President’s Message - by Melissa Baten Caswell

Welcome back! …And “Thank You” to the Trustees and Administrators who reviewed and scored the Hoffmann Award applications over the past few weeks!

As the New Year and New Decade begins, we have some encouraging news from the State on this year’s budget:

The Governor announced additional “targeted investments” in K-12, including
- LCFF augmented by $1.2 billion, (a 2.29% Cost of Living Adjustment)
- $900 million for educator recruitment and training
- $900 million increase for special education
- $300 million for the neediest low performing schools
- $300 million for innovative community school models to support student mental health
- $70 million to move and strengthen school meal programs.

And the Budget continues to allocate $1.5 billion Prop 51 bond funds to support school construction projects (more than double the 2018-19 allocation).

Although these funds are much appreciated, we need to be aware that they are one time; not ongoing. We must continually remind our legislators that California’s Public Schools need ongoing additional investment to avoid being continually forced into difficult decisions about how to balance our budgets.

With that in mind, I hope you will consider joining us for an advocacy trip to Sacramento on March 17, 2020 to participate in CSBA’s Legislative Action Day. Legislative Action Day is a full day of advocacy meetings between school governance leaders and members of the California Legislature and their staff. Want to join us? You can sign up here: https://www.csba.org/legislativeactionday

My Best Wishes for a Happy Health 2020!
Our next SCCSBA Networking Lunch will be held on Friday, February 7 at Panera located at 503 Coleman Avenue, San Jose.

Here is the schedule for the Friday lunches for the remainder of the academic year. All trustees are welcome to attend. It's a great way to learn about what's happening in other districts across the county!

Here's the rest of the lunch schedule:
- Friday, April 3, Aqui (10630 South De Anza Blvd, Cupertino)
- Friday, May 1, OPA! (276 E Campbell Ave, Campbell)
- Friday, June 5, Country Gourmet (1314 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale)

Governor’s Budget Workshop by Capitol Advisors - January 22 at SCCOE

It is only a couple of weeks until the upcoming budget presentation provided by Capitol Advisors at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. It will be held on January 22nd in the San Jose room from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. As Governor Newsom introduces his second budget, there is great anticipation over what he will do regarding issues taken up last year and new priorities for the coming year. The briefing will provide details on every major component of the proposed budget and an outlook for what is likely to actually be passed by the legislature. Among the fiscal issues that will draw attention include:

- LCFF increases, including discussions of funding sufficiency and possible ballot measures to raise additional revenues for schools
- Special education, including debate over continuing last year’s increase and new reform proposals
- Any new assistance with CalSTRS/CalPERS costs
- Early Childhood/Early Learning/Child Care expansion
- Mental health programs and funding

Capitol Advisors will also discuss the latest information and polling on the state school facilities bond (Proposition 13), which will appear on the March 2020 ballot. If you have not registered, just click the following link to find your workshop:

REGISTER HERE: https://budgetperspectivesworkshop.regfox.com/governors-budget-workshop-2020-21

SCCSBA Draft Calendar for 2019-20

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 (7:30-9:00 PM, Cupertino Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)
SCCSBA Monthly Meeting
Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent
Topic: State of the County in Public Education

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 (7:30-9:00 PM, Cupertino Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)
SCCSBA Monthly Meeting
Guest Speaker: Greg Dannis, DWK Legal Firm
Topic: Best Board Practices from a Legal Perspective

Saturday, March 7, 2020 (8:30 AM to Noon, MetroED)
Annual SCCSBA Legislative Brunch

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 (7:30-9:00 PM, Cupertino Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)
SCCSBA Monthly Meeting
Guest Speaker: Ann Waring, Stanford Distinguished Careers Institute Fellow and Former Executive Director at Foundation for a College Education
Topic: Equity Programs That Work

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 (6:00-9:00 PM, Michaels Restaurant at Shoreline, Mountain View)
SCCSBA Hoffmann Awards Dinner

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM, China Stix Restaurant)
Annual "Passing the Gavel" Dinner for Officers, Delegates and District Representatives
Saturday in June 2020 (9:00-11:00 AM, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

Candidate Workshop for the 2020 General Election

CSBA Spotlight (https://csba.org) (reprinted from the CSBA Website)

The streamlined new Local Control and Accountability Plan template should be easier both for local educational agencies to complete and use and for stakeholders to understand, California Department of Education and State Board of Education officials said upon the adoption of the new document at the Jan. 8-9 board meeting in Sacramento.

The year-in-the-making document is the fourth template revision in six years and will be in use for the 2020–21 through 2022–23 LCAP cycles. Most of the changes stem from Assembly Bill 1840, which called for the LCAP to “make the information included more accessible for parents and other local stakeholders” while providing technical instructions for LEAs in a separate section. An introduction of expenditure tables should also reduce the length of most LCAPs by about half, CDE staff said.

Read more...

School District Highlights

Metropolitan Education District

The Metropolitan Education District Fire Science/First Responder program was awarded the 2019 Golden Bell Award by the California School Boards Association for outstanding education program and governance practices. Fire Science/First Responder was selected as one of 57 recipients of California’s leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award.

The Golden Bell Awards, celebrating their 40th year, are presented by the California School Boards Association to promote excellence in public education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices. The awards reflect the depth and breadth of education programs and governance decisions supporting these programs that are necessary to address students’ changing needs.

Congratulations to Phil Gonzales and Oscar Tovar, Fire Science/First Responder instructors!

Cambrian School District

CAMBRIAN 3RD GRADER HELPS FOOD BANK

Cambrian School District Nima O’Donnell led an extraordinary campaign to collect food for the Second Harvest Food Bank. A third-grader at Farnham Elementary School, Nima calls it “Cookies for Cans”, and baked cookies and traded them for cans of food in front of his Cambrian Park home. This was his fourth year helping the Food Bank—he fills numerous barrels with his collected cans of food each year. He has been active since kindergarten with the annual event, earning the Blue Diamond Award from Second Harvest Food Bank each year for his efforts. Great job, Nima!

Milpitas Unified School District

State honors come Milpitas Unified School District’s way

Academics and athletics at Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD) both earned statewide accolades before the end of 2019.

MUSD’s Love4Literacy early childhood education program was honored with the Golden Bell Award by the California School Boards Association, while Milpitas High School’s football team won a CIF State...
With a goal of creating academically equitable communities by reducing educational and opportunity gaps, MUSD’s Love4Literacy program was designed to increase reading exposure for non-school aged children while fostering early vocabulary and literacy skills through the use of oral, traditional and digital literacy materials.

Led by Football Coach of the Year Kelly King, a special group of Trojan student-athletes overcame early-season shortfalls to rattle off eight straight victories en route to the high school’s second state title in three seasons.

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San José Unified School District

San José Unified Hosts All Middle Schools Overview Night

Transitioning from elementary into middle school can be a daunting change for students and families alike. To help make the transition a little easier and provide a glimpse into the various middle school programs available at San José Unified, the district hosts an All Middle Schools Overview Night each year. Held in mid-January, attendees learn about key dates and deadlines, what to look forward to in 6th grade, and attend a short presentation from each of San José Unified’s seven middle school programs: Bret Harte, Castillero, Herbert Hoover, John Muir, Muwekma Ohlone, River Glen, and Willow Glen. Always a popular event, this year’s event was held on Wed. Jan. 15 at the newly renamed Muwekma Ohlone Middle School in San Jose.

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Campbell Union School District

Students Cook Up Creations After School

Creativity and competition are baked into middle school extended learning opportunity, thanks to support from community partners.

Thanks to a partnership between the University of California CalFresh and Campbell Union School District Child Nutrition Services, students at Monroe and Rolling Hills Middle schools participate in this real-world creative, fun, and practical experience. Over six weeks, the students learn to make healthy choices, expand their nutritional knowledge and practice culinary skills with CalFresh educators.

"I really like that we get to make the food ourselves," said John, a sixth grader in the after-school Cooking Club at Monroe Middle School. "I joined because my friends were in it, but I ended up really liking it."

When the curriculum is finished, each of the clubs will continue to meet and choose a recipe for a Cook Off Competition. While they prepare, Campbell's Brown Chicken Brown Cow restaurant will volunteer to provide cooking workshops in January that aim to inspire creativity, expand their knowledge of culinary careers, and develop their palate.

In early spring, students will cook their chosen dish in front of partners, guests, families and staff displaying their teamwork, innovation, and culinary knowledge at the District's Central Kitchen. The winning recipe will be mass produced and served at the school lunch program district-wide.