

Board of Directors Meeting Talking Points – Victor C. Thompson

February 21, 2020

ACSA budget:

- Several years ago, in addition to the annual budget process, ACSA instituted a practice of proactively measuring financial performance against budget at midyear. This process supports intentional thinking about how various economic factors may impact the association and allows ACSA to make more informed and timely business decisions.
- Like many districts, ACSA is experiencing downward pressure on revenues in an era of rising costs. In reviewing financial performance, staff noted declining revenues in several areas and recommended commensurate reductions in expense to maintain a balanced budget as part of the midyear budget review.
- The Board of Directors approved a **midyear budget adjustment** that anticipates the organization's net income to materialize at \$32,888 less than the original budget projected, but remaining at a net surplus of \$37,218. The Board also approved **preliminary assumptions and a timeline** staff will use to draft the 2020-2021 budget for Board consideration in May.
- It was noted that ACSA staff continue to apply a mindset of appropriate, responsible stewardship of finite, precious member resources. In addition, ACSA has prepared for economic uncertainties by building a Rainy Day Fund of \$500,000 in recent years.
- Meanwhile, ACSA continues to engage new partners in an effort to grow its Partners4Purpose program and is working to grow Expo Hall revenue. ACSA is closely considering vacant positions when vacancies occur as it continuously "right-sizes" association staff. ACSA is working to maximize tenant rental income in buildings it owns and reduce its own leasing and overhead costs.

Governmental relations and advocacy:

- The ACSA Board of Directors adopted revisions to the **2019-2020 One Voice for Students Legislative Platform** that were proposed by the Legislative Policy Committee and approved by ACSA's Leadership Assembly. These revisions more closely align with ACSA's legislative priorities.
- The 2019-2020 platform is a two-year document that coincides with the state legislative and congressional sessions. It establishes the advocacy priorities for the organization. These areas are Accountability and Continuous Improvement Support, Early Childhood Education, and Educator Effectiveness.
- The Board approved the VPLA recommendation to recognize Assembly Member Kevin McCarty (AD7/ACSA Region 3) with the **2020 Friend of Education** award, which will be presented at Legislative Action Day on April 19.
- Region 14 was commended for its thoughtful nomination of Speaker Anthony Rendon. ACSA Staff nominated Assemblymember Al Miratsuchi. Recommend recognizing one or both at an upcoming Region 14 event.

- The PAC Board approved recommendations for preliminary 2020 statewide candidate endorsements as submitted by the region Vice Presidents for Legislative Action.
- Discussion on postponing or canceling Legislative Action Day will take place with the ACSA State Board tomorrow.
- AB 3292 proposes reviewing cultural reasons as possible excused absences, and I was able to discuss my EDCAL article on Pacific Islander Absenteeism.

Membership dues cap proposal:

- The Board of Directors discussed a proposal to raise the cap on maximum dues, which has not increased since 2013. The Board tabled the item for May and requested staff conduct research and provide additional information for consideration at that time. This will affect primarily Superintendents. I raised the issue of those who are classified managers or beginning administrators who may not join due to high costs. It was also suggested that increases occur regularly to so that “raising dues” is less dramatic.

Retirement Committee Activity Design request:

- After thorough consideration, the Board of Directors denied the **ACSA Retirement Committee’s Activity Design Request** to allocate \$10,000 this fiscal year for a federal advocacy trip to Washington D.C. While the Board expressed its appreciation for the committee’s work and support for the spirit of the request, the Board denied the request based on the fact that there was not enough funding left in the Activity Design budget due to prior allocations and that the Board recently funded the activity in 2019.
- The Board shared several suggestions the committee might use to accomplish its goals such as having one member of the committee participate in the president’s trip to Capitol Hill or having regions pay for a member to participate in the ACSA/NASS IgnitEd Conference.
- I raised the point that we need to support committees and councils by letting them know the available amount of funds and finding alternative funds

Strategic Plan:

- The areas of focus include Membership Development and Support (Networking activities), Advocacy and Influence (Media Relations) and Organizational Sustainability.

Consent agenda:

- The Board considered and approved several items through its consent agenda including meeting minutes, membership and financial reports, employee retirement plan update, and state committee and council member appointments.
- An emeritus membership for retirees was mentioned for a one-time fee , which would include admission to conferences

Delegate Assembly:

- I commended ACSA on the emphasis on Equity in the various breakouts on Foster Youth, Supporting African American and low income students of color, Community Violence and also MTSS (Presented by ABC USD 😊).
- A World Café was recommended for the May Delegate Assembly in Sacramento
- I attended the Committee Chairs/Council Presidents Meeting and the Unconscious Bias Training by Dr. Marguerite Williams, Senior Director of Equity

No Time Provided

- I was prepared to provide a report from the State Equity Committee but no time was provide for this agenda item.

State Equity Committee on February 28, 2020

- I enjoyed attending this meeting with State Equity Committee Chair Dr. Valencia Mayfield and Region 14 representative Juan Santos
- Valencia was commended for her use of the ACSA Hub
- Government Relations mentioned several bills including AB 3292, which proposes reviewing cultural reasons as possible excused absences, and I was able to discuss my EDCAL article on Pacific Islander Absenteeism.
- This was Dr. Williams last meeting as she has taken a position in a school district. Adonai Mack was introduced as the new Senior Director of Equity. His federal lobbyist duties will be handled by Governmental Relations. Adonai has been staff over the Equity Committee since its inception 18 years ago and Dr. Wes Smith and myself were also members of the committee and wrote the first ACSA Equity Plan. 😊