

# OCHO

## ACSA Region 8 Newsletter

Santa Clara County

Association of California School Administrators

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## President's Message

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

Greetings Region 8 Educational Leader:

### Being **BOLD** About Safety

Recent violent events have left all of us reflecting at a deeper level, in search of the best and most effective ways to prepare and respond to crisis in our schools. The tried and true punitive responses such as medicate, incarcerate, subjugate, isolate, educate, and negate have not worked that well. In fact, they are now becoming counterproductive, often creating the intense levels of violence we are witnessing. However, there are many reasons to remain optimistic as these events, as painful as they are, also serve as a catalyst for change.



We are fully committed to ensure that every student has an opportunity to learn in a safe environment and many of us continue to take bold actions to uncover, recover, and discover the sacred self in every individual. These simple acts might be the responses required to tackle adversity. According to Dr. Duncan-Andrade, "You cannot teach a student well if you do not know a student well." This type of bold action necessitates assuming the role of transformational healers. This can only be done by taking the time to listen, acknowledge a deeper acceptance of one another, integrate compassion, and send a new collective message: "You are wanted, needed, and loved just the way you are." This will, in turn, result in a restoration of the person's dignity and hope for a better future. Our schools continue to be safe places for children and going the extra mile will create

safer havens for all. Improving all of our student's experiences in school and providing them a chance of success can have a lifelong impact on each individual and the greater society.

At ACSA, we are all passionate about student success. We have been relentless in forging strong partnerships with stakeholders, creating support systems to increase student achievement, and career readiness with a renewed commitment to create safe thriving environments for all.

I am confident and continue to be inspired by all the work we are doing to continue to make a positive influence and lasting contribution towards a new era in education, an era where we liberate because you matter, we matter, Leadership Matters! Let's not become what we are fighting and as Oprah Winfrey would say, "Remain a warrior of light." 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 for a brighter future.

With gratitude, Norma E. Rodriguez, ACSA Region 8 President

## Awards Update

**Joann Vaars, Mala Ahuja and Alyssa Lynch, Co-Chairs - Awards**  
[jvaars@busd.net](mailto:jvaars@busd.net), [mala.ahuja@sesd.org](mailto:mala.ahuja@sesd.org), [alynch@metroed.net](mailto:alynch@metroed.net)

Congratulations to our Region 8 Administrator of 2018 award winners. **Please join us at the Corinthian Room on Friday, May 11, 2018 to celebrate the successful year and recognize the following individuals:**

Category	Name	District
Superintendent	Alyssa Lynch	Metro Ed
Middle Grades Principal	Chris Mosley	Berryessa
Elementary Principal	Anita Lee	Sunnyvale
Central Office Administrator	Leslie Mains	Cupertino
Human Resources	Stacy McAfee	Cupertino
Pupil Personnel	Rosanna Palomo	Campbell
Retired Administrator	Gerry Chartrand	Retired
Technology Administrator	Phil Benfield	SCCOE
Curriculum & Instruction	Denise Kilpatrick	Campbell
Every Student Succeeding	Joelle Drake	Oak Grove
Robert E. Kelly	Laurel Olsen	Retired

## Legislative Action Update

**Anisha Munshi, Leg. Action VP**  
[anisha\\_munshi@sccoe.org](mailto:anisha_munshi@sccoe.org)

Legislative Action day is fast approaching, and it is important that we use this opportunity to advocate on behalf of our students. At this event, we will meet with local legislators to discuss the issues that we believe are important in improving the quality of education that we provide for our students. Our Governmental Relations team will guide us with talking points for visiting and speaking with our local legislators. The personal stories that we share add value to these conversations. In turn, legislators have an opportunity to ask questions and get a better understanding of the needs of our students. **Legislative Action Day is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**We will assemble in Sacramento on April 15<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the meetings that**

are scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to register is March 16th.

## Member Services Update

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

On February 27th, all VP's of Membership joined a webinar to hear updates on what efforts State ACSA has been making and to share what is happening in each charter. Additionally, the state has been identifying focus areas to help grow state membership. Furthermore, there was a discussion to determine how many Charters allow members to join that are not full-fledge ACSA members. ACSA is also looking for ways to add value to what ACSA members receive as part of being a member.

Finally, please remember if you are planning on retiring this year, you can still be a member of ACSA as you may stay connected through our Retiree Charter.

## Programs Update

**Sheila Walters and Dawnel Sonntag, Co-Chairs - Programs**  
[sheila.walters3@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.walters3@gmail.com) / [dsonntag@campbellusd.org](mailto:dsonntag@campbellusd.org)

We had a successful ACSA Region 8 Mini Conference on March 1. Over 60 participants enjoyed learning about cultural responsiveness, restorative practices, integrating technology and many more topics. According to our survey, 90% of the participants were satisfied or very satisfied with the conference and stated they learned ideas that could apply to their work. Here are a couple of quotes from our survey that reflect the relevancy of this professional learning event: *"I loved the variety of topics and to get meaningful PD in two hours. Great fit for a busy administrator's schedule."* *"It was wonderful to have the opportunity to experience hands-on learning and be able to apply newly learned skills the very next day on site."*

We would like to thank all the participants, our dynamic speakers, student liaisons, and ACSA volunteers. Without everyone's commitment and support we would not be able to present such a successful professional learning opportunity for interested educators in our region. Mark your calendars for our last PD session at the **Region 8 Leadership Forum on Thursday, April 19, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Fiorillo's in Santa Clara**. More details will come to you soon!

## State ACSA Board Update

**Juan Cruz, State Board Region 8 Rep**  
[juan.cruz@fmsd.org](mailto:juan.cruz@fmsd.org)

### PAC Agenda/Tuck endorsement:

- Discussion of the Tuck endorsement focused on two areas: region procedures and feedback from activity at Leadership Assembly.
- Our hybrid communication plan will focus on members and the general public via:
  - Internal talking points.
  - External talking points.
  - Social media & website presence.
  - Utilization of the press (Opinion/editorials, press releases, etc.).

- Continue to provide opportunities for Tuck to engage our members through ACSA sponsored events.
- Create and provide informational materials for region use.
- ACSA Governmental Relations department will improve communications by providing a timeline to all regions so they know what is going on and when, as well as explore different ways and forms to conduct advocacy communications activities.
- Regarding the gubernatorial race, we should have a clearer picture of who is really in the race this summer. Staff has suggested that the board wait until then before considering an endorsement for a candidate.

Now is the time to begin discussions at the region level regarding the gubernatorial race. A timeline will be distributed to regions so members are clear on the process.

**Mid-Year Budget Review:**

- This is the first year ACSA has conducted scheduled interim budget reviews.
- ACSA currently has more than 17,000 members. However, this is the first time in five years ACSA has dipped in membership.

Staff is making budget adjustments to meet our goal for reserves and the implementation of the first-ever ACSA Rainy Day Fund (\$250,000).

**Legislative Action Day:**

The messaging for Legislative Action Day will focus on two topics: increasing the base funding; adding time for teacher tenure review. Goal is to disseminate real stories about how these topics impact students. School safety will not be a focus on LAD. There is a consideration of leveraging the new task force to deal with this issue. There is a concern that lobbying on school safety may not be substantive during this event.

Two recommendations have been made for the ACSA Friend of Education award: Senator Mike McGuire and Karen Staph Walters, former ACSA staff member and current aide to Governor Jerry Brown.

**Campaign for ACSA office positions:**

The current regulations and policies on campaigning are vague and forces candidates and the board to interpret the rules. The board voted to edit policy 6.11.1 clarifying that while electioneering will be limited, service and participation in ACSA activities will not.

**ACSA's One Voice for Students Platform:**

- Our priority areas are: School Finance, Educator Effectiveness & Pipeline, Special Ed and Student Needs.
- Some highlights include: ensuring the full funding of Prop 98, setting a new LCFE multiyear target, mitigating the impact of pensions, protecting Title II funding, extending the teacher probationary period, advocating for the reauthorization of IDEA, and expanding access to behavioral and mental health services.

**Strategic plan discussion:**

- Review of the timeline and accomplishments of the four Core Planning Group meetings. There will be additional work conducted by the CPG and Leadership Assembly during May meeting in Sacramento.

- Mid-June: CPG will develop final draft for implementation.

Board will receive draft final version at July retreat.

## Business Services Council Update

**Chris Jew, Business Services Council Rep**  
[jew\\_chris@cusdk8.org](mailto:jew_chris@cusdk8.org)

The Business Service Council met on March 1, 2018 in Sacramento ACSA office.

The Council had a video conference with SPI Candidate Marshall Tuck. The Council had discussions regarding Tuck's position on categorical programs. He is opposed to them. On the policy side, during the first years should he be elected, he wants to work with Superintendents and develop a 10-year plan and utilize surveys to improve the quality of services. He also shared his interests in making the CDE work better. He wants to rotate the people in the CDE to bring in other experts in the field of education.

The Council walked over to the Capital and met with Assembly member Kevin McCarty of Sacramento. We talked with him regarding ACSA's position on not having categorical programs and to continue funding LCFF by creating new LCFF targets. He is interested in funding for Preschool and Pre-K. Early education is one of his big issues.

Council met last with Assembly member Al Muratsuchi of Torrance. Muratsuchi is the author of AB 2808 which would increase LCFF targets to provide education funding at the national average at a minimum. Specifically, he wants to increase the funding without changing the formula for LCFF. ACSA, CASBO, CSBA, and potentially State PTA all support this bill.

## Career Technical Ed Council Update

**Alyssa Lynch, Council Rep**  
[alynch@metroed.net](mailto:alynch@metroed.net)

At the end of 2018, CTE funding has been set to expire. In early January, Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell introduced AB 1743 which aims to extend CTE funding for three more years through 2022. A Legislative hearing was held on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Capitol. The hearing consisted of four panels. There were 12 local representatives from Metropolitan Education District. The group was made up of 4 teachers, 2 business partners, 3 school board members, 1 CBO and 1 Superintendent. Alyssa Lynch, MetroED Sup., Grant Hayden, former student from Campbell Union HSD, and Jim Canova, SCUSD/MetroED board member served on one of the panels. All 12 members spoke at the hearing in support of all CTE programs and asked for CTE Centers such as SVCTE be included in future funding. This group represented all CTE and all Centers in CA. Our main "ask" was for dedicated, permanent, ongoing funding and to include Centers. One week later, amendments to the bill were made to seek permanent funding for CTE, but Centers were not included. Governor Jerry Brown also has a bill for CTE where the budget proposal allocated \$200 million for CTE and does include funding for Centers. The hope is that both bills will be merged for the May revise. Additional other options are being explored as well. The next CTE hearing is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am in Sacramento. For more information, contact: [alynch@metroed.net](mailto:alynch@metroed.net)

## Equity, Achievement & Diversity

## Committee Update

**Sheila Murphy-Brewer, Committee Rep**  
[smurphy@musd.org](mailto:smurphy@musd.org)

In the recent Leadership Convening there was a discussion around the process used for endorsement of candidates. Some members would like to still have clarity around this. At the meeting Tovi Scruggs presented mindfulness as an equity tool activity - as we are caregivers of education. She is willing to share it if anyone would like to invite her or have her send the information.

It was recommended that the Equity Committee members should look into attending the Every Student Succeeding Symposium in the future.

### **Advocacy: SB607 Willful Defiance**

Current statute prohibits K-3 students from being suspended for willful defiance. The bill extends it to 5<sup>th</sup> grade then moves up to middle grades by 2020. The committee wants K - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In discussion across the state many middle schools want to keep Willful Defiance in the books, while others want to support K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Some express concerns about lack of resources and training for restorative justice. This might force some to learn about alternative means for dealing with willful defiance.

Across the board suspensions are down, however, AA boys are still disproportionately being suspended. Additionally, these kids are still being sent out of class - therefore, this still needs to be part of a discussion. Ivan asks that we compile a letter by March 21<sup>st</sup> to bring to the Legislative Action Committee.

## Berryessa Charter News

**Virginia Pender, Charter President**  
[vpender@busd.net](mailto:vpender@busd.net)

Berryessa is really working hard on boosting employee morale and getting to know each other better to ensure a more productive working environment. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, we had a social at Macaroni Grill. Approximately 20+ members showed up and we had a great time talking and getting to know our new Superintendent, Dr. Roxane Fuentes, a bit better. We also have a "Day at the Park" event planned for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Members will meet up at Municipal Stadium in San Jose to enjoy a San Jose Giants baseball game.

## Milpitas Charter News

**Damon James, Charter President**  
[djames@fmsd.org](mailto:djames@fmsd.org)

The purpose of the Milpitas Charter is to support Certificated and Classified Management in the areas of professional development, social-emotional well-being, and student/staff recognition. The current focus is on student recognition. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Milpitas team recognized over 30 students of African descent for academic achievement and outstanding accomplishment. The theme was Black Excellence, and it was important for ACSA Member Cheryl Jordan to set the stage that Milpitas recognizes and encourages. The event was a success, and now members of the charter are planning the final stages of the next celebration, the Latino Achievement Awards, which will be held in late March. Our charter will conclude honoring students by recognizing students who overcome an obstacle at

our annual Every Student Succeeding Breakfast in May.

## Retirees Charter News

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

The **ACSA Retired Charter of Region VIII** will soon be asking retiring administrators to join for the 2018-2019 academic year. Many active administrators do not know about the opportunities afforded by joining ACSA after retirement and may not understand the benefits.

- Local membership is \$25.00 per year for the Region VIII Retired Charter.
- State ACSA membership is a separate membership (\$125 per year or \$700 for life.)

The benefits of belonging to the Region VIII Retired Charter include:

-four general luncheon meetings per year

-outstanding speakers on topics of interest to retired educators and opportunities to meet and make connections with other retired administrators.

- The Retired Charter also sponsors several scholarships for aspiring administrators. These scholarships have helped to support top level candidates as they move forward in their careers.
- Critically, ACSA supports important issues affecting California schools and fights to maintain strong pensions.

Be aware that joining ACSA after retirement adds to the strength of an organization that is fighting for educators every day. It's a great way to keep up with what's happening in education, pensions, and much more.

**If you are planning to retire, please let us know. We look forward to welcoming new members at our 2018-2019 meetings!**

Contact Maxine Amundson, Membership at: [drmaxa@comcast.net](mailto:drmaxa@comcast.net)

## SCCOE Charter News

**Matthew Tinsley, Charter President**  
[matthew\\_tinsley@sccoe.org](mailto:matthew_tinsley@sccoe.org)

COEAA has had a fun month. We've selected student awardees for our first ever Every Student Succeeding breakfast - a great idea proposed by past-President Lisa Ketchum. We've also been celebrating our Region 8 Superintendent of the Year, Alyssa Lynch, and Technology Administrator of the Year, Phil Benfield, who was recognized by the County Board of Education at their February 21 meeting. Finally, we're planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off for March 30<sup>th</sup>, including dusting off the judges' robes.

*Region 8 ACSA Members,*

*This is our third 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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