



Mission of ACSA

The Association of California School Administrators is the driving force of an equitable, world-class education system, and the development and support of inspired educational leaders who meet the diverse needs of all California students.

Retirement Committee Mission Statement

Purpose: To provide leadership, direction, clarification, and understanding of the California State Teachers' and California Public Employees' Retirement Systems to all ACSA members. To actively work with other members of the retirement coalition to protect and enhance the benefits of the CalSTRS and CalPERS. To investigate and to promote legislation that positively impacts or affects members of both systems. To encourage the continued participation, involvement, and service of retired ACSA members in the cause of protecting and advocating for retired members' pensions.

Region 2	Kathleen McCreery – Chair	Present
Region 1	Barbara Thomas for Jan Schmidt	Present
Region 2	Frank Chapman	Present
Region 3	Sam Neustadt	Present
Region 4	Dr. Cheryl Lynn de Werff, Vice-Chair	Present
Region 5	Jennie Horn	Present
Region 6	Gail Yothers	Present
Region 7	Jerome Panella	Present
Region 8	Cliff Tyler	Present
Region 9	Michael Berg	No
Region 10	Mary Anne James	Present
Region 11	Guadalupe Solis	Present
Region 12	Cynthia Medeiros	Present
Region 13	David Gomez	Present
Region 14	James Jones	Present
Region 15	David Rose	Present
Region 16	Pamela Donesley	Present
Region 17	Robert Silva	Present
Region 18	Sandy Clifton	Present
Region 19	Dan Reed	Present
Region 2	Hedrick (Rick) Light-CalRTA Liaison	Present
CalPERS Liaison	Dave Lamonreux	Present
CalSTRS	Joycelyn Martinez-Wade	Present
CalSTRS	Diane Stanton	Present

Region 3	Shelton Yip – Board Liaison	Present
Staff Liaison	Alice Petrossian	Present
Staff Liaison	Derick Lennox	Present
Staff Liaison	Margarita Cuizon-Armelino	Not Available
Support Staff	Janis Marie Rawlins	Present

The WebEx ACSA Retirement Committee Meeting started promptly at 10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome:

Kathleen McCreery, Retirement Committee Chairperson, welcomed everyone to our first Committee Meeting for the 2020-2021 school year.

II. Action Items:

Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the flexibility to stop when any guest speakers join the meeting so they could present and not have to wait for their particular order on the agenda.

Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of April 29, 2020 individually.

A Motion to accept the April 29, 2020, minutes as written was made by Dr. Cheryl Lynn de Werff, Region 4, and this motion was seconded by Frank Chapman, Region 2, and Approved by the Committee Members to accept the minutes of April 29, 2020 as written.

III. Committee Business:

Committee Purpose

There was review and a discussion followed of the Committee’s Purpose, which was attached to the publicized Agenda. The updated Purpose is written at the beginning of these minutes.

It is each Region’s responsibility to have a representative in attendance at all meetings, either the assigned representative or an appointed designee.

IV. Discussion Items:

IV.A. Committee Goals

There was also discussion and review of the Committee Goals. Revisions were made and accepted.

Goal 1. Advocacy – there was a slight change Goal 2. Communication - no changes were made 3. Membership - additional language was included and Goal 4. Networking - additional language was also added.

IV.B. Retired Educators Charter

ACSA has been meeting every quarter with representatives of other education groups to discuss retirement issues and to work collaboratively when there is mutual agreement. The reps. for ACSA are ACSA State Retirement Committee Chair (Kathy), Retirement Committee Legislative Advocate (Derick), Board Representative (Shelton) and ACSA Retirement Committee Liaison (Alice). ACSA hosted the meetings in year 1 and CalRTA in year 2.

IV.C. Legislative Report

Derick Lennox, Staff Liaison/Government Relations Department, reviewed his Reflection from 2020.

Significant actions have resulted from executive orders and public health guidance. Major policy changes originated from the California State Budget. “There is lots of uncertainty going into 2021.”

Keynote Legislation signed into law:

SB 1159- Workers compensation

SB 793. - Flavored tobacco

ACA 5- Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 5-(Government Preferences) on November ballot S.B. 98 - Budget Act

Vetoed Legislation:

AB 1835 - Supplemental grant language

AB 331- Required Ethnic studies

Bills that will carry-over into the next calendar year are:

SB 614 and AB 1384 (school liability)

Looking to 2021:

- Distance learning
- State role in COVID-19 testing and schools reopening
- CalSTRS recommendations into legislative bill

IV.D. ACSA Budget Update

Alice Petrossian, ACSA Staff Liaison, shared with the group the ACSA Budget and Strategic Plan. Regarding expenses to date, Alice said that the Committee is doing “OK” budget-wise because we are saving on costs, as there have been no in-person meetings this fiscal year. The elimination of catered lunches and other things that come with meeting in person has helped. Travel is suspended through 2020-2021. ACSA has also reduced Department Budgets.

There is a drop in general membership as well as retiree members. The traditional budget review has changed. There is a need to capture membership for both general and retirees. Alice asked the Committee to encourage lifetime membership for retirees. ACSA reduction/adjustment plan has 3 phrases. Our Retirement Committee budget is now \$4,500 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, which is significantly less than in the past.

IV.E. ACSA Updates

The Sacramento Office is still boarded up given the climate we have seen and possibly might see in the future. ACSA will keep us informed. The Ed Services Department has put out a new on-line service, LMS (alternative ways to track attendance reporting during Covid-19). Since ACSA Membership is currently down, ACSA is also considering looking at Region Rebates.

Annual Leadership Summit

The Leadership Summit will be held on-line November 5 – 6, 2020. On Demand sessions start on November 2, and will run all week. Our Committee is sponsoring two sessions, one that CalSTRS will host and Gayle Olson, Past Committee Chairperson, will host our other session on Friday, titled “To Retire or Not To Retire? Lifetime members can attend the Leadership Summit for free and the registration fee for a Retired Member is \$99.00. Taped sessions can be viewed at a later date by attendees.

Additional Committee Meetings Information:

Chairperson, Kathleen McCreery, shared that we will be adding two additional 90 minute WebEx Meetings to the Committee Calendar, one in December and one in April.

Leg. Policy Committee Representative

Chairperson, Kathleen McCreery, asked in an email prior to this meeting for volunteers who might want to be the Representative from our Committee to serve on the ACSA Legislative Policy Committee. Sam Neustadt, Region 3, was the only member who volunteered and he was selected to represent our Committee. Sam brings years of experience serving as the Assistant Superintendent, SELPA for Solano County and working hand-in-hand with legislators in Sacramento drafting bills to support students and learning. He is very knowledgeable about legislative policy and working to pass bills to help support education. Our Committee is honored to have Sam represent us. Sam will attend the upcoming Leg. Policy Committee Meeting in November. Sam also volunteered to serve on the Leg. Policy Subcommittee, which will convene in December to develop ACSA's Legislative Platform for the upcoming year. Our Committee thanked Sam for representing us on this important Committee.

IV.F. Leadership Assembly

Sheldon Yip, ACSA Director At-Large and Representative to the Retirement Committee, shared information about the October Leadership Assembly. Dr. Cantor did a YouTube presentation about self-care for adults and the 3 Rs, Resilience, Relationships and Routines.

There is an ACSA task force looking at discriminatory practices. The Assembly discussed many of same issues the Retirement Committee has addressed today. They have not talked about defined death benefits; however, there have been lots of questions about retirement. Sheldon encouraged everyone to continue our support with CalRTA over WEP and GPO efforts.

V. CalPERS Report: (See additional CalPERS handouts sent by Janis through email.)

David Teykaerts, CalPERS Stakeholders Strategy Manger II, shared updated facts about CalPERS. Dave Lamonreux, CalPERS Liaison, also did a presentation to help share this information. Here are the highlights of some of the information that were shared with our Committee:

- 40% of total membership is school employees
- Investment return came in at 4.7% for the fiscal year due to Covid-19. The Goal was 7%. The current return is 6% so far this fiscal year (since July 2020) but 7% return is needed.
- CalPERS CEO resigned, recruitment is currently underway.
- Asset Liability Management goal for 2021 is to balance income with payouts. Employer costs/economic shutdown/federal aid is all unknowns at this time.
- Basic PPO/HMO risk mitigation effort plans are taking place in November 2020.
- Board Governance – more/less meetings, committee size, oversight – all TBD.
- Long Term Plan – an increase/coverage reduction is coming in November. There is no information about the current lawsuit.

VI. CalSTRS Report

Diane Stanton, Interim Executive Director, Joycelyn Martinez-Wade, Director of Governmental Relations, discussed CalSTRS issues regarding legislation/regulations. CalSTRS is concentrating on audits to recover overpayments to member/member beneficiary when determined by the audit that the member was overpaid. Legislation proposals would be to collect all uncollected payments from the employer. Member would continue to be responsible for most recent 3 years to beyond; the employer would pay the amortized remaining amount over the estimated life of the retiree (capped at 5% of the updated benefit). Employer would be responsible to notify the employee of corrections and engage all impacted employees. Employers must submit list of employees to CalSTRS or be subject to a penalty. Employer to pay admin. cost of hearing if affected employee was not timely reported to CalSTRS during audit resolution period; CalSTRS would receive an audit determination within 45 days during an audit resolution period. During this process the member is under severe stress. CalSTRS needs to be more understanding as recommended by David Davini.

The three options for boosting the SBMA (Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account) benefits for retired members were reviewed and Option 1 is what CalSTRS is going to recommend to possibly be addressed by the Legislators in 2021. CalSTRS selected Option 1 to move forward because it would benefit the most retired members prior to 1999. Many of these retired members are now living in poverty because their benefits were based on their retirement salaries 20 or 30 years ago and they do not have the necessary buying power in our current economy.

VII. CalRTA Report (See previously distributed handout through email.)

Rick Light, CalRTA Liaison, encouraged Committee Members to continue sending letters to House of Representative Members and pushing for additional sponsors for H.R. 141 even if the member's Representative is already listed as a sponsor. Rick suggested going to the CalRTA website and clicking on the icon to send form letters to our particular House of Representative Members for our ACSA Region.

VIII. Region Reports:

(Due to the WebEx format, it was difficult for the note-taker to hear everyone report out so the Region Report information may not be complete.)

Region 19 – not much

Region 18 – CASCD webinars – very worthwhile

Region 17 – looking to future

Region 16 – no meetings; region president has done an outstanding job of keeping members up-to-date; no retirement mtg.

Region 15 – doing virtual tours of area – awarding some scholarships

Region 13 – Charter/Chapter has been active. A special thanks to Alice. Have done trips abroad.

Region 12 – board meets virtually

Region 11 – Ambassadors active plus recruiting new members

Region 8 – meeting virtually plus recruiting members

Region 6 - meeting virtually

Region 5 – no report

Region 4 – The Region has given \$500 to anyone working for a school district in our Region who has lost their home during the Lightning Complex Fire or the Glass Fire. The Region has held two Zoom Leadership Forum Meetings, which were well attended.

Region 3 – difficult to meet due to Covid-19. Have sent out info. to members. Scholarship to Region 3 student on succeed list.

Region 2 – no meetings. Retired Charter has met twice. Ambassadors continue to contact new members.

Region 1 – meeting via zoom. Concerned about declining membership.

IX. Potential Future Topics:

Future discussion items that we are looking to address at the December Meeting are the ACSA Strategic Plan and Racial Diversity (presentation by Adonai Mack, Senior Director of Equity Services for ACSA)

X. 2020-2021 Retirement Committee Meeting Dates Review:

Upcoming Retirement Committee Meetings:

- 12/10/2020 - WebEx 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- 1/14/2021 WebEx 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- 2/24/2021 Sacramento or Virtual, TBD
- 4/9/2021 WebEx 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- 5/27/2021 – WebEx 10 am – 2:00 pm

Chairperson Kathleen McCreery adjourned the Committee Meeting at 2:10 p.m.

A special thank you to Sandy Clifton, Region 18, and Frank Chapman, Region 2, for taking notes/minutes during the October 22, 2020 WebEx Committee Meeting.

As always a heartfelt thank you to our very special support staff member Janis Marie Rawlins for her emails to keep us all informed as well as all of her work behind the scenes to coordinate these meetings. Janis, you are very much appreciated.