



association of california school administrators committees & councils

Minutes/Meeting Notes

Elementary Education Council

November 4, 2020

9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

[Zoom](#)

All Councils: Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary Education

9:30 – 9:40 AM

Welcome & [Introductions \(Council Roster\)](#)

[EE, MGE, SE Council-Sponsored Leadership Summit Presentations](#)

Notes:

Positive aspects were shared by many of the members of the Council. Mary Gomes welcomed everyone to the unique start of the year. She reviewed the agenda for the day. Derrick Lawson put members in random breakout rooms and asked that everyone participate in an activity (Introduce yourself, unique thing or fun fact about me, what is your favorite hobby, if I could award a medal to a family member/friend who would you give it to)? Derrick will put this resource in the LMS online learning system for future use. EEC members were moved to a Breakout Room for the next section. Derrick reviewed the NAESP section of the ACSA online learning system.

Breakout Room: Elementary Education Council

9:40 – 10:10AM

Governmental Relations Update

ACSA GR Staff: Laura Preston, Legislative Advocate

**Edgar Zazueta, Senior Director State and Federal
Governmental Relations**

Notes:

Buck shared that Laura and Edgar would be joining us from ACSA Governmental Relations. Everyone introduced themselves and shared their roles and regions. Buck reviewed some of the sponsored presentations that are on the agenda later today. Eveline Huh reviewed information about the Boom Sessions that are coming up during the Summit. Joan Hanson shared about her upcoming Summit presentation regarding culture and diversity. Buck

shared that Mina Blazy will also be presenting at the Summit as well. Eveline gave Jessica Gomez a shoutout about her previous involvement in ACSA Summits.

Laura Preston shared that ACSA is always thinking about how all of us are doing. She encouraged all to reach out to ACSA for any assistance. Laura reviewed some information regarding Election Day results. ACSA supported Proposition 15 along with our unions, but it looks like it didn't pass. She shared teacher recruitment process and making it more simplified. Trying to get rid of some of the standardized assessment. She referenced the elimination of the RICA test. Teachers are dropping out more because of RICA. Other options for CBEST and CSET. Unions, school districts and civil rights all working together. Working all fall with the dyslexic community to better assess teaching reading. It looks like assessment will continue for data purposes. Hopefully not punitive to schools/districts.

Election results may result in governor replacing Senator Harris' position. They will be setting up all "Ya'll Come" event for everyone to come and help take on issues that will help everyone during this time. On website, there is information about privacy with distance learning. Question asked about Evaluation this year. Laura shared that the unions are in the ear of the governor and policy makers. Virtual site visits will hopefully reflect a better window to navigate what has been happening. So many things that are up in the air right now. Legislature will be coming back in person to testify and advocate. The extension of waivers and executive order that run out in December will have conversations about extending them. Expect that happening soon. Newsom overextension of power implications to schools? CTA/CSEA has been getting what they have wanted so far during this time. Scott Borba asked that Elementary Education Leaders in ACSA being involved in the process if RICA is eliminated. Teacher candidates in programs should be coming out with the preparation to teach reading, and they all do not. New people appointed to the CTC that should be helpful in this navigation. They have a better understanding of what it means to get a credential. Working with Linda Darling-Hammond on this as well. Dyslexic community has an organized group who have not been happy they were not included in the discussion.

Special Education assessments were asked about. Laura shared that there has been some noise about lawsuits (FAPE, SAI time, etc.). So far it has not been re-opened. Not sure we will get any relief for SPED. No answers yet.

Peter Van Court asked about a discussion regarding what is happening with distance learning and what others are doing. He shared concerns about populations (student, family, staff) who are not wanting to come back yet.

Laura shared that the Governor has said that districts need to "figure it out" regarding testing for COVID-19.

Testing – CSEA in one district refusing to do testing because it can affect our insurance.

Buck and Laura both agreed that we need to begin to gather data from those schools that have started to come back. What are their numbers looking like? There are a lot of things to consider. The cure is worse than the disease right now for those having social emotional concerns.

Mayra Lozano shared that she is in a small community with a higher percentage of cases. She suggested having us create a dashboard for all of us that includes everyone's numbers.

Laura again shared that they are here to help provide any information necessary and please joining the "Ya'll Come" that will be coming soon.

10:10 – 10:25 AM **Open Business Meeting ([ACSA Mission](#); Adopt Agenda; Approve 03-30-20 [Meeting Minutes](#); Affirm Council [Purpose](#), [Mission](#))**
[NAESP Spotlight](#)
Guest: Jessica Gómez, Principal, Alice Birney Elementary, Colton Jt USD

Notes:

Buck introduced Jessica Gómez, Principal at Alice Birney Elementary, Colton Jt USD. Jessica shared her involvement with NAESP. NAESP Summer Conference is Amazing! You make connections with people, including through social media. Jessica shared a PPT presentation on NAESP Leadership Centers. The purpose is to connect, share and learn from one another. Each Center is focused on a different aspect of Leadership (Diversity, Innovative, Middle Level, Women). The Innovative Leadership Center provides video podcast, developing pipeline NAESP, and be a part of the Leadership Summit in Chicago. Center for Diversity amplifies voices of leaders of color. Equip school leaders with tool necessary to celebrate and bring in leaders to share. Center for Women in Leadership to also include men to help raise women up in leadership. They will be focusing on networking, communicating, and professional learning. Center for Middle Level Leadership focusses on the skills and supports needed to run outstanding school with high levels of achievement. Jessica encourage everyone to visit the NAESP website. She also asked if there were any questions. Jessica shared that she became a member just a few years ago. She connected with NAESP through another group and began networking from there. It became a great launching pad for many of the connections she has made. California is a part of NAESP Zone 9. Scott Borba shared some of the victories that ACSA has had with NAESP. Scott, Jessica and Eveline all shared that NAESP is a hidden gem that so many are unaware of. Buck thanked Jessica for sharing. Scott challenged everyone to get 10 of their colleagues to join NAESP <https://www.naesp.org/m2/membership-home>

Buck moved on to share an affirmation for why we are doing what we are doing on this Council. He shared the mission statement for ACSA, The Association of California School Administrators is the driving force for an equitable

A review of the Minutes from the 3-30-20 minutes was done Jeremy Powell made a motion to approve. Mayra Lozano seconded. All those in favor was unanimous for approval of the minutes.

10:25 – 10:30 AM Stretch Break

10:30 – 11:00 AM Open Forum

Notes:

An Open Forum discussion took place after the lunch break. Laura Lyon shared what Capistrano Unified has been doing since they have been back from distance learning. She said the following link <https://capousd-ca.schoolloop.com/reopening> Scott also shared the plan from his district.

11:00 – 11:20 AM Share Best Practices for Staff (Teachers, Principals) Self-Care, Morale

Notes:

11:20 – 11:30 AM ACSA Online Learning Center Scavenger Hunt

Notes:

11:30 – 11:50 AM Virtual Lunch Break

Notes:

11:50 AM – Noon Wellness Activity

Notes:

Peter asked everyone to share what a high has been during this time. Everyone shared out.

Noon – 12:30 PM 2020-21 Council Goals

1. Become a professional learning community where we can share best practices, engage in professional learning, create strong networks between job-alike peers, and advocate for the needs of our schools.

2. Social-emotional learning supports for students.
3. Multi-tiered systems of supports and trauma-informed practices.

Notes:

12:30 – 1:00 PM Presentation & Discussion: In-Person School Opening
Guests: Dr. Greg Franklin, Superintendent, Tustin USD
Dr. Lauren Steinmann, Principal, Loma Vista Elementary

Notes:

Dr. Greg Franklin, Superintendent, Tustin USD was introduced. He shared what Tustin USD has been doing with distance learning. The county allowed them to open in person back in September. Parents demands were that 60% wanted to come back and 40% wanted to stay home. Every department participated in putting barriers in place for safety. Masking required, face shields, etc. It was not a question of when they came back, it was how we come back? Cooperation of the union has been huge for them. The anxiety of opening falls away once you re-open. Dr. Franklin turned it over to Dr. Laura Steinmann. Principals were planning, trainings and messaging out to everyone. How are we going to keep everyone safe? Safety means different things to different people. They gathered a lot of feedback from others so that it was not a top down decision. Opened in distance learning in August with an AM/PM schedule. Kept AM/PM in September, but then gave parents a choice to stay home or return in the same schedule. Every little component was redone (schedules, policies, etc.). Shut down campuses completely (no parents, visitors or additional people). Staggered starts 5 minutes apart. Several points of entry (5 Separate). Everything redesigned, including the car line. Temperature check at beginning in class. Tons of signage, distancing marking, face masks for everyone. Handwashing/sanitation stations, gloves, etc.

Train teachers on the new live streaming format. IT Department heavily involved in what this new system would need to work. Every teacher got a new tripod with an iPad, extensive training on live streaming. Bluetooth headsets and extensive training on how to do live streaming. There was a big push for that. Training Classified on new supervision schedule. Lots of stress and anxiety, but once we opened there was a huge weight lifted off everyone's shoulders. Nervous on how things were going to look, but it is very quiet on campus. Things are not perfect, but it is working. Redesigning our school as a site. Recess has designated area.

Overcommunicating was a huge piece to families. As a principal, overcommunicating plan through weekly newsletters. Important to be conscientious about the information. Utilized video and social media to overcommunicate what was happening. Trying to keep in mind the social emotional component of everyone. Some students were excited to be coming back, some were nervous, and others were scared. It was helpful sharing that everyone would be in a mask, and that temperature being taken helped. Principals were trying to

think as a parent when they were communicating information to families, thinking about parents would want to know. What was a need to know, want to know, and what would overload them?

When we came back to campus, the kids were very resilient and smart. We did really need to hand hold or walk the kids up. Demonstrating a lot of empathy as a school leader goes a long way. Knowing that everyone is in a different place. Everyone is watching and listening to see what decisions are being made. Important to listen to all sharing their concerns. Clarity was important, as well as the communication from the district office. Departments all working together well. You need all “hands on deck.” It is important to have a “we’ll figure it out” mentality. Lauren provided her website <https://www.tustin.k12.ca.us/loma-vista> and her email lsteinmann@tustin.k12.ca.us . This is the link dashboard for Tustin Unified <https://www.tustin.k12.ca.us/resources/health-services/covid-19-dashboard> . Buck also shared the information in an email after today’s meeting.

Dr. Franklin echoed Lauren’s emphasis on overcommunicating. It is especially important to communicate contact tracing and information about whether you have a case (student/staff) to families. If you don’t communicate information, people just make things up. Tustin surveyed their staffs about the concerns they had when they returned in September. Staff did not necessarily believe it was happening, but they re-emphasized that they **WERE** coming back. They provided accommodations for staff who would need accommodations back in August. Accommodating a teacher means re-grouping a grade level on campus and give them to that teacher who needs to stay home. You then move the other students to the teacher that is on campus. So far it has been working.

Question was asked about supervision of student during “live streaming.” Agreements/Adjustments made for set up. Prioritized that student would be able to see the teacher instructing. Teachers have fed the audio into the classroom so that the students who were on “live streaming” so the that in-person students can hear the questions being asked. It has helped build school community and engagement. Live streaming has been working for them and ALL students are engaged. It took about three weeks for teachers to get their minds around managing that. The classroom has become a calmer place.

Q & A

- Substitute teacher training was an investment that Tustin made to ensure that they would be provided the same quality of training the teachers received. They also increased the pay rate for substitutes.
- Class Size – Original survey given to parents AM/ PM preference. 50/50 of each for the most part. When we came back to live in person, we had to make some adjustments to the rooms (adding face shields if 6 feet of distance was exact). It is

“practicable.” Upper grade has had bigger class sizes. Largest cohort is about 16 for upper, and primary has a class that only has 3 students who come for live in person.

- Certification supervision – is an apportionment rule. This year Tustin has taken advantage of that apportionment rule. If a teacher cannot be on campus, the teacher Zooms from home, and the substitute in the classroom can be a paraeducator. This is a time for creativity.

Mary will add all the information to the Online Learning Center that Dr. Franklin and Dr. Steinmann sends to Buck.

1:00 – 1:30 PM **“Elementary Ed” Newsletter**

Notes:

Buck suggested putting out two “Elementary Ed” newsletters for the remainder of the year for our membership. One after we return to school in January 2021 and one in June 2021. Everyone agreed with that suggestion.

Eveline suggested utilizing the work they have already been doing with “Leading during the COVID-19 pandemic.” There are many things that will follow under that. Eveline suggested that the presenters who are presenting at the Summit tomorrow prepare a write up for the first newsletter. There are currently ten ideas already, so it is great place to start.

Mina will help to anchor the second newsletter. Scott suggested having everyone begin to build a bank of articles in preparation for the second newsletter. The Ed-Cal articles are not very long and are doable (about 150 words). Another suggestion was made about including what we are all doing for social emotional learning (what we use and why we are using it). Buck asked that everyone make an article contribution. They will be great resources for our members. Eveline will create a Google Share Folder for article submissions.

Monthly Council Check-In Meetings

Notes:

Buck shared that one topic was to open one of our monthly check-in meetings to the entire state. He suggested having Dr. Franklin and Dr. Steinmann present, as well as someone from government relations present. Zoom has allowed us to connect with people much easier, and this would allow more members to participate.

Strategies for Increasing Region Impact

Notes:

- Scott shared the work he is doing with ACSA and the members in his Region by holding periodic meetings to share the information he has been getting from these meetings

- ACSA should be able to send out the invite to the monthly check-in meeting to specific ACSA members. A suggestion was made to send out invite by ACSA and also through Region Presidents

Debrief Meeting & Prepare [Meeting Summary](#)

Notes:

Next [Meeting Dates](#)

January 25, 2021 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

March 15, 2021 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Legislative Action Day: April 11, 2021 PM
April 12, 2021 All Day

Notes:

1:30 PM Adjourn

Notes:
Meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM.