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CUCPTSA LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY TEAM

November 2017 Report

In Local News:

Trustee Gila Jones will be joining us at our December 1, 2017, meeting, so we can get to know her better.

Middle School Clubs: At the October 11, 2017, Board of Trustees Meeting revisions and updates to Board Policy 6145.5, Student Organizations and Equal Access were adopted after a very lively and supportive discussion by members of the audience and the Board of Trustees. There were over 50 blue cards pulled for public comment on this item. With changes to the Board Policy 6145.5, middle school campuses now can offer a limited open forum for non-academic clubs. The changes allow for non-curriculum based groups access to property for meetings where by the club does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities within the school. As always, the clubs must be voluntary and student initiated and shall not be sponsored by the school or its employees.

As a result of this change, the club *We the People*, since recognized as being part of the Gay Straight Alliance will continue at Aliso Niguel Middle School, and there is the possibility of similar clubs starting at our other district middle schools. It was inspiring to hear from so many young adults how this club in particular has helped them, and how important support groups such as this club are to our youth. The National PTA has taken a strong position of support of all children, and in October their focus on the child focused on Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Queer, Lesbian, Questioning youth and programs that can be created to help support them through their education and beyond. Here is a link to more information from the National PTA regarding supporting our LGBTQ populations: <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/About-Every-Child-in-Focus/Every-Child-in-Focus-Leadership-Series/Every-Child-in-Focus-Leadership-Series-LGBTQ>

Dress Code Policy: The Board of Trustees is continuing to discuss potential changes to the Dress Code Policy for the district. A revised Board Policy 5142 Dress and Grooming was presented to the Board. There was some public comment on this policy, both for the proposed changes and against any changes from the current policy. At the end of the discussion, the Board gave direction to staff on further changes/revisions they would like to see and discuss - this policy will be back for further debate at the November 8, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting. The goal of revising the policy is to be gender neutral, supportive of a distraction free learning environment, and uniformly implemented across

the district. It is the implementation and enforcement of any policy in a uniform fashion that will be the challenge for whatever policy is ultimately adopted.

Esencia K-8 Boundaries: At the October 25, 2017, Board of Trustees Meeting the school boundaries for Esencia K-8 were formally set with changes made to all surrounding schools at the elementary and middle school levels. At the present, no changes to boundaries have made regarding finding an ultimate pathway from Esencia K-8 onto high school. Discussion of where to boundary students to high school will be presented again later this year with hopes of being finalized by January 2018 in time for the School of Choice window to open in February 2018.

College Promise Presentation: As part of a statewide effort to expand opportunities for a greater number of students to access community college programs with free tuition, Saddleback Community College and Irvine Valley College are currently developing a South Orange County Promise that would benefit District students. *This Promise would also extend to academic support both in the K-12 setting and while students are attending college to help remove barriers that traditionally prohibit students from attending and/or being successful in college.* Working groups are being formed to create this program and there is hope it will be ready to launch in 2018 or 2019. - At the end of the presentation, most of the Trustees indicated support in some fashion of such a program, but all who spoke recommended moving forward with caution because there are so many moving parts to consider. This type of program could be a great asset to some students, but may be detrimental to others who are already accessing some programs through Saddleback Community College which might then be removed according to Trustee Reardon. The Board ultimately gave direction to staff and a laundry list of questions to answer, so the issue of College Promise will be back sometime later this school year.

UPDATE on contract with CUEA (teachers) - on October 17, after 3 meetings between the District and CUEA with a mediator, no agreement was reached. As a result, the dispute is moving towards "Fact-Finding" the next step in the process. The District Press Release on this issue and the CUEA Bargaining Updates are attached. Additional information from the District can be found at: <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/cuea> and from CUEA here is a link to their positions http://www.cuea.org/negotiations/1617_negotiations.php

Agendas from the most recent Board of Trustee meetings can be found here:

September 13, 2017 -

Agenda and Exhibits - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1218998819331/1455438848279/1116881583444410857.pdf>

October 11, 2017 -

Agenda and Exhibits - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1218998819331/1455438848279/5631064551344275699.pdf>

October 25, 2017 -

Agenda and Exhibits - <http://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1218998819331/1455438848279/6104486292345733875.pdf>

Audio Recordings of the Meetings in July 2017-June 2018 can be found at <http://cusd.capousd.org/cusdweb/audio2017-18.html>

From the California PTA:

Year-End Legislation Action Report - This year, California State PTA took positions on more than 120 bills in the California Legislature, of which 34 were signed and approved. I have attached the final 2017 Legislation Action Report and the updated CA PTA Advocacy Goals for 2017-2019. **Highlights from the 2017 Session**

Signed and Supported by California State PTA:

- **AB 10 (Cristina Garcia):** This bill requires any public school, serving grades 6-12 with at least 40 percent of student body of free/reduced lunch, to provide feminine hygiene products free of charge. California State PTA supported this bill as an equity issue to eliminate any barriers for students from fully participating in their studies or sports activities.
- **AB 480 (Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher):** This bill adds diapers to the lists of supportive services that would be covered by CalWORKS. California State PTA supported this bill because of the necessity and expense of diapers, and our primary goal to advocate and protect the most vulnerable children.
- **SB 751 (Jerry Hill):** This bill adjusts the Reserve Cap implemented on local School Districts in 2014. California State PTA has long supported a remedy to this issue and allowing local school districts to budget for the needs of their community and students.

Bills to Watch Next Year:

- **AB 1217 (Raul Bocanegra/Anthony Portantino):** This misguided attempt at creating a new STEM school in Los Angeles and subverting every local agency was strongly opposed by California State PTA and could potentially return in 2018. California State PTA has long supported public charters that are developed,

evaluated and held accountable by their local communities. This bill circumvents all local contributions and oversight.

- **SB 328 (Anthony Portantino):** California State PTA will continue to work with the bill's author in hopes of encouraging the State to recognize how crucial a later start time is for the health and well-being of our students in grades 6-12.

From Fourth District PTA:

On October 13, Mona attended the 4th District Advocacy meeting representing CUCPTSA - Here is what she learned:

- Donna Artukovic explained how the fourth district represents the local OC Councils at the state level. Donna has a ten-member team, of those ten, six are advocates whose sole responsibility is to review all state bills and identify which affect children. Community, health issues and parental involvement are some examples of topics our advocates are identifying. Once our advocates determine which bills affect children, the author is contacted and more information is requested. The information is then taken to advocacy review board and from that point, elevated to state advocacy level for consideration for our state PTA to take a position or no position at all.
- AB37 O'Donnell - Establishing Media Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts - This bill is being proposed to amend and allow media arts content standards to be required. Amending section 60605.13 of the education code relating to pupil instruction, more review is required to uncover costs implementing the requirement by the state.
- AB81 Fletcher - English learner identification notice. Amend section 313.2 of the education code. Existing law requires school districts to make determination within 30 days of student enrollment of the primary language and requires notice of assessment to family. The bill proposes to require districts to notify families of long-term English learners. Avenues to promote the student beyond the English learner program and mainstream curriculum.

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, October 2017

Details are in the October issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- This year, California State PTA took positions on more than 120 bills in the California Legislature, of which 34 were signed and approved.
- Sacramento Safari is coming up! This year's trip will be February 26 and 27.
- California State PTA now has once-a-month conference calls on advocacy. The schedule and call-in directions are in the *Communicator*.
- There are lots of great resources online for those of us who want to educate ourselves about PTA advocacy and the California education system. The *Communicator* lists a few of them.

- Our state lawmakers are on break until January, so this is a really great time to go meet them in their offices to talk about PTA issues. We should get together a group.
- There is a new online tool for arts advocates called The Arts Ed Data Project, which reports on middle and high school arts programs throughout the state. We can look up the data for our individual schools and compare it to information from other schools or other school districts.

Back issues of the Communicator can be found at:

<http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/advocacy-communicator/>

From the National PTA:

Stop Budget Cuts: Federal funding for public education programs has remained at 2% of the federal budget for decades, despite the increase in public school enrollment and the rising cost of education resources and services. This disparity between funding levels and actual costs means that the federal government has essentially enacted cuts to classrooms. #STOPCutsToClassrooms

S. 705: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 - A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes. (Orrin Hatch sponsored; introduced in March, 2017. PTA supports)

S. 1064: Anti-Lunch Shaming Act of 2017 - A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals (Sponsored by Tom Udall. Introduced to Senate in May, 2017 PTA supports)

H.R. 1864: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow local educational agencies to use Federal funds for programs and activities that address chronic absenteeism. - To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow local educational agencies to use Federal funds for programs and activities that address chronic absenteeism. (Tim Ryan sponsored. PTA supports)

H.R. 3246: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee. - To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee. (Kathleen Rice sponsored, introduced July 2017, supports)

S. 1615: Dream Act of 2017 - A bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes. (Lindsey Graham sponsored, introduced July 2017.)

H.R. 610: To distribute Federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students and to repeal a certain rule relating to nutrition standards in schools. - To distribute Federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students and to repeal a certain rule relating to nutrition standards in schools. (Steve King sponsored, introduced January 2017. PTA OPPOSES bill and all voucher bills)

On PTA.org website under Advocacy tab, there are several letters that can be downloaded and sent to your Representative and/or Senator. Issues such as protecting transgender children, concern over Betsy DeVos and school vouchers, encouraging parent engagement (ESSA), protecting Federal nutrition programs, and many more

The National PTA supports families, schools impacted by wildfires in California - "In addition to National PTA's Disaster Relief Fund, California State PTA has teamed up with Redwood Credit Union, the Redwood Credit Union Community Fund, Senator Mike McGuire and The Press Democrat to establish the North Bay Fire Relief Fund. We also encourage our members to donate to the fund and/or the American Red Cross Canyon Fire 2 Relief Fund to support relief efforts and provide aid to those impacted by the fires.

<https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/PTA-Newsroom/news-list/2017/10/13/national-pta-supports-families-schools-impacted-by-wildfires-in-california>

The 115th Congress is considering the following legislation items. The National PTA is supporting (green checkmarks) or opposing (red x) the following items:

Child Health and Safety

H.R. 695: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

H.R. 2160: Best to Use Safety Belts Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

H.R. 2401: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals. (115th Congress) 

H.R. 2926: REACH Act (115th Congress) 

H.R. 3006: To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. (115th Congress) 

H.R. 3580: To promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students. (115th Congress) 

S. 705: Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

S. 786: Student and Student Athlete Opioid Misuse Prevention Act (115th Congress) 

S. 1064: Anti-Lunch Shaming Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

S. 1402: A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes. (115th Congress) 

Elementary and Secondary Education

H.R. 627: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

H.R. 1864: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow local educational agencies to use Federal funds for programs and activities that address chronic absenteeism. (115th Congress) 

H.R. 2475: Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

H.R. 3246: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Teacher Advisory Committee and a Parents and Families Advisory Committee. (115th Congress) 

S. 383: Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act (115th Congress) 

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

H.R. 1478: Gun Violence Research Act (115th Congress) 

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

H.R. 1809: Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

Post-Secondary Access and Opportunity

S. 1615: Dream Act of 2017 (115th Congress) 

Private School Choice and Vouchers

H.R. 610: To distribute Federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students and to repeal a certain rule relating to nutrition standards in schools. (115th Congress) 

H.R. 895: Educational Opportunities Act (115th Congress) 

H.R. 1387: To reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes. (115th Congress) 

S. 148: Educational Opportunities Act (115th Congress) 

Special Education

H.R. 2902: To amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part. (115th Congress) 

Links to all of these bills for further information can be found at:

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/federal-legislation/Key-legislation>