



SCCSBA May 2020 Newsletter

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President's Message - by Melissa Baten Caswell

Hang in there...

Constant change and uncertainty is hard and the budget crisis and continued ambiguity about what the 2020-2021 school year will look like for our students are making things even more challenging.

Flexibility will be key for all of us. We need to make sure we work with our superintendents to ensure thoughtful plans for multiple scenarios. At a minimum we should all plan for a school year that has: 1) in-classroom with lots of safety and social distancing protocols (if we can go back), 2) distance learning if we can't go back live, 3) a plan if we open live, cases spike, and then we have to go back into "Shelter in Place" again (maybe multiple times), and 4) a way to support students (and staff) who are not able to do in-person classes because of health and immunity issues (themselves or in their households).

We will all benefit if we reach out to support each other to share experiences, resources, and best practices. To help keep you connected, Bonnie and I will continue to hold SCCSBA weekly Zoom meetings into June.

Stay strong, stay positive.
We are all in this together,

Melissa



Acknowledgement of May as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020 Santa Clara County Board of Education unanimously approved and signed a resolution formally acknowledging the month of May as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

May was designated as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by the United States Congress in 1992. The month of May was chosen as the designated month of celebration to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, where Chinese immigrants played a key role in laying track.

Santa Clara County is one of the first minority-majority counties in the nation. Asians have been the largest racial group since 2014, and currently make up nearly 38 percent of the county's population. As the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) values and celebrates diversity it has established a partnership with the [Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute](#). The county office leaders participate in the Asian American Pacific Islander Educators Network Group which is facilitated by County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, and Dr. Yee Wan, SCCOE Director of Multilingual Education Services.

The SCCOE supports student diversity and narrowing of the opportunity gap. Its participation in the Asian American Pacific Islander Network Group encourages Asian American Pacific Islander educators to aim for leadership roles as it is a proven strategy that student outcomes are positively impacted when students see themselves reflected in leadership roles in our schools and communities. The Network Group in partnership with SCCOE has also made many contributions to the community, and is a premier leader in training socially-conscious and effective civic leaders.

The SCCOE's affiliation with the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute has supported initiatives for students, including "My Name, My Identity". This initiative asks the school community to foster a welcoming atmosphere by pronouncing students' names correctly, thereby honoring the individual student and creating a sense of belonging.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is an institute of learning and is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success. SCCOE is also greatly committed to honoring and celebrating the diversity of others as well as ensuring that we learn from the heritage and culture of others.

For more information on the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute, or how to support their efforts, please visit <https://apali.org/> directly.

SCCSBA/SCCROV Candidate Workshop Coming in June

Learn about the rules, regulations and paperwork for school board candidates running in the November Election. We are hosting a Zoom Candidate Workshop in partnership with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters in June. Stay tuned for more information including the date and time for this free workshop. We encourage first-time candidates to attend in addition to current school board members who will be running for re-election.

Thanks to Mountain View Whisman School Board Trustee Ellen Wheeler for hosting this event.

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

May Revision cuts LCFF, drops COLA, introduces proposals in effort to mitigate impact

Reflecting California's pandemic-induced \$54 billion budget deficit, Gov. Gavin Newsom presented his [May Revision](#) on May 14 featuring a blend of proposals aimed at mitigating the dire financial straits of the state's K-12 schools.

"Coupled with a 10 percent cut to LCFF — the primary source of funding for K-12 education — the May Revision impairs the ability of schools to serve all students and to resume on-campus instruction safely," said CSBA President Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez. "This budget would be insufficient in ordinary times and is less than what is required for most schools to reopen safely during a pandemic — and if schools don't reopen, our economy can't fully reopen."

Absent from the May Revision is a cost-of-living increase to the Local Control Funding Formula for already distressed local educational agencies that are now experiencing the rising costs of the COVID-19 crisis. Yet, with the May Revision estimating that the Proposition 98 guarantee will decline by \$19 billion, Gov. Newsom outlined several proposals that he said could mitigate the impacts of dramatic revenue decline on state funding. "We are not just going to roll over and accept \$19 billion of cuts to public education," he said.

[Watch the CSBA webinar on the May Revision](#)

These proposed pieces include a one-time investment of \$4.4 billion in federal funds to LEAs to address learning loss related to COVID-19 school closures and, importantly, the redirection of \$2.3 billion paid to CalSTRS and CalPERS toward long-term unfunded liabilities to further reduce employer contribution rates in 2020–21 and 2021–22.

(Read more: <http://blog.csba.org/may-revision-20/>)

School District Highlights



Cambrian School District

Price's Maya Calvert Participates In Honor Choir

Congratulations to Price 8th Grader Maya Calvert, who was selected to participate in both the California State Middle School Honor Choir and the Western Regional ACDA Junior High Honor Choir. Maya was selected as a Soprano for both honor choirs. Their final concert was held on February 22nd at the Saroyan Theater, in Fresno. For Western Division, Maya learned six choral pieces prior to traveling to Salt Lake City to work with the 104 singers selected to participate from four western states. Singers rehearsed for 20 hours over three days under the direction of Dr. Jacob Narverud. They gave their final concert on March 7th at the Tabernacle. Maya started singing with Cambrian School District under the direction of Tiffany Barry in 4th grade and was accepted into Ida Price's Treble Choir for both 7th and 8th grade, under the direction of Catherine Lorigan. Congratulations, Maya!



Milpitas Unified School District

Milpitas HS student's nonprofit produces masks for frontline workers

After reading a news article about the lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) equipment for health care workers, Milpitas High School junior Amy Stanley got inspired to make a difference.

So, the 16-year-old student recently founded her nonprofit, ProjectMaskify, and then enlisted several of her Trojan classmates, as well as student ambassadors from high schools throughout the Bay Area, to be part of the humanitarian effort.

"ProjectMaskify is a local youth-led organization that strives to equip our first-line of defense, our healthcare workers, with PPEs to protect them against Covid-19," said Stanley, who began making cotton-fabric cloth masks with elastic bands along with fellow MHS juniors and her co-leads, Rachel Pham and Aditi Hariharan.

On April 8, [ProjectMaskify](#) completed 250 masks in only one week's time and donated them to the Valley Medical Center Foundation. With additional funding, they have delivered more than 800 masks to even more front-line workers.

More information on ProjectMaskify can be found by visiting the nonprofit's [website](#) and its [GoFundMe webpage](#).

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STAY CONNECTED

