

NOVEMBER ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

November 12, 2014

LOCAL CUSD UPDATE

Capistrano Unified Trustee Area Election Results

Martha McNichols.

Trustee Area 4, serving the majority of Laguna Niguel and Dana Point.

Gila Jones

Trustee Area 6, serving areas of Mission Viejo, San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel.

Lynn Hatton-Hodson

Trustee Area 7, serving parts of Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita.

All elected and re-elected Trustees serve a four year term, and will be sworn into their position at the December 10th CUSD Board meeting.

Superintendent Community Forum

Superintendent Kirsten Vital held her first Community Forum of the year at San Clemente High School on Thursday, November 6, 2014. Topics covered during the public meeting included an overview of the new California State standards, known as Common Core and a preview of the Superintendent's and CUSD's proposed goals for the 2014-15 school year, which will be reviewed and finalized with the Board of Trustees at the November 12th CUSD Board meeting.

Remaining Forums:

January 26th, 7:00 p.m. CUSD Board Room

April 28th, 7:00 p.m., aliso Niguel High School Theatre

Common Core

With the 2014-15 school year, all public school districts in California, including Capistrano Unified, transitioned to full implementation of the new California State Standards, known as Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

The CCSS are a set of internationally benchmarked K-12 educational standards to ensure every students college and career readiness in English language arts and mathematics. These standards increase rigor in every school and provide clarity and consistency for what all students need to know once they graduate from high school.

For more information on Common Core Standards, please view this presentation that can be found on the CUSD website:

<http://cusd.capousd.org/edusupport/Common%20Core/Common%20Core%20Overview.htm>

Interested in learning more about the Common Core Standards?

Monday, November 17, 2014, from 6-9 pm.

Public Forum on the Common Core Standards at the Orange County Department of Education,
200 Kalmus, Costa Mesa, CA

STATE UPDATE

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA (CAPTA) ADVOCACY GOALS FOR 2013-2015

California State PTA set its Advocacy Goals in 2013 to cover a 2-year period. Here are the goals currently in place:

The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of children and families. Our organizational goals are to:

- Promote, build and expand parent and family engagement,
- Empower and support PTA members and leaders, and
- Represent inform and mobilize members and the public to advocate for the education, health, safety and well-being of all children.

Specifically, our advocacy goals in 2013-15 will focus on:

- Supporting the needs of vulnerable children.
- Adequate funding for every child's education.
- Access to a full curriculum for every child that includes physical education, arts and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).
- Highly-effective educators in every classroom.
- Standards, assessments and accountability that
- Best serve every child's needs.
- Safe and positive school climate.
- Early childhood education.
- Healthy lifestyles and access to support services for physical, emotional, social and mental health.

California State PTA (CAPTA) Legislation Action Committee ends its 2014 Legislative Season

The CAPTA Legislation Action Committee meets several times each year during the legislative session to discuss the bills and subject matter commission recommendations and to determine positions to be taken on each of the selected bills. After the committee meets, a Legislation Action Report is prepared and distributed. Current status on legislation for which PTA has taken positions can be viewed in the Advocacy section of the California State PTA website (Current Legislation).

The new legislative session will begin in January, consequently there is no pending legislation before the committee. For a re-cap of the 2013-2014 year go to:

http://downloads.capta.org/blast/LegAlert/FinalHistory_2013-14.pdf

ELECTION RESULTS FOR CALIFORNIA

Governor – Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown

Lt. Governor – Gavin Newsom

State Superintendent of Public Instruction – Tom Torlakson

State Treasurer – John Chiang

36th State Senate District – Patricia C. “Pat” Bates

45th Congressional District – Mimi Walters

48th Congressional District – Dana Rohrabacher

49th Congressional District – Darrell Issa

Proposition 2- State Budget Stabilization Account – YES

UC PROPOSED TUITION HIKE

University of California plans annual tuition increases for five years

The University of California will unveil a plan Thursday to raise tuition 5 percent annually over the next five years unless the state increases budget support beyond what is expected.

UC said the proposal – which would kick in during the 2015-16 academic year with a potential \$612 tuition increase – is an effort to increase financial stability, maintain student services and financial aid, and provide families with more advance notice of what they might owe.

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/article3592462.html#storylink=cpy>

State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Opposes Proposal to Increase UC Tuition

SACRAMENTO—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson today issued the following statement on a proposal by the University of California regents that would allow them to raise tuition by up to 5 percent annually over the next five years:

"I firmly oppose the proposal to raise tuition at the University of California. As I traveled the state over the past few months, I heard numerous stories about how skyrocketing tuition hurts all students, burdens struggling and middle class families, and leaves many college graduates with crushing debt. Now is not the time to increase the financial burden for students and families, especially after the regents just gave 20 percent raises to some chancellors."

UC faces opposition from Brown on tuition increase proposal

The University of California will likely face serious opposition in implementing its plan to raise tuition by up to 5 percent annually over the next five years, not only from students, but also from Gov. Jerry Brown, who has tied increased budget funding for the system to a four-year tuition freeze.

"The governor remains opposed to tuition hikes for students," said H.D. Palmer, a spokesman for Brown's Department of Finance. "The governor has made his view on tuition hikes very clear. That's been clear for two years."

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article3603380.html#storylink=cpy>

FEDERAL UPDATE

Congressional Election Results – House of Representatives:

District 45

Mimi Walters R with 65.45%

District 48

Dana Rohrabacher R with 64.29%

District 49

Darrell Issa R with 60.78%

Nationally, Republicans slightly increased their majority the U.S. House of Representatives and now hold a majority in the U.S. Senate (they gained 7 seats in the election). Congress is scheduled to reconvene mid-November. The current extension passed for ESEA, which is up for reauthorization, expires on December 11, 2014.