

# OCHO

## ACSA Region 8 Newsletter

Santa Clara County

Association of California School Administrators

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### In This Issue

[President's Message](#)  
[Member Services Update](#)  
[Programs Update](#)  
[Mentor Program Update](#)  
[Communications Update](#)  
[Business Services Update](#)  
[Ed Otions Update](#)  
[Retirement Update](#)  
[Cupertino Charter](#)  
[Franklin-McKinley Charter](#)  
[Retiree Charter](#)  
[SCCOE Charter](#)



## President's Message

**Norma Rodriguez, Region 8 President 2017-2018**  
[nrodriguez@musd.org](mailto:nrodriguez@musd.org)

Greetings Region 8 Educational Leader:

The holiday season is an ideal time to pause for reflection and celebration, as well as to take time to relax, rejuvenate, and spend quality time with family and friends. As we gather with friends and relatives, it is important to engage in great conversations about the work we do as educational leaders and, in particular, our success stories about public education. Public education has been, and continues to be, under attack and we must come to its defense by simply sharing our stories of success, triumph, resilience, and hope. We are storytellers by nature and much of what's been passed down from generation to generation has been in the form of stories. We remember them, share them, and revisit them from different angles as we gain new perspectives. Scientific research has shown that narrative is a basic organizing component of memory. If we want someone to remember something, tell them a story. Nowadays, everyone claims to be an expert on education and many are telling stories that are not based on facts. Those of us who choose to dedicate our lives to public education know and live the real stories every day. Shouldn't we be sharing those amazing stories? I am a product of public education and believe wholeheartedly that public education is the backbone to democracy. Horace Mann, educator, politician, and the first great American advocate of public education stated, "Education...beyond all other devices of human origin, is a great equalizer of the conditions of men...the balance wheel of the social machinery." During this time of the year, I encourage you to share the



stories of all the great things happening in your schools via social networks. Let's counteract the negative by lifting up and publicizing the real stories of our many students' accomplishments.

As I reflect on the year thus far, I am grateful to be part of ACSA and comforted to know that we are part of an indispensable organization, always ready to educate and advocate for all of us on behalf of the students we serve. I am inspired by the commitment of our Region 8 educational leaders united by our common purpose and mission to pursue equity and excellence in all we do and, thus far, we have many reasons to celebrate and be joyous. During the past five months, we have collaborated and supported one another in various ways towards accomplishing our goals.

#### **Equity and Excellence/Professional Learning Goal:**

In July, we kicked off the academic year with our two-day Leadership Retreat inspired by Dr. Andrade-Duncan, as our keynote speaker. He challenged us to be serious about challenging the status quo with a strong commitment to take bold actions and to make equity the center of our work by holding high expectations while providing staff (and students) the tools they need to succeed. On September 21, we had a magnificent Leadership Forum featuring Dr. Sheila Brewer, Equity Committee Representative, with a thought-provoking presentation which moved us to think deeper about ways to combat hate, racism and ignorance.

On October 26, "Escape the Room" was our first membership event of the year. Jeff Bowman, Vice-President of Membership, did a fantastic job engaging us through an unforgettable experience. The event was a total success, providing those in attendance a unique opportunity to relax, have fun and collaborate as a team in order to "escape the room" within the time allotted. After our successful "escape," we identified many direct correlations to the work we do every day.

On November 2, Region 8 proudly supported new aspiring administrators by giving out a total of five scholarships to attend 2017 ACSA Leadership Summit held at the San Jose Convention center on November 2-4. Our Region 8 Reception planned and led by Retiree Charter President Sheila McGann-Tiedt was thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance. For highlights of the 2017 Summit, go to <https://vimeo.com/241813296>.

#### **Communication and Participation Goal**

Committee/Council reps have attended all State ACSA meetings to date and followed up with reports to OCHO. Our Region 8 website has been current with all Region 8 meetings and events. Plus, directory/leadership info and responsibilities, and the OCHO Newsletter, were published in October.

#### **Advocacy Goal**

Region 8 invited Legislators for our Leadership Retreat; the month of October was declared the Grassroot Advocacy month and many of our members took the opportunity to connect with their local legislator to share their story.

On behalf of the Region 8 Executive Board, we wish you a safe holiday season. May the New Year bring all of us closer to realizing our goals and aspirations and may we continue to champion public education. We look forward to seeing you engaged in all of our future events, which are planned with your needs in mind. Let's do our part to rewrite the narrative in education so everyone understands all of the awesome achievements happening in our schools every day.

With gratitude,

Norma E. Rodriguez, ACSA Region 8 President



Some of the Region 8 attendees at the ACSA Leadership Summit in San Jose on November 2-4, 2017.

## Member Services Update

**Jeff Bowman, VP - Member Services**  
[bowman\\_jeff@cusdk8.org](mailto:bowman_jeff@cusdk8.org)

As we approach the midpoint of the 2017-2018 school year, the primary focus for membership has been to update our members within Region 8. It is vital to note that if you move districts, your ACSA membership does not automatically follow you, which makes it essential to reach out to ACSA and inform the organization of the change.

At the November 1 Membership meeting, the primary focus was on staying vigilant about continuing and increasing our members. Our power is in our voice and numbers; we need both to be strong advocates for public education. Adding to our voice, we turned our attention to increasing our social media presence, while being mindful of the difference between our personal and professional accounts. Check out the ACSA website for more detailed information about best practices with social media.

Last, don't forget to check out the services that your membership provides you by utilizing the ACSA website. (<https://www.acsa.org/Member-Services>)

## Programs Update

**Sheila Walters and Dawnel Sonntag, Co-Chairs - Programs**  
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We are looking forward to our next Leadership Forum and Dinner on February 1, 2018, at Fiorillo's at 5:30p.m. Please look for a flyer and registration information the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you so much for the feedback we have received so far regarding your ideas about possible topics and speakers for our upcoming Leadership Forums and our ACSA Mini-Conference on March 1, 2018, at Monroe Middle School beginning at 4:30p.m. Possible topics we are exploring include the following: equity, leadership, special education, restorative justice, safe and healthy schools, working w/challenging students, and technology. We would appreciate your feedback if you have not taken our survey. Please visit the following link: [ACSA Region 8 PD Survey](#).

Finally, we look forward to collaborating with our Awards Chair colleagues in planning our ACSA Leadership Awards event in May and we are excited to provide our Region with premier professional development opportunities in the new year!

## Mentor Program Update

**Iris Berke, Mentor Program Coordinator**  
[irisberke@aol.com](mailto:irisberke@aol.com)

It has been a privilege to initiate and coordinate the Region 8 ACSA Mentor Program since 2010. Sincere thanks to all the excellent Mentors who helped many members, and to the Protégés who came forward to seek advice from more experienced colleagues. It has been a great personal & professional joy to meet so many of you and help you grow and flourish. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this way.



State ACSA has appointed Will Ector to be Facilitator for Region 8's Mentor Program. His email is [wheinc99@aol.com](mailto:wheinc99@aol.com). Very best to all. Iris Berke  
[irisberke@aol.com](mailto:irisberke@aol.com)

## Communications/Media Update

**Karen Larson, Chair - Communications/Media**  
[Karen\\_Larson@sccoe.org](mailto:Karen_Larson@sccoe.org)

Big news - Region 8 now has a Twitter page! If you are a Twitter user, please follow us @ACSARegion8. When tweeting about ACSA related events, please tag us using @ACSARegion8. Let's continue to build our following and sharing all that is great about Region 8.

Have news to share? Been awhile since you updated your committee webpage? Please send any information you would like added to Karen Larson at [klarson@sccoe.org](mailto:klarson@sccoe.org) and it will be added to our website.

## Business Services Council Update

**Chris Jew, Business Services Council Rep**

The Business Service Council met on October 26, 2017 in Sacramento ACSA office. The Council had a video conference with Mike Fine of FCMAT. FCMAT is receiving calls from 3 to 4 districts per week for support. The major issues districts are focusing on are special education and paying for increase employer costs for pensions. The Council also received an update from Legislative Analyst's Office staff. LAO is estimating possibly an additional \$3 - \$4 Billion to the general fund. Staff also shared the possibilities of the Governor and State implementing full LCFF funding this coming year. The Council also discussed providing greater input towards improvement to LCFF and LCAP. Some of the ideas generated;

- Make LCAP a planning tool, not a compliance document
- Allow LEAs with low unduplicated count (i.e., 20% or less), small districts and/or basic aid districts that have all Greens and Blues on Dashboard from having to submit LCAP on annual basis. Make it every other year or every three-year requirement. Or create a shorter version as an

alternative.

- Change "evaluation rubrics" language throughout LCFF to "California Dashboard"
- Narrow down the 23 metrics included in the LCFF, or prioritize some over others
- CTE funding - increase 2.6% add-on through LCFF instead of creating separate categorical program, or clarify in LCFF statute the 2.6% was meant to be used for CTE programs
- Update proportionality calculation for supplemental/concentration grants to account for increases in pension costs
- Change triggers: Suspend or extend TK-3 grade class size reduction provisions since triggers never anticipated increase pension obligations and makes requirements for CSR hard to meet/fund
- Consider inclusion of students with disabilities in the formula for targeted supplemental and concentration funding
- Allow RFEP students to continue receiving supplemental and concentration funding for 2 years after reclassification
- Prevent creation or expansion of categorical programs by extending LCFF Implementation timeline/funding targets (address the adequacy of base grant)

## Educational Options Council Update

**Mary Ann Dewan - Ed Options Council Rep**  
[maryann\\_dewan@sccoe.org](mailto:maryann_dewan@sccoe.org)

The Educational Options Council met on **November 1, 2017** in San Jose at the Marriott prior to the Leadership Summit. Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Deputy Supt at the SCCOE attended the council meeting as the representative for Region 8 to the Education Options Council. The council received an update from CDE about the Accountability System for alternative schools. The council discussed the status of the Statewide School Accountability Dashboard, the emerging approach for inclusion of alternative measures within the accountability framework, and the newly expanded definition of alternative schools approved by the SBE. A presentation was provided by Paxton Patterson of their STEM Lab. Dr. Jorge Ruiz de Velasco provided a summary of the California Advisory Task Force on Alternative Schools. The council discussed continuing some shared efforts to create protocols and resource materials for the implementation of AB 540. The council discussed the opportunities for staff at Alternative Schools to receive training and supervision from district curriculum and instruction staff in addition to the supports they may receive from student services personnel.

## State Retirement Committee Update

**Sheila McGann-Tiedt, State Retirement Committee Rep**  
[smcganntiedt@yahoo.com](mailto:smcganntiedt@yahoo.com)

The State Retirement Committee discussed its goals for the year which included:

- Increasing the Death Benefit from \$6,163.
- Increasing the Supplemental Maintenance Benefit Account (SMBA) from 85% to 91% to protect purchasing power and help retirees keep pace with inflation.

- Ensure that a retired educator sits on the CalSTRS Board. Governor Jerry Brown has appointed Karen Yamamoto, a retired teacher, for this position. Karen will be visiting with and speaking to ACSA groups around the state.
- Continuing to actively support the ACSA Ambassador Program. This is an ongoing activity.
- Proposing an "ACSA Society" membership for members who include ACSA in their wills/trusts.
- Supporting the appointment of a Retirement Committee member to sit in on every CalSTRS Board meeting. This has been done.
- Supporting HR 711, the Brady Bill, dealing with modifying the "Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)". In addition, Patrick O'Donnell, Long Beach Assemblymember, has introduced a resolution regarding the unfairness of the WEP and the GPO (Government Pension Offset). A major focus of the Retirement Committee and groups around the state is to contact legislators about the unfairness of these two provisions in Federal Social Security law.

Iván Carrillo, ACSA Legislative Advocate highlighted concerns about pensions. The California Supreme Court is dealing with two cases focused on weakening or eliminating the "California Rule". The rule ensures that public employee pensions cannot be reduced. The Supreme Court is being asked to decide on wording like "employees will receive reasonable pensions" without the guarantee of the California Rule protection.

There are also concerns about the size of bonuses paid to top level employees of CalSTRS and the possibility of a new office tower being constructed to house the CalSTRS offices. CalSTRS' concerns include whether paying to rent office space is costlier in the long run.

The pension issue is going to be a challenge for the state, individual employees, and school districts for some time to come until the deficit is paid off. This is predicted to be the case in 2046. Much more discussion at all levels is to be expected.

## Cupertino Charter News

**Kerstin Johnson, Charter President**  
[johnson\\_kerstin@cusdk8.org](mailto:johnson_kerstin@cusdk8.org)

CUSD's chapter has been busy reconnecting with one another this school year. We hosted a social at a recently developed restaurant to not only help us connect with each other but our community as well. In addition, we welcomed a new Superintendent, Dr. Craig Baker, since the opening of the school year so it was a wonderful opportunity to move forward and begin talking about the future of CUSD. Once again we are competing with one another in our second annual Fantasy Football League, The Mighty Mighty Admins. It has been a fun way to meet new people and to have something to talk about outside the norms of our jobs. Our chapter is looking forward to a new tradition next week as we are providing lunch for our upcoming All Management meeting to kick off the holidays. We want to wish everyone a healthy and safe holiday season!

## Franklin-McKinley Charter News

**Kim Alan Sheffield, Charter President**  
[kim.sheffield@fmsd.org](mailto:kim.sheffield@fmsd.org)

The FM ACSA Charter will be having our first official activity when we host our Holiday party this year at Maggiano's at Santana Row on December 15. In the New Year, we will host an event for all FM Charter members, non-members, and prospective members. We are very excited to be a new charter and look forward to participating in ACSA activities, learning, and work.

## Retiree Charter News

**Sheila McGann-Tiedt, Charter President**  
[smcganntiedt@yahoo.com](mailto:smcganntiedt@yahoo.com)

At the General Meeting on October 31, the membership heard from Assemblymember Evan Low who spoke about several important issues.

He shared with the group the importance of "active participation" of the citizenry and suggested that people have a "go to" person in the legislature. He encouraged citizens to take advantage of opportunities to speak directly to legislators. Grassroots advocacy is important and necessary: letters to the editor, phoning legislators, talking with legislators about specific issues, and sharing on social media details of personal advocacy efforts. Certainly, these comments address our goal of communicating with legislators and emphasizes the importance of outreach and communication.

The Leadership Summit Reception was hosted by Region VIII and members of the Retiree Charter Board acted as hosts. The reception was attended by over 100 people who enjoyed a beverage and appetizers courtesy of ACSA Region VIII. Lisa Gonzalez and Norma Rodriguez welcomed the attendees to the reception and thanked them for attending. It was wonderful hearing many positive comments about the Leadership Summit!

The Retiree Charter owes thanks to Region VIII for helping to support the scholarship program which has succeeded in assisting many outstanding aspiring administrators over the years. This important work continues to produce excellent new administrators who are excited and creative forces for the future of education.

## SCCOE Charter News

**Matthew Tinsley, Charter President**  
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It's been a busy couple of months. We celebrated Week of the School Administrator in October with a sweet treat for our members, delivered by the charter office holders. Our November highlight was the Leadership Summit in San Jose - including the Region social. In addition, COEAA has been busy updating our member roster, which now stands at 35 members, and completing our charter goals and activity plan for the year. We've begun the awards process, inviting supervisors to consider nominations in nine categories, and have also contacted the leadership of our direct service programs to request that they each nominate a student for our Every Student Succeeding recognition breakfast in March. We'd like to wish you all a Happy Holiday season, and a safe and relaxing - if all too brief - winter break.

*Region 8 ACSA Members,*

*This is our first electronic issue of OCHO newsletter for the 2017-18 school year. We no longer print hard copies of Ocho newsletters.*

*Sincerely,*

Virginia Fahimi, Editor of OCHO Newsletter  
Region 8 - Association of California School Administrators  
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