

ACSA
Secondary Education Council
Report from Thursday, March 19, 2009
Location: Teleconference Sacramento, Burlingame, and Ontario

ACSA Mentoring Program:

Mary Gomes & Mike Bossi gave a report regarding a proposed ACSA administrative mentoring program. With several administrators retiring in the near future there will be administrative job opportunities at the site level and in the central office. ACSA is preparing to provide mentoring for both site level and central office administrators.

CDE High School Reform Sounding Board:

Pat Ainsworth led a passionate discussion on possible changes for high schools in the future. The poor economic conditions for public education may be a great opportunity to reevaluate the operational aspects of high school. Pat asked 1) What will high schools of the future look like? and 2) Will the realities of the times accelerate distance learning opportunities for student?

Meeting Dates:

The proposed 2009-10 meeting dates for the secondary council are November 4, January 21 and March 18. The November 4 date was selected in order to coincide with the Leadership Summit in Sacramento.

Reports:

Advocate Sherry Skelly Griffith provided information regarding the ACSA delegation Washington D.C. visit. She shared that the feeling with the new administration was very open and welcoming. Information was also shared about the federal stimulus package. She mentioned that hearings for the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) would likely happen this year.

Advocate Adonai Mack provided information regarding the state budget and the education related propositions that will be voted on in May 2009. ACSA is taking a pro position regarding the Propositions 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E (see below).

ACSA Executive Director Bob Wells said the passage of Propositions 1A-1E is necessary in order to uphold the budget compromise crafted by the governor and lawmakers. School funding has been reduced by more than \$11 billion, educational programs have been eliminated and thousands of educators have received notice that they may lose their jobs.

“Passage of these initiatives will ensure that the most recent budget deal adopted by the governor and lawmakers remains in place,” Wells said. “Schools simply cannot afford further onerous cuts. **It’s important for us to raise awareness about the May 19 special election, its significance for public schools and the need to vote YES on this slate of ballot initiatives.**”

The measures are as follows:

Proposition 1A – State fiscal stabilization

Prop. 1A, which is linked with Prop. 1B, directs 3 percent of General Fund revenues into a “rainy day” budget stabilization fund, a portion of which would fund K-14 repayments. The fund would be capped at 12.5 percent of General Fund revenues.

Proposition 1B – Education funding repayment

Linked with Prop. 1A, Prop. 1B requires repayments to school districts and community colleges to offset recent budget cuts beginning in 2011-12. Payments are funded from the Budget Stabilization Fund created in Prop. 1A until the full \$9.3 billion has been paid.

Proposition 1C – Securitization of State Lottery proceeds

Prop. 1C would borrow against future lottery earnings, \$5 billion for 2009-10. The measure would take education out of the lottery business, replacing the small amount of lottery money that actually goes to schools with General Fund payments based what schools received from the lottery in 2008-09.

Proposition 1D – California and Families Act: Use of funds

Prop. 1D would divert excess tobacco tax settlement money, which has seen a surplus since 1998, into the General Fund to prevent deeper cuts to children’s health care and other social services programs.

Proposition 1E – Mental health funding

Prop. 1E would temporarily reallocate funds from the Mental Health Services Act to support other health services programs for children and young adults at risk of elimination due to budget cuts.

Respectfully submitted by Daryl Camp, Region VII Secondary Council representative & principal at Bear Creek High School, Lodi Unified School District