

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

Greetings Region 8 Educational Leader:

I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve our region as your ACSA Region 8 President and I am fully committed to working with all of you to fulfill our common purpose. We are fortunate to live and serve in one of the most active regions. Our diverse and dynamic team is fully committed to supporting each other and every member of our region through thought-provoking partnerships, collaboration, advocacy and professional development activities. ***Our purpose is to fully support Region 8 educational leaders in the pursuit of equity and excellence to meet the diverse needs of all students.*** Leading learning organizations where equity and excellence are the focus is a complex and daunting endeavor that can be accomplished only with a strong support network. Region 8 is that indispensable support network! Our 2017-18 region goals are directly aligned to state ACSA's strategic plan and include:



Communication and Participation Goal

- 100% charter Annual Activity Plans submitted
- Minimum of **two** charter quarterly reports to OCHO/Meeting in Memo
- Charter reps attend a minimum of **two** Executive Board meetings
- 100% completion of charter updated By-laws
- Committee/Council reps attend all State ACSA meetings followed by reports to OCHO
- Committee/Council reps attend a minimum **two** Executive Board meetings

- Region 8 website current with all Region meetings and events, plus directory/leadership info and responsibilities

Equity and Excellence/Professional Learning Goal

- Equity keynote speaker followed by discussion at Leadership Retreat
- Equity focused PD at each Leadership Forum
- 20% increase in participation in Leadership Forums with reps from each charter
- Job-alike bold action plans and updates shared at Executive Board meetings, Leadership Forums, and Awards Ceremony

Advocacy Goal

- Region 8 invitation to Legislators for Leadership Retreat
- Legislative Action Day attendance will increase by 10%
- Member from each charter will connect with a local legislator and invite to meeting or school

We have an excellent Region 8 Executive Board committed to supporting you. Joann Vaars, **President Elect**, will play a pivotal role assisting me throughout the year. Our **Chair of Programs**, Sheila Walters (supported by Dawnel Sonntag), has planned two awesome **Leadership Forums** focused on equity and a Mini Conference scheduled in early March. Dr. Mary Ann Dewan is leading the **Women's Leadership Network** events. Our **Vice-President of Membership**, Jeff Bowman, is seeking your assistance with identifying school and district leaders who would benefit from becoming active members and Jeff will reach out through an array of fun social events. Region 8's **Vice-President of Legislative Action**, Anisha Munshi, will call upon our support to make this year's **Legislative Action Day** a success. In addition, we will continue our tradition to honor excellence in leading during the annual **Region 8 ACSA Awards Ceremony** next May, which is coordinated by **Awards Co-Chairs** Alyssa Lynch and Joann Vaars. George Sanchez will be asking for Region 8 feedback regarding his service on ACSA's **Legislative Policy Committee**.

Our **Mentor Coordinator**, Iris Berke, will continue Region 8's commitment to support our leaders through the mentoring program. **Internal Affairs** Representative, Bob Lowry will continue his support and expertise to ensure our by-laws are adhered to. Our **Communications** Chairperson, Karen Larson, will keep **ACSA website** updated with detailed information about our Region and Charters.

Other critical members of our Executive Board working on your behalf include region **Secretary** Bhavna Narula, region **Treasurer** Ann Jones, **Past President** Will Ector, **Members-at-Large** Yvonne Sugimura, Dr. Jose Gonzalez, Ramis Ahrary, Dr. Joel Ruiz Herrera, Mala Ahuja, Jenay Enna, and **ACSA State Board Director** Juan Cruz. All of us are assisted and supported by our **Executive Director** Pat Einfalt and our **OCHO Editor** Ginny Fahimi.

Since the adoption of our goals in July, we have had a couple of informative, thought provoking and well attended events that have left us energized and inspired to continue with the work necessary to realize our vision. Achieving our goals requires active participation and **bold** strategic actions. Your **active engagement** at all of our Region 8 events is **critical** as it is what makes this support network **indispensable and vibrant**. ACSA Region 8 is committed to supporting Santa Clara County school site and central office leaders in not only understanding the barriers to learning, but also in advancing solutions towards more just and inclusive environments in which all students can thrive.

I am looking forward to connecting with all of you at our **ACSA Leadership Summit; Leading Beyond Limits** Nov 2-4 here in San Jose! I urge you to register at www.acsa.org/leadershipsummit. Region 8 is proud to be hosting a special

reception to welcome everyone on Nov 2 from 5:30-7:30 at the Marriott Hotel Willow Glen Room. Please stop by and help us ensure everyone has a positive and unforgettable experience in our Region 8 house. We are one of the most influential and active regions. We are Region 8! I look forward to collaborating with and learning from all of you.

With gratitude,

Norma E. Rodriguez, ACSA Region 8 President

State Board Rep Update

Juan Cruz, State Board Rep
juan.cruz@fmsd.org

The Board weighted the options of endorsing a candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction (PSI) and a candidate for Governor as early as the primary or wait for after the primary narrows the field to 2 candidates. PACT will be hosting a joint interview of both Tuck and Thurmond in December in Sacramento.

Overall membership is up as of August 31, 2017 by 152 members compared to the same time last year. There was discussion about surveying members that decide to leave to determine the reasons why members decide to leave so that we can use this information to help retain members.

The Association's finances are sound given our increase membership and the success of our PD programing. Monthly deposits are being made to the special reserve fund designated to help the Association weather the next recession.

There was discussion about the 2017-2018 Committee and Council Member Appointments. There was concerns about the lack of ethnic diversity represented by the appointments that is not aligned to the Association's overall equity initiative. It was noted that the Association's efforts towards greater gender equity is reflected in the appointments.

The Board took action to approve the Principle statement and priorities provided by ACSA's Charter School Task Force.

The Board approved ACSA's involvement in litigation seeking to block the dismantling of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program without taking a stance on the overall immigration discussion.

Staff updated the Board on new legislation that have signed or are waiting the Governor's signature as well as upcoming legislation.

- School Start Time
- STEM Charter School in LA
- Reserve Cap
- Noon-duty ability to organize
- Willful Defiance
- Feminine Hygiene in restrooms 6-12 grades

Awards Update

Alyssa Lynch, Chair - Programs
alynch@metroed.net

New, Easy, ACSA Award Online Nomination form

For 2017-18, there is great news for nominating your colleagues for an ACSA Award. The process has been made much easier. There are still a total of [21 job-alike categories](#). The entire nomination form is [online](#). Take a look at how easy it is to [submit the nomination forms](#). You can save your documents and come back to work on them at any time. The new ACSA Award platform opened August 15th and the last day to submit a



nomination this year is Friday, January 12th. Didn't it feel great the last time you were recognized for your good work? We are surrounded by so many talented colleagues here in region 8. The bad news is that last year, we only received 23 nominations. We had categories without nominations and we really should not let that happen again this year. So, with the new easy to submit online form, add "ACSA Awards and Nominations" to your next department meeting and brainstorm your future nominees. Award recipients bring recognition to quality work in your district.

Programs Update

Sheila Walters and Dawnel Sonntag, Co-Chairs - Programs
sheila.walters3@gmail.com / dsonntag@campbellusd.org

We were thrilled with the wonderful attendance at our first Leadership Forum on September 21st. We doubled our participation compared to last fall! All attendees enjoyed dinner, networking, and a meaningful and engaging presentation from Dr. Sheila Murphy-Brewer and Deanna Sainen (both from Milpitas USD). In the presentation entitled, "*Combating Hate, Racism and Ignorance Through Cultural Responsiveness*," the audience was asked to explore three questions:

- Why are we doing this work?
- What are we trying to fix?
- How might or must we move forward?

The presenters shared their personal "why's," Guiding Principles, and The Cultural Proficiency Continuum to guide our frequent table discussions and reactions to impactful images. All left the event with appreciation for the thoughtful and timely topic that fit with our theme of Taking a BOLD Action! We are already planning our next Leadership Forum on February 1, 2018, and subsequent events (Region 8 Mini Conference on March 1st and our final Leadership Forum on April 19th).

We invite you to express your ideas for topics, future speakers and provide opportunities for members to share their expertise at 2018 events. Please complete this short [survey](#) by **Friday, November 17th**. We will report the information to the Region 8 Executive Board in December and will further plan our 2018 PD with your input in mind.

Legislative Action Update

Anisha Munshi, VP Legislative Action
anisha_munshi@sccoe.org

Legislative Action Day is scheduled for April 15 and April 16. This is an event where members from all regions assemble in Sacramento to meet with legislators and discuss issues related to education. One of the most important roles we play as administrators is to advocate on behalf of our students and ensure that every student has the opportunity to rise to his/her highest potential. Last year, Region 8 had one of the largest delegations at Legislative Action Day. Our goal is to do the same this year. Details to register for this event will be shared in December.

Please remember that advocacy is not limited to a few days in the year. Members are encouraged to reach out to local legislators and invite them to school and district events. This will allow ACSA to continue having a strong voice and influence legislation related to students and educators. The contact information for legislators was shared last month. Don't forget to share pictures or details of events that are attended by local legislators with me. Our Government Relations team in Sacramento has requested that we share this information with them. Please contact me at anishamun@yahoo.com for further information.

Mentor Program Update

Iris Berke, Mentor Program Coordinator
irisberke@aol.com

Region 8 can provide an experienced Mentor for you, whatever your position, or year serving in it. Applications are available on the ACSA Region 8 website, or contact Iris Berke irisberke@aol.com for information. Anyone interested in serving as a Mentor, please step up. We are hoping to serve more Proteges in the near future! Thank you.



Communications/Media Update

Karen Larson, Chair - Communications/Media
Karen_Larson@sccoe.org

The Region 8 website is up and running at [http://regions.acsa.org/8/!](http://regions.acsa.org/8/) The website is the public facing representation of our organization, and we want it to be as current as possible. Please take a moment to look through the pages to see what is new. Most important, if you represent a committee that has old content sitting on the site, please send me current information and I will get it posted asap. That included calendar events. You can reach me at klarson@sccoe.org

Helpful Calendar Hint: Did you know you can convert the calendar to a list view that is perfect for printing? On the home page, click on "View All Events". This will take you to the calendar. Then, in the upper right, click on "View As". Here you can change it from Month to List.

Career Technical Ed Council Update

Alyssa Lynch - CTE Council Rep
alynch@metroed.net

For the past three years, districts have received Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) funds. State-wide over the past three years \$900 million has been distributed to school districts to enhance and upgrade CTE programs. The goal has also been to jump start programs that help fill the skillgap. The bad news is that the funds are set to expire at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. The good news is that many assembly members understand the value of Career Technical Education and right now there is more talk in Sacramento about the future of K-12 CTE in California than there has been in the last 8 years. The First of two hearings will be held Monday, October



nd at Buena Park High School in Buena Park. The panel/hearing will be hosted by Assembly member Patrick O'Donnell, chair of the Assembly Education Committee as well as other members. On August 23, Alyssa Lynch and her team met with the Department of finance and other assembly members regarding the future of CTE. Governor Jerry Brown attending the the meeting for a short-time as well.

Classified Ed Leaders Council Update

Sylvia Alvarez - CEL Council Rep
salvarez@ogsd.net

The CEL Council began the 2017/2018 school year with a busy agenda, which included a lot of planning. One of the hi-lights of our planning included the coordination of three classified leadership strands. These sessions will offered during the Leadership Summit, beginning November 2-4, at the San Jose Convention Center. Guests will have the opportunity to experience a day with the following presenters;

Presenter: Rob Martinez, Ed.D. "Resiliency Guy", Powerful Leadership Through Transformational Resiliency

Presenter: Dr. Kristine Lesperance, "Personal Sanctuary Amidst Turbulence."

Presenter: Kathy Espinoza, Board Certified Professional Ergonomist, with an MBA and a Master's Degree in Work Science/Physiology. "Working with Millennials"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & SAVE THE DATE:

Classified Education Leaders Institute, March 1-2, 2018, Redondo Beach, Crown Plaza Hotel

***Scholarships Available to cover cost of registration**

***Email salvarez@ogsd.net for more information**

Feel free to email me; I look forward to meeting you. I am available to answer any questions you may have about attending the CEL Institute and the many benefits of why you should attend. Looking forward to hearing from our entire valuable region 8 Classified Managers and Confidentials.

Educational Options Council Update

Mary Ann Dewan - Ed Options Council Rep
maryann_dewan@sccoe.org

The Educational Options Council met on September 8, 2017 in the Sacramento ACSA Office. Anisha Munshi attended on behalf of Dr. Dewan. The Council watched a video entitled "What is your hope?" The video is available here: <https://youtu.be/dlcU5uHMdTM> (5 minutes). The Council reviewed bylaws and approved some revisions to the bylaws, including adding an option for ACSA retired members to serve as Council members. The Council received an update from CDE about the Accountability System for alternative schools. Cindy Kazanis, Director Analysis, Measurement & Accountability and Reporting Division & Jenny Singh, Administrator of the Accountability Unit, CDE discussed the Development Status of the Statewide School Accountability Dashboard, the emerging approach for inclusion of alternative measures within the accountability framework, and the new expanded definition of alternative schools approved by the SBE. The Council discussed DACA and pending changes that may impact students and staff. Finally, the Council discussed CTE pathways within alternative education. The next meeting of the Council is on Wednesday, November 1 at the ACSA Leadership Summit.

Equity, Achievement & Diversity Committee Update

Sheila Murphy-Brewer, Equity Committee Rep
smurphy@musd.org

General Information: Each region is encouraged to host/sponsor at least one networking event that is equity focused. Regions have a budget that can be allocated to supporting these events. The event(s) should support the regions action plan and focus on equity. These events represent an element of support to diverse members, tool for recruitment/retention, as well as career aspiration support.

Legislative Action Update: Six DACA recipients have filed a case against President Trump's decision to end DACA

- ACSA may get behind the case
- Each region is encouraged to host/sponsor at least one networking event
Willful Defiance stakeholder meeting being held with Governor

ACSA Leadership Summit Equity Strand Info: The Equity Committee will be hosting the equity strand at the summit to be held in San Jose Nov. 1-4. The strand includes a career networking hour, networking events, equity panel luncheon, breakout sessions, and the equity pre-conference.

We also need help marketing with regards to boosting awareness and registration at the **Equity Pre-Conference** to be held at the Leadership Summit in San Jose on November 1. This event is part of the equity strand that the committee is hosting. Registration is currently low due to lack of awareness. We surely do not want to cancel such an event when equity is such an important topic. As you know, **Dr. Jeff Duncan Andrade** is a phenomenal keynote speaker. Seeing him for \$99 is a deal! Please help us at ACSA to promote this event and boost registration.

Special Ed & Student Services Update

Rose DuMond, Sp. Ed. & Student Services Council Rep
mzrosed@gmail.com

The Student Services and Special Education Council met at the State ACSA offices in Sacramento September 22nd. Led by Council Secretary, John Porter, representatives throughout the State were provided orientation if they were new members to the team, learned about the latest in all things ACSA and then specifically learned about new points in legislation effecting our work in Student Services and Special Education.

A large point of focus for the group was in the planning for Every Child Counts (ECC) Symposium which will again be held at the Anaheim Marriott, February 14-16. "Equity+Opportunities=Possibilities" is the theme. The size of this event requires a small army of individuals and many are the volunteers coming from this council will be pitching in to support registration, vendors, raffles, presenters, communications, audio visual/media and facilities.

Topics of interest and presented throughout the remainder of this Council meeting included a personal contact with Kirsten Wright, Director of the Special Education Division at CDE. She discussed the many challenges effecting the state in response to a suit filed against the department with regard to compliance monitoring. She stated that special education data will be in the spotlight and more ramp up will be seen in data monitoring. Adonai Mack, ACSA Legislative Advocate, provided a short presentation on IDEA Reauthorization possibly in 2018

or 2019. Of concern in the process of considering improvements to the statute includes the challenges of providing adequate protections to ensure students receive a free, appropriate public education when the direction of the protections interfere with opportunities to provide a quality education. And, finally, a presentation was provided by Marcy Gutierrez, partner with Lozano Smith, Attorneys at Law, on Meeting the Needs of Students with Trauma - A New Disability? This is of particular interest given recent litigation regarding consideration of trauma as a disabling condition for a 504 plan. This is yet unsettled.

There are many things of interest, many things happening in the world of student services and special education. We all look forward to the ECC in February and the next Council meeting. Please let me know if you are interested in resources regarding any of these items.

State Retirement Committee Update

Sheila McGann-Tiedt, State Retirement Committee Rep
smcganttiedt@yahoo.com

Here are the notes from the June 2017 meeting of the ACSA State Retirement Committee. The next meeting of the Committee will be at the ACSA Leadership Summit, November 2-4, San Jose Convention Center.

New STRS Board Member Appointed: Karen Yamamoto, a former teacher, is the newest STRS Board Member. Her appointment by Governor Brown was well received by educators around the state. This position has gone unfilled for several years.

New STRS Office Tower is Being Explored: STRS is exploring the possibility of building a ten-story office tower in the next few years. The rationale is that more staff are needed and that it is less expensive to have in-house employees. Committee members expressed concern about the outlay for such a building noting that there may be fewer teachers in the future. The current investment in local STRS service centers needs to be made clear to STRS members before a new building is proposed. The building proposal will not be presented for quite some time as the rationale is still being reviewed. The Committee also discussed the reason for STRS staff bonuses as educators do not get these. STRS reps explained that staff needs bonuses to augment the salary and to keep highly skilled people. This discussion will be continued with reps from the Committee following up.

SBMA (Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account): There is a surplus of 5.9 billion dollars in the account. Concerns are that this money should be used only as intended, to boost the COLA for retirees and it should not be added to the Defined Benefit Pension program. Currently there are 10,000 retired educators living in poverty and this includes many who retired before 2000. Could the percentage of money allocated to these educators for the SBMA be raised or could the SBMA be raised for all retirees? These questions need to be addressed by the STRS board.

Legislation: Ivàn Carrillo (ACSA Legislative Analyst). There have been several bills in the California legislature to strip benefits from retirees, but none he believes will get to a vote. There is a bill in Congress to eliminate the unfair WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and the GPO (Government Pension Offset). This was introduced by Representative Rodney Davis (R, IL). The California Rule pension issue will be before the California Supreme Court next year. ACSA will submit an "amicus curiae" brief (friend of the court) asking the court to maintain the California Rule which ensures that pensions are a vested right protected by contract law and cannot be cut unless offset by a new benefit of comparable value.

ACSA PAC: 1% of dues go to the PAC. October is grassroots advocacy month where ACSA members reach out to legislators at their local office. Currently the

PAC gets about \$800,000 per year but ACSA is hoping to raise \$3 million. Please go to: acsa.org/donate.

ACSA Leadership Summit: The conference is scheduled for the San Jose Convention Center, November 2-4. Please register at: acsa.org/leadershipsummit. The Region VIII Retirement Committee will host a Region VIII reception on Wednesday, November 2, 5:30-6:30 pm.

Berryessa Charter News

Ginny Pender, Charter President
vpender@bus.net

Berryessa would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Superintendent, Dr. Roxane Fuentes. We are also excited to welcome our new members to ACSA...

- Tony Alberts, AP of Morrill Middle School
- Dr. Roxane Fuentes, Superintendent of BUSD
- Kim Gomez, Admin. Assistant to the superintendent
- Barbara Friedenbach, Director of C&I for BUSD

Berryessa had a great start and we wish everyone success in the 2017-2018 new school year.

Milpitas Charter News

Damon James, Charter President
djames@musd.org

Milpitas Management Association is busily planning activities for our district theme, "A Culture of We". To begin, members are organizing, with the help of the other two unions, a picnic to gather staff members together to bond with one another. Additionally, association members have chosen a committee to help our efforts in supporting each other, the greater members of the district, and the students of the Milpitas Unified School District. Members continually seek out professional development opportunities, and some will be attending the Leadership Forum on Sept. 21 as well as the local ACSA Leadership Summit. Our next fall social is scheduled in late October, and we cannot wait to share beginning of the year triumphs and challenges over some afternoon

Retiree Charter News

Sheila McGann-Tiedt, Charter President
smcganntiedt@yahoo.com

The Retired Charter Activity Plan has been developed and will be reviewed by the Executive Board at the October 3rd meeting. The plan includes ACSA and the Region VIII Retired Charter goals.

The plan focuses on informing members about equity issues in the profession and in the community, making contact with local legislators, outreach to newly retired administrators, continuation of the scholarship program for aspiring administrators, continuation of the mentor program for practicing administrators, organizing the Region VIII reception at the Leadership Summit on November 2, and maintaining communication with Region VIII including meetings, reports, etc.

Speakers at the General Meetings include: Ivàn Carrillo, ACSA Legislative Advocate, Evan Low, Assemblyman, 28 District, and Eric Andrew, 2016-2017 Region VIII representative to the State ACSA Board of Directors. These speakers

will cover topics including pensions, legislative updates on legislation affecting education, equity restorative justice. Our final meeting of the year features aspiring administrators who have been awarded scholarships.

Palo Alto Charter News

Judy Argumedo, Charter President
jargumedo@pausd.org

PAMA was not granted the "me too" raises along with the teacher's union for 2017-18. PAMA has started the meet and confer process with the interim superintendent, Karen Hendricks. A survey was sent out to all members for input on what items needed discussion during the meet and confer process. PAMA has held two meetings to discuss the current MOU, meet and confer process and the possibility of unionizing.

The executive board is considering extending the president position for two years beginning in 2018-19 with the new president, Lisa Hickey, for continuity purposes.

SCCOE Charter News

Matthew Tinsley, Charter President
matthew_tinsley@sccoe.org

COEAA held its first meeting of the new school year on September 8. The group welcomed our new charter officers, Priscila Cabellero - Vice-President of Membership, Michelle Johnson - Vice President of Programs, and Anna Maria Villalobos - Member-at-large. We reviewed and approved our 2017-18 budget and discussed this year's Leadership Summit in San Jose. We concluded by finalizing the year's calendar of activities and by planning our Week of the Administrator celebration.

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
region8acsa@gmail.com

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