanimous "Aye" votes thus far. The first bill, SB 527 (Galgiani, D-Stockton), would add a statutory cost-of-living adjustment for home-to-school transportation and provide significant relief for California school districts — in particular, small districts in rural areas — that are struggling with skyrocketing transportation costs.

The second CSBA-sponsored bill is SB 751 (Hill & Glazer), which fixes the school district reserve cap by exempting basic aid districts and small districts from the cap, raising the reserve limit to 17 percent and clarifying which funds the cap applies to. Assembly Bill 235 (O'Donnell, D-Long Beach), another reserve cap bill, also remains active. CSBA is seeking amendments to align AB 235 with SB 751 — of particular importance is how small districts are defined. While both bills exempt small and basic aid districts, CSBA's bill exempts small districts of 2,501 average daily attendance or less, while AB 235 uses a narrower definition that would still leave many financially vulnerable districts defenseless against the effects of the current reserve cap law.

Teacher probation

Assemblymembers Shirley Weber (D-San Diego) and Tony Thurmond (D-Richmond) both withdrew similar bills — AB 1220 and AB 1164, respectively — from the Senate Education Committee's July 12 agenda; each would have added a third probationary year for newly hired teachers. Both bills remain in the Senate Education Committee, which is not currently scheduled to meet again in 2017.

Charter schools

SB 765 (Weiner, D-San Francisco), which is opposed by CSBA, was originally scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on July 12; the bill was postponed to July 19 but again not heard by the committee, where the bill remains. SB 765 would grant charter schools the right of first refusal to acquire district real estate property which has been deemed "surplus."

Another charter-related bill of concern is AB 1217 (Bocanegra, D-Pacoima) which currently sits in Senate Appropriations. The bill would establish an independently run state Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics school in Los Angeles County. While not technically a charter school, it would operate under a very similar structure without going through any of the authorization processes currently in place. CSBA opposes the bill, which would set a precedent that could allow charters to circumvent school district, county offices of education and State Board of Education oversight by allowing the Legislature to act as an authorizer.

Fiscal transparency

Following recent amendments, CSBA now supports AB 1321 (Weber, D-San Diego), which endeavors to improve fiscal transparency in the public reporting of Local Control Funding Formula spending by school districts. As amended, the bill will make data more easily accessible and understandable for the public by aligning it with existing federal law, which requires disaggregated reporting of funds at the school site level, broken out by federal, state and local sources.

Next Steps

The majority of fiscal bills requiring an appropriation of funds now reside in the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees' suspense files. Both committees will hold suspense hearings in late August, determining which fiscal bills will advance to Senate and Assembly floor votes and which will be held.

Visit www.csba.org/legislativenews for CSBA's positions on 2017 legislation and more updates on key bills.

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

On August 9, a county-wide discourse at the Santa Clara County Office of Education discussed civic engagement in local school, districts, and communities. This nonpartisan event aired via livestream on [YouTube](#).

"This event is inspiring to me because I think that we as education and community leaders need to be the ones to say this is more important than we have thought in recent years, and we need to refocus ourselves on teaching our children the fundamental principles of our democratic institution," said County Superintendent of Schools, Jon R. Gundry.

A panel of experienced civic engagement and education leaders, moderated by Santa Clara County Board of Education Trustee, Joseph Di Salvo, shared their expertise in engaging communities and encouraging civil discourse and civics education. Several of the questions posed by Di Salvo focused on how schools across the county can support students with engaging civic education curriculum, instruction, and opportunities to participate in civic activities and simulations of democratic processes and procedures.

The topics included student activism, involvement, and engagement, especially regarding empowering students of color. The panel discussed building critical thinking skills, and involving students in local decision making through volunteer work, supporting community organizations, participating in public meetings, and taking part in community conversations. Other topics included understanding and examining biases and giving students the tools to become informed citizens.

"We want our students to be not only critical thinkers but also members of the community that are able to seek out the issues that impact their community and be able to either find solutions or seek the resources that are needed for them to be able to address those issues," said panelist Teresa Marquez, Director of Instruction for East Side Union High School District.

Keynote speaker, Ann Ravel, former chair of the Federal Election Commission under President Obama shared her perspectives. "We have to alter our political system...to encourage the engagement of all people in our government in civic life and in politics, starting with youth and adults as well. Of course – changing the federal system is a daunting task, but significant change is achievable at the local level."

The event kicked off a community-wide effort to develop a county wide strategic vision for expanded civic engagement. The recording of the event can be watched [online](#), and viewers are encouraged to [pledge support](#) for nonpartisan civic engagement and education initiatives in Santa Clara County. For resources and information regarding this event and civic engagement in Santa Clara County, visit: <http://bit.ly/democracyscc>

District Highlights

Santa Clara Unified School District

Santa Clara Unified School District is excited to announce the opening of Mission Early College High School (MECHS) for the 2017-2018 school year. MECHS, formerly known as the Mission Middle College program, is a small public high school (grades 10-12) in Santa Clara Unified that blends high school and college into a coherent educational program. The high school provides a unique opportunity for students to earn a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit in three years or less. Early College programs are designed to facilitate a greater participation of at-risk, low income and students of color in college level courses.

The goal of MECHS is to provide Santa Clara Unified students with a viable alternative for matriculating through high school and continuing on through post-secondary education, to eventually graduate with a Bachelor's degree. The transition of the Mission Middle College program into an independent high school is part of the district's ongoing effort to provide our at-risk, low income, and students of color who desire a non-traditional learning environment with alternative pathways to a quality education. This innovative model allows learning to take place in a personalized environment where rigorous work is both demanded and supported.

Gilroy Unified School District

Super Power Summer Camp

Power School is a collaboration between GUSD and community-based organization partners – Mt. Madonna YMCA, Youth Alliance, and Cal-SOAP. Each agency brings an area of expertise to the unique and high level of collaboration so all students benefit, regardless of which agency manages the site. Super Power Summer Camp, a component of Power School, provides continued summer learning opportunities that build confidence, self-sufficiency, academic success and social responsibility. This past summer, 771 students participated in the program. One of the program highlights is the Annual Thingamajig Invention Convention, a collaborative event with the Mt. Madonna YMCA that promotes student STEM creations by opening doors to strategic thinking, creative expression, and the career exploration.



Milpitas Unified School District

Kiwanis sends Milpitas students back to school with new clothes

More than 120 low-income students from throughout Milpitas Unified School District will kick off the school year on August 17 with a new wardrobe and back-to-school essentials thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Milpitas.

From 6:30 to 9 a.m. August 6, approximately 150 volunteer chaperones paired up with a student who they helped shop at Kohl's, before the store opened, during the annual Cares for Kids program. Each student had a sheet with information about his or her needs and what sizes they wear which guided the shopping by the volunteers. They included members of the Milpitas Police Department; Milpitas, Spring Valley, and Cal fire departments; Board Members (past and present); City Council members (past and present); MUSD teachers; Rotary members; 90 Milpitas and Independence high schools key clubbers; and several more community volunteers.

[Read more >](#)



Franklin-McKinley School District

Franklin-McKinley School District Hosts Convocation

Franklin-McKinley School District hosted their Convocation, welcoming hundreds of new and returning staff to the 2017-2018 school year! Superintendent Juan Cruz, Board of Education members, FMSD ACSA President, and Union Presidents (CSEA & FMEA) gave warm welcomes to the staff as they gear up for the new year school year. Over 600 staff in attendance. Following the Convocation, staff participated in a variety of professional development sessions ranging from Guided Reading to Customer Service.

Franklin Elementary Goes Back-to-School Shopping

Over 100 students from Franklin Elementary had the opportunity to go back-to-school shopping for essential school supplies such as uniforms, backpacks, shoes, and much more. Thanks to a generous donation from Target, each student received a \$100 gift card on Tuesday, August 15th as they shopped with their parents for back-to-school supplies. While students and their families are eager to start the school year, many struggle with essential supplies and resources. Our families were extremely grateful for the opportunity and students were all smiles as they shopped down the aisles of Target.



East Side Union High School District

Free Wireless Program & Smartphone

This school year, students and communities that lack internet access at home and in their neighborhoods will now have access. As part of the national [Sprint 1Million Project](#), 4,000 ESUHSD students will receive a smartphone from Sprint, providing unlimited voice, text and data access. Sprint created this program to provide access for high school students who wouldn't otherwise have access from home.

Our District's Community Wireless Program will also launch at the end of this month in the James Lick High School neighborhood. This program, in partnership with the City of San Jose and cooperation from Santa Clara County and PGE, will provide free wireless internet access to our students and will eventually expand to the entire district.



San Jose Unified School District

SJUSD students provide opportunity for young girls to learn coding, robotics

Leland High School's Quixilver robotics team partnered with the Leland Women in STEM Club (WiSTEM) to launch Girls' Tech Week, a 5-day program at the Rose Garden Branch Library that introduced young girls to different aspects of STEM. The entire workshop was led by female mentors who aim to share their passion for technology with students. Leland Robotics works to elevate opportunities by inspiring girls to get involved in STEM using an immersive, hands-on approach that makes technology fun. Code One Programming, a collaboration of Team Quixilver, WiSTEM, and other student groups at Leland, is currently recruiting students. Visit [codeone.cf](#) to learn more.



www.scooe.org/sccsba
execdirector@sccsba.org

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