



ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS
STUDENT SERVICES and SPECIAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Salient Points

Welcome and Introductions – Maureen Burness welcomed the members of the Council and each introduced him/herself. Annette Cleveland is our newest member representing Region 17.

Council Purpose Review - Maureen Burness provided an overview of the purpose of our Council. There were no recommended changes to the current statement of purpose.

Council Meeting Dates-Sherman Garnett, Incoming Council President announced the following dates for next year's Council meetings: September 18, 2009, January 12, 2010, April 16, 2010. The dates were adopted by the Council. Maureen suggested that due to impending budget constraints, the January 12 date may be changed to January 13 which would allow for one fewer night's lodging for the Council members. Currently, the Symposium's current registration is significantly lower than previous years. This possible change will be reviewed at future meetings. It was noted that the CAPA group may have a meeting on Wednesday morning which could present a conflict with this proposal.

Council Projects

•**Special Education Handbook for Principals**- Sub-committee was composed of the following Council Members: Maureen Burness, Linda Rooney, Mary Elizabeth Maher, Beth Nishida, Lisa Horne, Robin Spindler, Becky Bryant, Sandee Kludt, Alice Parker, Jerry Hime. Linda Rooney presented an overview of the Handbook, which will be highlighted at our Symposium in the New Administrators' Section tomorrow. It will be for sale for \$25 at the Symposium and later available at the ACSA On-Line Book Store at a higher cost.

•**Needs Assessment Survey**-Gayle Olson, Lisa Horne, and Joel Herrera developed a Needs Assessment which was a result of a Design project by the Council. This document will be distributed to each of the participants at the Symposium. There will be a reminder at the General Sessions for participants to complete and return. For additional distribution, it is intended that we distribute draft #2 of this survey to our colleagues, which may include on-line access. The survey will be sent electronically to each of the Council members for distribution to the Charters/Regions. Each of the Council members will have the responsibility of distributing these to colleagues in Regions. It was agreed that the wider distribution possible, the better! Kendra Rose, Paige Sanders, Sharon Jarrett and Ray Vincent have volunteered to join the sub committee to assist with the

tabulation of the results of the survey. Gayle, Lisa and Joel will prepare a 'draft #2' to send to the expanded survey which will be distributed to the Council members to share in each Region.

•**Goals and Objectives Handbook**-Maureen Burness provided an update on the plans to continue to augment handbook to specifically add goals for students with autism. Diane Youtsey, one of the original developers of the handbook along with Sharon Jarrett, have proposed this recommendation. LAUSD has provided a team to work with the LA County Autism Alliance to assist with this update. We look forward to news of the updates per this subcommittee's work.

Joel Herrera commended the Council for the outstanding work provided through the Design Projects.

Council Sponsored Events

•**Special Education Academies**-Maureen Burness and Lisa Horne are co-directing the current Academies in the north and central state. Presently, there are 35 participants in the north academy with a wide range of years of experience and assignments participating. Lisa is coordinating the Academy in the Central Valley, which is serving 25 participants. Both Academies are going very well. There continues to be interest in providing a Special Ed Academy in the southern California area. Maureen will pursue the possibility for adding a Southern California opportunity.

•**Student Services Academy**-Sherman Garnett and Ray Vincent reported that the Academy is full with a variety of participants from throughout the state. The group is networking very well and many of the presenters from our Council have done an exceptional job. Ray and Sherman have agreed to co-coordinate the Academy once again next year. There may be a possibility of adding another Northern California session in the area.

•**January 14-16, 2009 Symposium**-Gayle Olson provided an overview of the Symposium and gave kudos to Sue Periera for her outstanding work. The 2010 Planning Meeting will be meeting Friday afternoon following the Symposium. Volunteers are needed from the Council who will participate in this meeting.

President-Elect Candidate Presentation-Gayle Olson

Gayle Olson provided the description of the process of the nominations for the new President Elect position. She summarized the requirements of the candidates and the process for the election of the new President Elect. Linda Rooney and Ray Vincent made presentations on their candidacy for the office of President Elect. The Council elected by majority vote Ray Vincent as the incoming President Elect. The Council members thanked both applicants for their willingness to serve and congratulated Ray on his election.

•**"Keeping Black Boys Out of Special Education"**- Joel Herrera led an activity including a partner sharing session to discuss reactions to the literature.

•**CDE Proposed Response to Instruction and Intervention**-Maureen Burness distributed the newest information from the CDE identifying the four major components

to this model. The memo is dated November 14, 2008 and was further discussed. It was noted that there has been no direction on how this will be used at this point. A workgroup has been activated in California to study the work that has already been done in other states addressing the four components. This workgroup will be creating a new document which may be presented to the field. This workgroup is composed of SELPA directors. There may be a draft available to the field in the Spring. There is no direct work on this topic underway led by the CDE, but it is hoped that this document may be adopted by CDE when finalized.

CDA Legislative Summit 2008-Craig Borba reported on the following important new issues: **Need for legislation related to habitual truancy** which might strengthen our opportunity to provide additional sanctions for students and parents. Maureen noted that it would be most appropriate to forward our position to our ACSA legislative policy and governmental relations.

Budget Prospectus-Sal Villasenor provided an overview of the most updated budget information available to date. It appears that the new plan would be to adopt a budget that would span an 18 month period, rather than addressing a mid-year plan followed by a 12 month plan. The conversation continues in Sacramento, without any specific elements of the proposal being available at this time. As an unprecedented move, the Governor provided his preliminary budget on December 31, 2007 which is currently being reviewed and analyzed. Ongoing conversation continues to date related to the billions of dollars that impact the solving of this puzzle. It is clear that as of February 1, there will be no money available at the State level, so it may not be surprising for there to be a budget deal made on January 31. Sal recommended that we may assume a reduction to the Prop. 98 guarantee nor would there be any possible way to lessen the "hit" on public education. He recommended that we seek to identify those things that could "reduce the burden" on K-12 education which would allow us to use the limited resources to continue to serve our students. He noted that the Education Coalition is NOT presently united, particularly with respect to Class Size Reduction. CTA is not in alignment with the possible need to seek changes. The newest edition of EdCal provides an excellent article related to possible impending budget cuts. He provided a handout with specific impacts of proposals that are being considered to date. The Council members were able to provide input to Sal following his presentation. Further input was encouraged by Sal, even if it might be emailed to him later.

Council for Exceptional Children-Jerry Hime provided information regarding the Council of Exceptional Children. The Council is active in the development of policies and issues for advocacy with anticipation of the new administration in the US. Gifted education traditionally gets very little attention, so there will be focus here. The CEC has an active webpage which is available free and membership is not required. Articles are summarized with key issues that are affecting students throughout the nation. Can sign up for the service at no charge on line.

Jerry highlighted the new ADA regulations regarding Section 504 and IDEA. ADA has broadened the eligibility for Section 504. He will be providing the details at his session during the Symposium.

National Center for School Counseling Outcome Research (CSCOR)-Ray Vincent provided materials regarding the major components of a comprehensive high school counseling program. This project hopes to determine the direct relationship to enhanced academic achievement for students in schools with a strong student counseling program. There is interest in considering whether or not ACSA may be interested in participating in a survey. Ray will develop a sub-committee to continue to pursue this issue and bring it back for action at the April meeting.

Council Liaison Reports

- **CTC Reactor Group**-John Laughlin reported on a recent meeting via conference call. The Educational Specialist Credential is continuing to be discussed as an option for the future. The next meeting is on February 23.
- **Leadership Team Meeting Update**-Tim Calkins continues to work toward the development of a School Climate and conditions for effective teaching and learning conditions. He provided a copy of the School Climate survey that is proposed for future changes. He will continue to monitor and report back to the group.
- **CA Assn. of Pupil Personnel Administrators (CAPPA)**-Craig Borba noted that the group will be meeting tomorrow.
- **CA Assn. of Supervisors for Child Welfare and Attendance (CASCWA) School Attendance Review Board (SARB)**- and - Sherman Garnett reported that the group will be meeting next week for a full conference. The model SARB letters will be highlighted at this conference. There is a Model SARB Award that honors eight school districts who will be honored at the conference. It is noted that the vast majority of the group is composed of ACSA members, but in a specialty area. A Truancy Conference will be provided again next year. The subject of bullying will be addressed during a Fall conference to address this issue in particular along with the truancy issue to be located in Palm Springs. A SARB Handbook will be available on line at CDE by April. It has been revamped seven years ago and will now be able to be purchased (hard copy) from Sherman Garnett.
- **SELPA Liaison Update** – Maureen Burness provided an update regarding the issues that are being addressed by the SELPA Directors and the CDE. It is the goal to open communication that will result in having preliminary information on new regulations. She also addressed the issue of Maintenance of Effort and the assurance that any new federal dollars would be going to benefit districts, rather than benefiting the state. Language is being proposed and discussed. Sandee Kludt reported on an April trip to Washington, DC to speak with the new administration to address the issue of full funding for special education. The coalition has been working with three-four sub groups to address the funding issues including preschool expenses to prove to our legislators that these programs (particularly autism) are very expensive, There might be a strategy for requesting the concept of getting a revenue limit for autistic students. The definition of “excess costs for special education” and the need for such is another group’s discussion. Growth funds are being addressed by a subgroup, which may not be solely based upon the growth of the SELPA, but back to growing districts in spite

of a declining SELPA. The coalition continues to be involved in the MOE (Maintenance of Effort) issue.

- **CSBA School Health Advisory Board Committee** – Sharon Jarrett reported on the issue of student asthma, diabetes prevention (school lunches) and student activity levels. There is a blueprint for schools to support along with communities the concepts of healthy student activities that would enhance student healthy habits. This will be further studied. A date of another meeting is being developed. Ray Vincent noted that a new document related to Physical Education is now available that might provide new information to schools and districts.

Other Council Business

Washington DC Trip in March –Maureen Burness reported on the two small groups who are working together as the coalition which will have the same message that will provide the “California Input” to influence the new administration. Sandee indicated a need to included newer ACSA members to be included in such a process to be “trained” as to the effective communication of needs of California.

ACSA Website – Maureen proposed that we continue to work as a Council to be sure that our specific information is posted regularly and clearly on the ACSA website. As incoming President-Elect, Ray Vincent will be looking at the Council’s web pages.

2010 Symposium Planning Committee – The 2010 Symposium Planning Committee will meet on Thursday, April 16, 3:00 p.m., ACSA Sacramento office to begin planning next years Every Child Counts Symposium.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 17, 2009
ACSA Sacramento Office
9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.