



**ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS
STUDENT SERVICES and SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Friday, September 18, 2009
Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions - Sherman Garnett, Council President

Representatives from each region were greeted and introduced themselves. Each rep shared current events from the region and how the budget crisis is effecting their area including sharing ideas.

California Department of Education Update - Dr. William Ellerbee, Gordon Jackson, Bob Morgan, Andrew Laher

Dr. Ellerbee, Deputy Superintendent discussed state department budget cuts have grown from \$17 million to \$27.

- Gordon Jackson, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Branch - After school programs are in his prevue. A grant has been created to provide professional development for school site administrators to help them see after school programs as a resource. The focus is to include the staff at the school. To provide open meetings to the after school staff. Gordon wants his department to be a resource to help close the achievement gap but feels the “gap” will not close if focus of program is solely on academics.
- Homeless - Education grant challenges to get budget office to let go of funds when money is not available to make payroll. Annette Cleveland asked Gordon for strategies to release funds.
- Bob Morgan, Compliance Monitoring Division of Special Education – Verification Reviews are now being done with a team from CDE and a partnership with SELPA directors. This partnership came about due to budget cuts in travel. Met with subcommittee continuing self-review process that provides support and technical assistance to districts. Verification Review selecting based on compliance history. District level and SELPA level people on the teams.

OSEP putting pressure on CDE and auditors to do fiscal monitoring of IDEA funds. Started conversation with SELPA on how to do monitoring. New compliance monitoring with ARRA funds. Need to create a new system to monitor and report to inspector general’s office, general accounting office and OSEP. Each office has different monitoring and at different times. Over the summer complaints and due process filing decreased. Significant increase in district filed due process filings. Think it is due to cutbacks and difference in family basic needs vs. other needs.

Significant disproportionately will be forth coming. Can’t use ARRA to offset MOE. Hope to have decision on which districts fall into this within the next few weeks.

Charter schools and SELPA affiliations will be discussed at the November and January State Board of Education meetings.

CAHSEE testing forthcoming as well. Some Q&A coming out.

- Advisory Commission on Special Education- Dr. Ellerbee has observed that very few people are in attendance at these meeting and there used to be a large contingency, how valuable is the commission? Wants to hear from Council about how we get information from that commission. Barbara McDonald puts out information with a link from the advisory commission. Consensus is that there are very few people getting updates from the commission. Different organizations have liaisons. SELPA has one.
- Deaf awareness week next week - Event coordinated do something at the department related to D/HH. Also something at School for Blind on October 19 for white cane day.
- Mary Hudler, Director, Special Education Division - Q&A on CAHSEE completed and needs to be approved to get out to the field. Will be coming we hope shortly. Board approved a 45 day period for NPA/NPS regulation deferred at March meeting. For those providing behavior intervention. Comment period ends on November 16.

Charter work group – pilots out for geographic area charter schools. Four pilots, the one in El Dorado is an all Charter pilot.

1. Lodi area SELPA – 3 charters all ASPIRE schools
2. Montessori project out of Yuba county SELPA, San Juan, Elk Grove, Sacramento City Unified.
3. Desert Mountain – all San Diego areas

ARRA money - Twenty percent of the fifty percent is out. Second 50% is now in California. Apportionment is coming out with reports of expenditures. Other states are having problems that districts were not able to spend it all now.

CDE and UC Davis MIND Institute - Two year grant for autism statewide training. Teaching and training on evidence based practices for teachers in the field and administrators wanted. Training will happening throughout the state. Trainer of trainers model, national training group of 30 people, representatives from 3 SEPLAs, diagnostic center and regional center staff. Plus north and south first year going and looking at own sites. Each of the sites will be able to be trainer of trainers. Three year cycle and each year expand to other sites.

- **09-10 Council Goals and Plans – Sherman Garnett**
Include council purpose in region reports and ask for input from region members on issues and topics to take to the state council. Stress the January Symposium and include the council publications at regional member meetings.

Council purposes and goals - Is purpose still the same? Changes? How to support new administrators. General education administrators need to have the basics on chairing IEPs, laws and regulations and special education 101. Day to day issues are there for them. Other people are taking on the administrator designee role.

Goals - Support the training of administrators in special education issues through the Symposium and the Special Education Academies.

New council goal and activity - Hot topics issues and concerns with suggestions on how to deal with them.

1. Must be free or low cost.
2. Web based project activity for this council to do. Do as an activity design. Activity could also be made available to non members. Use the "Hot Topic" area on council web page, project to download directly to them.
3. Create a tool kit so can hit the ground running.
4. Activity design project – Tom Loomis and Nancy Maxson to gather materials on "health issues" and will meet on Tuesday, January 12 in Monterey to discuss.

Changes to the purpose – Identifies and studies issues relating to administrators in the areas of special education, student support services, and coordinated child and youth services. Recommends practices, policies, and legislation to ensure high quality programs in the areas listed above. Improves collaboration **and communication** among general education, student support services, special education, **and other support agencies/organizations**. Facilitates the development and understanding of current trends and financial issues in ~~pupil personnel services~~ **student services** and special education. Plans and coordinates professional development ~~programs~~ **offerings** for ~~pupil personnel services~~ **school administrators or designees, including especially student services** and special education administrators, **and especially new administrators and those with new or changing roles**. Assists ACSA in membership recruitment.

Health issues – Huge with diabetes and diastat. A lot of resources available but need to be sure that they are getting where they need to go. Linda Davis-Alldritt from CDE is doing the Q&A. Nancy will get out to the group.

School based health centers – trying to open one. County Board of Supervisors trying to expand school based health centers.

Who can administrate insulin? – Member, Isadore Paul doing several different information hearings on the subject. Hearing October 8 at the Capitol in Sacramento. Come to testify. What are other strategies to provide the services to the child except the school nurse. Legislation to implement lawsuit stay but LVN can give the insulin but needs to be supervised by a dually credentialed licensed school nurse. People come to the January meeting in Monterey early pull together information to develop subtopics and materials. Can also email information to Tom Loomis at tom.loomis@hesperia.org or Nancy Maxson at nancy.maxson@venturausd.org.

- **Council Secretary Appointment** - Lisa Horne. Jan Kearns offered to send her meeting notes to Lisa to help out.
- **Council Appointment to NCLB Task Force** – Sherman Garnett. Stacy Doughman. is the alternate.
- **Council Appointment to CTC Reactor Group** – Sharon Jarrett and Kendra Rose
- **Council Liaison to the Legislative Policy Committee** – Deborah Burke
- **Housekeeping – Sherman Garnett**
Information provided regarding travel reimbursements, budget review for this year with council money saving ideas etc. April meeting will be a videoconference meeting from one of the three ACSA offices or your own district if you make arrangements.
- **Council Projects for 2009-2010**
 1. Continuing working to update the Goals and Objectives Handbook. New material to include autism goals.
 2. Revision of the Student Discipline Guide. Ray Vincent, Sherman Garnett, Jerry Hime, and Lisa Horne are working on 2nd edition updates, plan is to have it ready for the November Leadership Summit.
 3. Review of Special Education Handbook by Maureen Burness, Janet Balcom, Steve Collins, Paige Sanders, Stacy Doughman, Lisa Horne, Jan Kearns
- **Council Sponsored Events –**
Registration at all events is slow paced so far. Council representatives are encouraged to make announcements at local charter meetings, hand out flyers or registration pamphlets and highlight the benefits of participating in these wonderful events to help encourage registration.
 1. Special Education Academies – Three proposed academies this year, Sacramento, Los Angeles and Fontana
 2. Student Services Academy – Planned for Sacramento and Ontario
 3. Student Services & Special Education Symposium – January 13-15 in Monterey. Fewer days this year with all the same great things packed in. This should help participants, less expensive, and they don't have to be away from office for as long. January council meeting will be on Wednesday morning instead of all day on Tuesday to save money.

Meeting at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 12 for those who can be available to participate in discussion and planning on Student Health Issues.

Council dinner is Tuesday night at Domino's on Fisherman's Wharf at 6:00 pm, Cooking class on Cioppino!!

Maureen will hold a reception before the dinner. Details to be announced.

All members are encouraged to sign up to be room monitors during the Symposium. Duties include introducing the presenter, helping with facilities, reminding participants about evaluation forms, etc.

Also, if available walk by the registration booth and check in with Sue to see if she needs help. Each Council representative is reminded to bring a raffle prize. Region has a budget of about \$100 for this. Gift cards work well for those who have to travel by plane. Include a note from the region so that your region can be recognized during the luncheon drawings.

A big thank you to the Council for Exceptional Children for sponsoring the keynote speaker Julie Weatherly!

- **Governmental Relations Update – Adonai Mack**

Provided information and updates regarding State budget, Race to the Top, and legislation.

State budget: Bad budget with weird quirks in it. Took some categorical money from 08-09 and additional revenue limit cuts plus a lot of deferrals throughout the year. Summer money deferred in October, February money will be delayed until next fiscal year. State is passing its own cash flow issues down to the local level. All the work being done is being put on the back burner because of the cash flow issues.

Flexibility: Instructional materials sell surplus property and put into general fund. Special education students will not have to take CAHSEE until state board chooses an alternative assessment. Bright spot—maintenance factor, but no specific time frame to be paid back. Only based on when budget improves. Likely in November (key date because LAO comes out with 5 year forecast and that's when finance updates their numbers) will see if there will be additional cuts and what they will be. We're right at the federal maintenance of effort, can go below for at least another year.

Federal stimulus money: District received first allocation and should be an additional allocation from state stabilization funds around \$700 million. Allocation should come at the end of this month. The state stabilization money is completely flexible, can be used in whatever way and state is using it to backfill deficits in revenue limit and categorical.

Race to the Top: At most California will receive \$5 million. Governor gets half to do what he want as it relates to education and districts get half. Changes to California education will be based on an increased \$250 million dollars.

Key components that federal government and governor want us to change:

1. Linking student achievement and growth data to teacher and pupil performance
2. Open enrollment for any parent/students
3. Following quality standards and assessment
4. Opening up charter schools

ACSA's concerns:

1. Can do locally, but the firewall is at the state level to the federal government. CTA is totally opposed. ACSA is pointing out inconsistencies between what the federal government is asking for and what California wants to do.
2. Open enrollment. Any child can go to any public school in the state if the school is a deciles 1-3 low performing school. Transportation is not included it is on the parent. The incoming district of choice can have rules/criteria of students coming in but DOR can't stop it. Close to what is now in NCLB. Components in the bill are that even basic aid districts will get a portion of the funding of the child. Money will follow the child. Historically low performing schools, the lowest 5% of performing school have to follow one of three options:
 1. Close and open as charter;
 2. Fire principal and half of staff; or
 3. Have school operated by a private company.

ACSA has relationships at a state wide level with unions that are beneficial to moving forward with a statewide agenda. Public education will change dramatically within the next 5 years state and federally. There will be a special session hearing one per month for next three months. First hearing is September 29. Want to change state law to fit the federal requirement in order to be able to apply for the funding. Applications are due by December or January

Legislations: Every bill that went through died. Pupil restraint, behavioral intervention money, any bill that looked like a cost or increased cost died. All two year bills will be back in January.

AB 429 Brownly: Sponsored by ACSA asking all members to send letters to Governor. Growth model instead of cohort approach.

SB 680 Romero: District of choice bill. Initially started by extending the sunset date. Take any kid as a transfer. Legislature in general doesn't really care for district of choice. Every time the sunset date comes up, there is a bill to extend and it gets through. Romero carried the bill this year. Co-authored with Senator Huff to move the bill. Chair of Education Committee, plus running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. ACSA didn't initially take a position. Killed in appropriations and then it was on the floor. Bill amendments changed the tenor of the bills direction and ACSA opposed. Opened it up for every district in the state with a board resolution only.

Other components not like: Impact during time of fiscal crisis. Some will start recruiting from neighboring districts. Re: special education, under current law, can deny transfers if have to create a new program for the student. Noticeable if program doesn't meet student needs. Will now be that you cannot deny a student a transfer even if it impacts your district. Transportation issues, how do they get there when transportation is a related service? Adonai thinks that the governor will sign.

CAHSEE: A lot of public pressure with special education students and passing CAHSEE. Talking about it a lot since the lawsuit. Where does it fit with Valenzuela? Last year's

doesn't work for them they still have to pass the CAHSEE. Re-enrolling in adult education due to Valenzuela

- **Assessment and Accountability Task Force – Lisa Horne**

This task force is charged with two important tasks:

1. Examine the efforts to create a national set of common core standards and explore such a movement's possible impact on California's accountability and assessment system.
2. Develop a bold new plan for assessment and accountability in California that will be used to guide ACSA's efforts to influence the re-authorization of California's current assessment system which sunsets in 2011, as well as position ACSA to lead the discussion on re-authorization both in the education community and in the legislature. Lisa invited council members to send her input that they would like represented/considered as the task force works on these goals.

- **Council Liaison Reports**

New SARB handbook 2009 version, free download of 140 pages or order on line, book with CD is \$25 on CDE website, or through San Bernardino COE.

NPS and agency relations: Title V regulation changes by Bob Farran. Biggest concern about the low qualifications of behavior providers want to fight that. They have updated the regulations with no controversy and will then work on the portion of the regulations relating to behaviorist qualifications. Now have more requirements that tutors must have some specific training.

- **Council Web page and online communities update**

Ray encouraged everyone to join the community if they haven't done so yet.

<http://community.acsa.org> to join the ACSA online communities. Once you have joined, look for the Student Services & Special Education block and ask to join the group.

- **Other Business**

New bill introduced this week, full funding of special education. HR 3575 Everyone Deserves unconditional access to education (EDUCATE) act