



SCCSBA April 2020 Newsletter

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President's Message - by Melissa Baten Caswell

If you are feeling stressed right now, you are in good company...

Closing schools for months at a time, shelter in place, going to distance education, changing grading practices, making sure that our students are safe and fed, The changes over the past month are unprecedented.

Our next challenge is to figure out what the Covid-19 situation means for our budgets; which will impact summer remediation and the next school year.

Before the pandemic hit, more than half of all local school agencies had been declining in enrollment for years, and a slowdown in revenue for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) had begun. Even districts that haven't had declining enrollment found themselves to be deficit spending due to cost pressures that include:

- Rising pension contributions
- Increasing health benefit contributions
- Increased salaries due to step and column movement
- Maintaining competitive compensation, and
- Increasing contributions to critical programs like special education and child nutrition

Also, most LEAs are now spending more than what they had budgeted - in order to provide distance learning technology, and meals and other services to needy students.

On April 10, UCLA downgraded their economic predictions for the economy, and Keely Bosler, Director of the Department of Finance (DOF), noted that "the economic disruption from the pandemic is expected to result in a recession and have significant negative effects on state revenue."

Now is the time to conserve cash and plan for lower funding for the next several years. In addition to the cost pressures already mentioned, Community Funded Districts should expect lower property taxes in the future as properties are reassessed and tax defaults rise.

To support you through this difficult time, the SCCSBA has instituted

weekly "Virtual Brown Bag" Zoom calls to provide some live Q&A and offer an extra networking resource you can draw from. We are rotating the meeting times weekly, so that we can reach the most Board members.

Hang in there and "THANK YOU" for your hard work to support our students and each other!

If there are other things you would like us to do that would provide additional support, please let me or Bonnie know.

Stay safe,
Melissa

Thursday, April 16 - SCCSBA Meeting via Zoom

In keeping with our mission of sharing information and providing networking opportunities for trustees in this time, our next Virtual Get-Together for boardmembers will be held Thursday, April 16 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Zoom. Our Executive Director Bonnie Mace has sent the call information to all trustees.

These virtual Zoom "brown bags" are not mandatory and we are just trying to schedule a meeting once a week to provide a place to ask questions and connect with other Board members. Also, we are trying to include County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan for Q&A and do it at a few different times so it is accessible to more board members.

Our regular lunch Get-Togethers at various restaurants will be cancelled for the remainder of the school year, and hopefully we can pick them up again when school starts in the Fall.

SCCSBA Announces Winners of the 2020 Hoffmann Awards

The Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) is delighted to announce the 2020 winners of its prestigious Glenn W. Hoffmann Awards, a 36-year tradition that celebrates school and school district programs that significantly impact student success in our region.

This year, there are five Glenn W. Hoffmann Award winning programs. In addition, one of these programs will also receive the Kristi Porter Outstanding Program Award.

"It is inspiring to see so many innovative programs serving students at every grade level in our county," said SCCSBA President Melissa Baten Caswell.

The districts and school program winners will be honored at a ceremony on Wednesday, October 28. The Kristi Porter Award winner will be announced at the October 28 event. (The original Hoffmann Awards Celebration was scheduled for April 22, but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order.)

The winning programs in alphabetical order are:

Leader in Me at Bishop Elementary, Sunnyvale Elementary School District

Post-Secondary Academic Transition Program, Fremont Union High School District

Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL), Oak Grove School District

Steindorf STEAM Magnet, Cambrian School District

Vargas Student Success through Science, Sunnyvale Elementary School District

The awards honor Glenn W. Hoffmann, who served as the Superintendent of Santa Clara County schools from 1967 to 1984, and believed that leadership is a key factor in educational reform.

A committee of school administrators and school board members scores entries from Santa Clara County school programs. Awards are given to only those programs that receive the highest scores.

The awards dinner is sponsored by ENGIE Services, Voler Strategic Advisors, TBWB, California

Consulting, Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Our thanks go to this year's Hoffmann Committee Chair, Hugo Jimenez from the Berryessa Union School District.



Santa Clara County Office of Education Launches COVID-19 Resource and Information Page

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has launched a web portal of COVID-19 information and resources for teachers, parents, students, administrators and support staff. The sccoe.org/covid-19 portal features sections with information that varies from setting up virtual classrooms and accessing lesson plans and resources, to sharing ideas with parents for how to keep children engaged at home.

"It is a challenging time for our community as we face the full-scale impact of COVID-19. Our districts and schools are working to overcome some of the challenges students and families might experience by resources that encourage quality learning that can be readily accessed at home," said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools at the Santa Clara Office of Education.

The sccoe.org/covid-19 portal houses a student section that features read-alouds, virtual field trips and websites that support learning in English language arts, math, history/social science, science, art, and world language. Guidance on how to establish and facilitate online learning can be found in the teacher, administrator and support staff sections.

Parents can also find flexible learning options for their preschool through 12th grade students, as well as information about how to access a 16-hour daily warmline with educational support in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Korean at (408) 453-6651 or WarmLineRemoteLearning@sccoe.org. The warmline can assist parents with teaching children about "social distancing" and proper hygiene as well as answer questions and address concerns regarding Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs).

The [COVID-19/sccoe.org](https://sccoe.org/covid-19) portal also features a list of resources from partner and community organizations that can inspire fun and engaging learning activities outside of the classroom.

Updates will be made to the sccoe.org/COVID-19 website on a regular basis.

Additional questions regarding COVID-19 can be answered by the SCCOE COVID-19 hotline, (408) 453-6819.

SCCSBA Calendar of Events

POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 28
SCCSBA Hoffmann Awards Dinner

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM, China Stix Restaurant)
Annual "Passing the Gavel" Virtual Meeting via Zoom for Officers, Delegates and District Representatives

Saturday, June 6, 2020 (9:00-11:00 AM, Oak Grove Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)
Zoom Candidate Workshop for the 2020 General Election

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

Assembly budget memo outlines rocky 2020-21 outlook, declares August revision likely

Assembly Budget Chair Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), in a [memo released this week](#), provides an overview of that the 2020-21 budget situation and process might look like. Asm. Ting echoed the March advisory

issued by the Department of Finance that the May budget revision will be a “workload budget.” while offering that the Legislature will we will no longer be able to consider new priorities and ideas from stakeholders, advocates and legislators, “with the exception of COVID-19 related costs, wildfire prevention, and homelessness funding.”

This likely means that January proposals for new K-12 program spending will be shelved. The memo goes on to state that budget committees may need to “revisit some reductions to existing state programs at that time, given the State’s fiscal condition.” The memo echoes Gov. Gavin Newsom’s comments during his April 2 press conference that, “the January budget is no longer operable...we should be prepared for substantial adjustments.”

Asm. Ting’s memo offered that there could be an August revision to enacted budget, due primarily to the extension of the tax filing deadline from April 15 to July 15, which will not allow for a clear picture of state revenues during the May and June budget process. By law, Gov. Newsom must release his May Revision on or before May 15, the budget bill must be passed by the Legislature by June 15 and the Governor must sign the final budget by July 1 – these deadlines are set by the California Constitution and are not waivable. However, the memo states that budget committees would consider a second round of deliberations, and that “given the initial projections of the virus’s impact on the economy, it is possible the State will need to consider sizable ongoing reductions to major programs during this time,” Ting said. It is unclear from the memo how the process of revising the enacted 2020-21 budget would play out between the Legislature and the Administration.

While recognizing a more volatile budget situation due to COVID-19, CSBA continues to advocate for the preservation of funding for K-12 and for any available one-time funds to be allocated on a discretionary basis, to allow LEAs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic locally and to preserve existing programs. **Read the Assembly memo.**

School District Highlights



Milpitas Unified School District

Milpitas HS student creates nonprofit to promote African American culture through virtual story-time

Milpitas High School student leader Nyla Choates has turned the Shelter in Place circumstance into an opportunity to promote African American culture and close the literacy gap around the world.

The Black Student Union President developed her own nonprofit, ‘My Roots Are Rich,’ in order to “empower, inspire, and educate people by reinforcing the rich culture of African Americans and their contributions to America.”

Choates’ first project is called ‘Read For A Cause,’ in which she produces and posts videos of volunteers reading select short stories.

“The mission of ‘My Roots Are Rich’ is to help close this literacy gap, one book at a time with pre-recorded videos reading short stories,” Choates explained. “These videos will then be posted on the ‘My Roots Are Rich’ social media pages and YouTube channel, where children of color can be reached globally.”

Each weekday at noon, Choates will post a story-time video on the following:

- Instagram: @myrootsarerich
- Facebook: @myrootsarerich
- Youtube Channel: [Read For A Cause](#)



Sunnyvale School District

The Sunnyvale School District Board of Education has appointed Dr. Michael Gallagher, a longtime educator and administrator within the District, as its new superintendent. The Board of Education made the announcement Thursday night at a special board meeting. Gallagher will begin his new assignment as superintendent July 1 subject to the agreement and ratification of a contract of employment. The Board expects ratification of the contract to occur at its regular meeting on May 7, 2020.

Gallagher has been committed to equity through service in the public schools of Santa Clara County for more than 30 years as a high school English teacher, counselor, and associate principal, as a middle school principal, and as a district-level leader. He came to Sunnyvale in May of 2009 as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. In his current position as Deputy Superintendent, Gallagher leads the District's human resources and information systems departments and has been a district leader in its efforts to understand the social-emotional dimensions of teaching and learning and culturally responsive teaching practices.

Michelle Maginot, Board of Education president, expressed the Board's unanimous support.

"We are fortunate to have such an experienced and successful candidate within our District," said Michelle Maginot, board president. "We are excited to continue the great work already happening and are confident that he will bring added value while building upon the strengths and knowledge of our administrators, teachers, staff, and community partners."



Cambrian School District

Cambrian School District is so very proud of Jasmine Jian, a first-grader at Farnham Elementary School! She won an Honorable Mention from the 2020 Coastal Art & Poetry Contest. Congratulations Jasmine! She also won (1st place in Grade 1) the Santa Clara County, Office of Education, "My Voice", 2020 Young Artist Showcase competition. Way to go!



San José Unified School District

Look for the Big Yellow School Bus

Offering free Grab and Go meals consisting of breakfast and lunch for anyone in need, San José Unified has been providing free meals each morning to local families since March 17th, 2020 after schools closed due to COVID-19. During the course of this time, the district has partnered with the City of San Jose to serve more than 175,000 meals to date. Initially starting with only ten nutrition sites, the district was able to expand that number to 33 different locations, utilizing school district school buses to transport fresh prepared meals each day, serving 77,000+ meals per week.

Fremont Union High School District

Fremont High School staff raise \$12,700 for local families impacted by the coronavirus

Fremont High School staff have rallied together to raise money for those families hit hardest by the pandemic. Longtime Fremont teacher Michelle Wagner launched the Keep Smiling campaign, which has now raised an incredible \$12,700 for families who have been negatively impacted by the closing of businesses and loss of work. More than 160 donors have contributed, including alumni, current staff and other community members.

SCCSBA

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STAY CONNECTED

