

ACSA Business Services Council Report
Submitted by
Pat McGuire, Region VII Representative

The Business Services Council met on October 28, 2008. The meeting was well attended by region representatives. Agenda topics included the following:

Council Business

- Review of Bylaws
- 2007-08 Year End Report from Past President Highlights included presentations and the tradition of meeting with legislators. The council also participated in ACSA/CASBO's CBO training programs.
- Review of 2008-09 Council Goals and Objectives
 - Providing Council members with the most up to date information on finance/budget and school business issues. This includes opportunity for direct interaction with ACSA and CASBO legislative staff to obtain information and provide staff with feedback to shape legislative positions.
 - Perform direct lobbying of legislators and legislative staff on finance/budget and school business issues.
 - Contribute to training and continuing education programs for current and future CBOs.
- January budget reaction conference call on January 12 at 2:00pm

Policy and Project Updates

Brett McFadden, Adonai Mack, and Dennis Myers provided an update to the Council members. Revenues are dropping quickly with a shortfall of approximately 3 billion dollars. That results in a wide range of questions concerning K-Adult education. The Governor sat with legislative leadership and is meeting with the Education Coalition this morning. The group said that we should not be surprised if they try to tap into education to balance the budget. There will probably be a conversation about mid-year cuts, but it remains to be seen. In July, revenues were .5% below normal. By the end of the first quarter, revenues were down 5%. By the end of the fiscal year, they are projecting revenues will be down \$5 billion. We are in test 3 for Prop 98. Education may be looking at \$2-4 billion in cuts....There is not 2-4 billion to cut. Republicans believe if they take 2-4 billion, it is not a cut...Revenue needs to be addressed. The Governor is planning on calling a special session on Nov. 5th. Dennis and Adonai will meet with the Education Coalition this morning. More to follow.

Last year, we made a decision to not tell them how to balance the budget. Discussion needs to occur so that we don't experience this year after year. From the public's perspective, it may appear as though business is running as usual and the cuts have not

Brett shared that the Education Coalition is the "Big 8". The lobbyists and strategists meet on a weekly basis. The coalition will have to operate on a political level to protect 98. Brett suggested giving the leg (next session) include some flexibility options.

ACSA's Legal Support Fund.

ACSA's legal support fund has addressed the following legal actions: protecting the integrity of Proposition 98 and public education funding, mayoral takeovers of local school district, repayment of STRS funds "borrowed" by the state, the state's statutory authority to establish statewide benefit charter schools. With the possibility of addressing the adequacy issue, District support is needed. Membership costs are based on the District's size. If we want ACSA to be at

the table to address these important issues, the Legal Support Funds is the primary mechanism to consider.

For a copy of complete minutes, please go to our Region VII website and look under committee reports.