

# SUPERINTENDENCY COUNCIL

Notes of Meeting, Thursday, March 25, 2010

## STATE BUDGET UPDATE – Adonai Mack

Impact and Follow-up: Legislators became aware of the targeted cuts issues, especially on administrative cuts, mostly from testimony during Legislative Action Day. ACSA, CASBO and others testified as to the impact of budget cuts on students. The Assembly did vote to separate cuts to administration and contracting out. The Assembly listened to needs for flexibility and local control. The Senate is taking a different look. The May Revise will direct work on budget reductions. Revenues have shown some signs of uptake in last few months. If this trend continues, the May Revise may show a Proposition 98 level beyond the legislature's current projections.

Apportionment Deferrals –The bill to allow apportionment deferrals was fast tracked without input from education. This will allow the State Controller to defer payments in July, October and March. ACSA spoke out that there is not enough time to adjust to deferrals. Some amendments were approved. Additional adjustments may have to go into another bill.

## EDUCATION COALITION APPEAL TO LAWMAKERS – Karen Stapf Walters

Talk to Legislators: We must work with legislators to uphold the July budget agreement and repay the students the money they are owed under Proposition 98, the minimum school funding guarantee. Our plea: live up to the deal and do not manipulate Proposition 98. In two years more than \$17 billion has been cut from education. We are asking legislators for a verbal commitment to protect Proposition 98, have no suspension of Proposition 98. The vote in the Assembly last July was 47 *yes*, 2 *no* and 31 *not voting*. In the Senate the vote was 27 *yes*, 13 *no* with 10 *not voting*. Ask those local Assembly members and Senators who voted *yes* to maintain their position and uphold the deal. To those who voted *no* or abstained, describe the worsening conditions in your schools and the projected impact on California's future. Make clear the dire implications of a negative position on Proposition 98. See and communicate with your legislators by the first week in May. CSBA and CTA will be acting too. Make sure all understand the implications of manipulating proposition 98. ACSA will be tracking contacts with legislators. We must build understanding within all legislators. Priorities of legislators may not be for education; many have health and welfare needs prime.

Hear the People: Legislators must hear from the people that schools must not be cut any more. PTA testimony can be powerful. We must get a mass of parents to make phone calls. Student testimony also can be powerful. The marches on the Capitol for health care have been influential. The PTA has a march scheduled. The governor's staff says it has not cut education. This distortion must be countered; 22,000 pink slips to teachers and others speak contrarily. E-mails to legislators are essential. Parents know what is happening in their schools; they can tell the story to legislators. Apply pressure to all legislators. Don't assume that majority party will not manipulate Proposition 98.

## SUNSET OF FLEXIBILITY ALLOWANCES/CSR PENALTIES – Adonai Mack

Currently, there is no conversation in the Assembly about extending sunset dates.

## ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION – Sherry Griffith

Sherry distributed the U.S. Department of Education's March 2010 document, "A Blueprint for Reform," the plan for the reauthorization of The Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The department is striving to have this done by August 2010. The priorities include: 1) college and

career-ready students, 2) great teachers and leaders in every school, 3) equity and opportunity for all students, 4) raise the bar and reward excellence, and 5) promote innovation and continuous improvement. The plan describes school turnaround models. It addresses the needs of English learners and other diverse learners. The federal government needs to differentiate between collective bargaining states and non-collective bargain states. We must be vigilant to maintain bulk of funds to be formula-driven rather than be competitive. Marc Ecker will lead another delegation to Washington in April.

#### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT – Deb Sigman

The Lowest 5% --Deb Sigman, CDE Deputy Superintendent of the Curriculum, Learning, and Accountability Branch, acknowledged that there were last minute changes to the list of the lowest 5% schools. The CDE has a data file on how the schools were selected. The identified schools may apply for improvement grant funding. The application is voluntary. To receive funds the schools must implement one of the four turnaround models. A school could defer applying and institute a planning year. However, no funds are available for that planning. The list of schools will be recalculated each year. The statute is silent on timelines and sanctions.

#### CALIFORNIA VOTERS RIGHTS ACT AMENDMENT – Adonai Mack

The California Voters Rights Act was enacted in 2002 to ensure that electoral systems are fair and open. Assembly Bill 2330 (Arambula) is expected to ease the costs of lawsuits and expert testimony when districts are asked to move from district-wide to trustee area elections. Despite the fiscal situation faced by school districts, the bill only includes modest changes. A written claim would have to be registered with the political subdivision before bringing action in Superior Court. The political subdivision then would have 30 days to respond to a claim of lesser ability of a protected class to participate in an election. Also, a claim could not be filed within 120 days prior to an election. The first hearing on this bill will be in April.

#### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPOINTMENT – Sherry Griffith

ACSA with support of other organizations was successful in derailing one of the Governor's nominations, Rae Belisle, for the State Board of Education. Belisle took full credit for the SBE's Algebra I mandate. The need for balance, reason and collaboration on and within the board was affirmed. The Senate Rules Committee effectively quashed the nomination by not even allowing it to come to a hearing. Sherry worked long and effectively to muster support from many organizations. This action affirmed the importance of a balanced and broad-based board with a variety of personal and professional experiences.

#### FINGERPRINTING, COACHES AND THE CCTC – Laura Preston

AB 1025 Conway requires a non-certificated candidate, commencing on July 1, 2010, prior to assuming a paid or volunteer position to supervise, direct, or coach a pupil activity program sponsored by, or affiliated with, a school district, to obtain from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing an Activity Supervisor Clearance Certificate upon verification of the candidate's personal identification and verification that he or she meets specified requirements. We thought we had consensus on changes. We want ability to have fingerprints taken to Department of Justice or FBI without going through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Districts have supervisors and coaches fingerprinted. Getting the CCTC involved would take too much time and expend unnecessary funds. We will pursue quest for a reasonable amendment to existing law.