

CUCPTSA ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2016

FEDERAL

California Goes to the Voting Booth on June 7

Courtesy of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, let members know that they can visit VotersEdge.org/ca to use address to get a personalized ballot and get in-depth info on candidates, measures, and who supports them.

Remember that as a non-profit organization, PTA falls under IRS election guidelines. Here are some important guidelines to keep in mind this election season.

PTA Can Not: Invite only one candidate in an election to come speak to the PTA.

- Tell PTA members to only vote for a candidate who supports X position.
- Distribute any campaign materials on behalf of a candidate.
- Wear campaign buttons or t-shirts during a PTA meeting.

STATE

Governor Brown Releases May Revise of Proposed State Budget

On May 13, the Governor released his revised budget proposal, which reflected revenue of nearly \$2 billion less than originally forecast through June 2017. Brown's revised budget does not include any new cuts but rather sets less money aside as so-called rainy day reserves. Brown claims that under his revised budget plan, K-12 schools would reach 95.7% of the total funds allocated under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) now used to finance public education in the state. CUSD is poised to return to the same funding level it received in 2008 once it reaches 100% of LCFF funding, which was initially anticipated to happen by 2020. By state law, the Legislature is required to pass a state budget by June 15, 2016.

State PTA Supports Prop 30 Income Tax Extension on November Ballot

State PTA has taken a **support** position on [The Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare Initiative](#), an initiated constitutional amendment proposed for the California ballot on November 8, 2016. The measure would extend the temporary personal income tax increases approved in 2012 (and set to expire in 2018) on incomes over \$250,000 for 12 years to be used for education and healthcare funding. About 89 percent would go toward K-12 schools and 11 percent to state community colleges. This income tax was approved in 2012 under Proposition 30. Proposition 30 also had a sales tax component that this initiative would not extend.

State PTA Supports Facilities Initiative on November Ballot

Californians for Quality Schools announced on May 5 that California State PTA has endorsed the Kindergarten Through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016. The measure, which will appear on the November 2016 ballot, is a \$9 billion state school facilities bond to fund K-12 and community college school facility and modernization projects throughout the state. The initiative retains the current funding partnership between the state and local entities, where eligible school districts raise local dollars and then apply for matching state funds. The measure will also maintain school district authority to levy fees on developers to ensure they pay their fair share of school facility costs. The last statewide school facilities bond was passed by California voters in 2006.

LOCAL

Board Approves 2017-18 Calendar

At the board meeting last week, the school board approved the calendar for the 2017-2018 school year. The school year will start Tuesday, August 22, 2017 and end Thursday, June 7, 2018. There will be a week off for Thanksgiving and first semester finals will occur before the winter break. The new calendar has not been posted on the district website, yet. However, it is contained in the exhibits of the board meeting agenda for May 25 and presented as option "B".

District May Consider Facilities Bond Measure on November Ballot

CUSD has identified almost \$1B in facility needs district-wide from a district-wide facilities needs assessment completed in 2009 and updated in 2013. The discussion the past few years has been how to fund facilities needs so our students will learn in safe, sanitary, comfortable 21st century learning environments with the tools they need for academic success. At the board meeting on June 8 at 7PM, the school board and staff will continue the discussion about possibly placing a bond measure on the November ballot to fund facilities upgrades and make our district eligible for possible state matching funds. Every CUSD campus has identified facilities needs, from roofs, paint, and HVAC systems, to science labs, technology infrastructure, sports/performing arts facilities, replacing portables/growing capacity, and other identified enhancements. If you have an opinion to share or would like to learn more about this discussion, please come to the school board meeting and speak to it or send an email to our school board trustees and superintendent. The agenda for this meeting is posted at: http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1434621308511.

CUSD Questions Secondary School Charter

The Board offered conditional approval of the charter application for Global Business Academy on March 23 so long as the school agreed to work with district staff to modify the application to meet 42 specific conditions. The academy notified the district March 24 that the academy declined the district's conditional offer and that the school would appeal the approval process with the Orange County Department of Education. Instead of formally denying the application at its April 13 meeting, the Capistrano Unified board instead opted to give information to the county Department of Education for its final decision on the application.

Global Business Academy sought to establish a school for sixth- through 12th-graders for the 2016-17 school year, which would require comparable high school facilities in the district. According to its application, the school aims to "integrate entrepreneurial curriculum with high technology and nontraditional learning methods." However, the district board's first review of the academy's application found several areas of concern including a lack of sustained funding sources and partnerships with UC Irvine that proved to be overstated.
(Source: *OC Register*, 4/21/16)

Board Approves Changes to Graduation Requirements

For the high school graduating class of 2020 (current 8th graders), the number of high school math units required will be increased from the current 20 units (two years) to 30 units (three years). After much fact-finding and discussion, the Board has determined that CCP and Health (5 units each) will remain as high school graduation requirements, but the District has vowed to

increase flexibility for students to fulfill the requirements, for example freshmen with impacted schedules will now be allowed to enroll in both courses simultaneously during the summer. Also, students who transfer into the District as juniors or seniors will not be required to take CCP. District staff has clarified that zero period is offered at every high school for all grade levels including 9th graders. However, zero period offerings are limited and may not work with every student's schedule. If you have questions or hear questions regarding this policy, please contact the assistant principal of guidance at your school site for further clarification.