



ACSA Superintendency Council Meeting Minutes
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 1, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Sandy welcomed the group and members introduced themselves.

Council members were reminded that if they are not able to attend they need to designate someone from their region or group to attend as their representative.

Council Members in Attendance

Sandy Thorstenson, President

Jim Cloney R 1

Scott Leaman R 2

Esmeralda Mondragon, Alternate R 4

John Porter R 8

Marc Johnson R 9

Dorma Baker R 10

Lori Rhodes R 12

Gabe Soumakian R 13

Ellen Dougherty R 14

Linda Wagner R 15

Skip Roland R 17

Lou Obermeyer R 18

Tony Rosilez R 19

Dennis Byas, CIF Liaison

Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, Large School Districts

Wes Smith, Mid-Size School Districts

Irene Fujii, ROC/P

Dean Conklin, Superintendents Symposium

David Verdugo, AASA Representative

Elliott Duchon, Assoc. Low Wealth Schools

Ramona Robinson Bishop, CAAASA

Christine Frazier, CCSESA Board Member

Jannelle Kubinec, WestEd

Donald Carter, High School Districts Assoc.
Jose Gonzalez, Latino Superintendents
Jim Brown, Retired Superintendents
Marc Winger, School Employers Assoc. California
Laurie Kimbrel, School of Sound Finance
Mary Sakuma, Small School Districts Committee
Tony Smith, Urban School Districts
Don Iglesias, Scribe
David Gomez, ACSA President
Marc Ecker, ACSA President Elect
Karen Stapf Walters, ACSA Interim Executive Director
George Manthey, ACSA Assistant Executive Director, Ed. Services
Julie White, ACSA Assistant Executive Director, Communications
Laura Preston, Legislative Advocate
Adonai Mack, Legislative Advocate

2. Sandy reviewed the agenda for the Superintendents' Symposium to be held January 30 – February 1 in Monterey. Michael Fullan will be the luncheon keynote speaker. John Deasy, LAUSD Superintendent, will speak in support of the "One Voice Initiative" following Fullan. There will be a Superintendents' Forum on Wednesday, January 30th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. regarding the "One Voice Initiative." There will be a debate on the three "One Voice Initiative" topics culminating with a vote to determine Superintendents' positions that will be used to clearly communicate to those who create educational policy that affect our students.

The Wednesday Forum will be an important meeting at the Symposium and it is essential that Council members disseminate information to all superintendents across the state about the importance of their involvement. The Symposium agenda will be focused on the three major reform areas of the "One Voice Initiative" ending on Friday with Action Plan development by regions.

3. Gary Rutherford has been selected as ACSA's nominee for the AASA Superintendent of the Year, pending approval of the ACSA Executive Committee.

4. Sandy clarified questions from Council members. She mentioned that reimbursement for the Council meetings covers three of the six meetings. The other three meetings are held in conjunction with CSBA, the Symposium and the ACSA Leadership Summit. This is the only year that only two meetings were reimbursable

as the November 1 meeting was not connected to the Leadership Summit. We are looking at ways to address costs in the future. One idea is to move the council meeting back to a time in conjunction with the Leadership Summit. Another idea is to use technology, video conferencing, for example.

5. The March Council meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. (rather than 9:00 a.m.) and will conclude at 2:00 p.m. It is difficult to start the meeting at 9:00 a.m. because of limited early morning flights.

6. Karen Stapf-Walters mentioned that the Legislative Policy Committee's Chair is Superintendent Linda Kaminski, Azusa School District. Process includes asking for ideas from ACSA committees, councils, and delegate assembly. It's important to know we are all thinking similar thoughts. The committee has put a survey together checking with members on their input of key issues. There are similar themes and issues throughout the state, among members, that match the key areas of the "One Voice Initiative." The three areas include school finance, common core standards, and human resources issues. Linda and Karen will work closely together along with Governmental Relations staff to provide communication on this work to all ACSA members.

7. One Voice Initiative: Some of the regions are effectively using on-line surveys to get the word out to fellow superintendents because of large geographic areas. We must ensure that superintendents in all regions have the opportunity to engage in the discussion regarding priorities,

George Manthey explained that the input discussed at the last meeting under each of the three "One Voice" reform areas was linked to possible actions. The group was asked to review the list of draft actions and eliminate those that should not be the focus or add actions. Groups reported out their proposed changes to the action items for the three areas.

The revisions will be emailed to the Council Members who are then expected to meet with the superintendents in their region before November 30, share these draft actions and seek input. Council members who represent groups other than regions should email the "One Voice" draft proposed actions to the superintendents they represent and invite their feedback. A cover memo will be provided to Council members that will review the purpose and process of the "One Voice" initiative.

E-mail comments from your region or group before November 30 to Karen at kstaphwalters@acsa.org and Sandy at sandy.thorstenson@wuhsd.org.

8. Strategic Plan Update:

David Gomez, Jose Gonzalez and David Verdugo reported that the Strategic Planning team met over five days and developed a new mission statement, and a new name for the association. The name change is "The Alliance of California Education Leaders." (ACEL).

It will now be up to our action teams to come up with implementation details of the strategies. The process will be comprehensive to allow for widespread input and time for adequate reflection. A copy of the draft Strategic Plan was distributed to the group. Questions were raised about the role of superintendents in the organization and concerns were expressed about the organization becoming spread too thin if educational leaders other than administrators were allowed to join. This is just the beginning of our discussion around the draft plan. To Participate on an action team or provide input on the draft plan, please go to www.acsa.org/ActionTeam-application.

9. Distinguished Schools Program:

CDE is in the process of revamping the program. Mary Fraser and Craig Cheslog from CDE presented to the group, representing Superintendent Torlakson. There will be expansion of the recognition criteria to include eight or nine different categories for Distinguished Schools. High performing schools at or above the 90th percentile will be eligible for Distinguished School status.

There will also be development of criteria for schools that have made and sustained growth over time.

The more ways to recognize schools, the better. The CDE is seeking input on how to honor these schools that are making heroic gain but don't meet all criteria.

Should criteria include the number of years of growth? CDE will be working on the Distinguished School Program for 2014 and would like input. Feedback included agreement that recognizing schools as "Rising Stars" with improved learning over time is important and of value.

10. An ACSA Delegation, led by Sherry Skelly-Griffith, went to Washington D.C. to speak on our issues. David Verdugo reported that key issues were the sequestration (plan for reduction of funds) of Federal funds, reauthorization of ESEA, Charter Schools, IDEA, Career Tech Education, and Preschool. We may see a 9 or 10% cut in Federal funds by 2014.

11. Ilene Strauss from the SBE was invited to attend to update the Council on the current work of the State Board specifically in the areas of the Common Core, Assessment and Finance. She also came to listen to our thoughts and engage in conversation with us. Ilene is recently retired and has served as a school administrator for three decades in a wide range of socioeconomic school districts and was recently appointed to the State Board by Governor Brown. She networks with Sherry over SBE agenda items and Sharon Robison on CTC issues. She is accessible and willing to hear from us on issues. The SBE has good representation and has clear alignment with the Governor now. There are three ACSA members on the State Board.

The State Board is reaching out. There will be a series of meetings regarding the following topics:

State Finance: The Governor is interested in looking at the complex school funding model and recasting a new version of the weighted student formula. SBE and the Governor are seeking input on a new weighted student formula. Three meetings have been scheduled to solicit input. Governor Brown is interested in local flexibility on a number of issues.

Common Core: Working to go deeper on issues and working on more effective roll out of the Common Core. Much discussion ensuing on materials and training. Instructional Quality Commission has been deeply engaged in this work. The CDE is working closely with the county offices to have them facilitate the roll out. CDE staff are conducting workshops across the state on implementation of common core.

Assessment: The governor wants less testing. Looking at what is required by the state, by the Smarter Balance Committee, and federal requirements. As we adopt the common core, we need to look at other states and the materials they have developed. Can we do sample matrix testing? Can we make a quicker turn around on results? What do we do at the high school level to link with the colleges and make the assessments more relevant?

Discussion from Council Members:

This transition to common core is too important for us not to do it right. We need to look at what other states are doing regarding assessment.

Do we know what the Feds want, in terms of accountability and showing student growth?

We need to make sure that the EL standards are closely linked to common core standards.

CDE needs to be less compliance driven.

The Council thanked Ilene Straus for her openness and earnestness to work closely with us now and in the future.

The next Superintendency Council meeting will be held on Friday, November 30 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in conjunction with CSBA in San Francisco. Regions need to have their final discussion of the “One Voice” draft of proposed actions as soon as possible but no later than November 29. Council members need to email this input to kstaphwalters@acsa.org and sandy.thorstenson@wuhsd.org immediately following your region/superintendents’ meeting.

The Council agenda on November 30 will be split between final work on the “One Voice” initiative to prepare for the Symposium and discussion with a guest from the Instructional Quality Commission who will talk with us about the IQCs work on the Common Core.

Sandy adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting notes reviewed by Sandy Thorstenson and Karen Stapf Walters.