

Spring, 2009-10

Volume 9, Issue 3

OCHo

ACSA

Region 8 Newsletter

***Association of California School Administrators  
Region 8 - Santa Clara County***

**From the President**



**Steve Hope  
President**

It is hard to believe that March and spring are already upon us. There are many folks who volunteer to represent Region 8 in a variety of capacities and who work on our behalf both at the state level and locally. Without these selfless individuals, we would not have as active a region as we do. Before the end of the year activities demand all of our attention, however, I want to highlight and thank two very special individuals whose efforts touch all of us locally.

As I write this today, approximately 20 Region 8 members are in Sacramento meeting with our elected representatives to ensure that they understand the issues we face as administrators and how they can improve public education. Recruiting members to attend and organizing this day is a monumental task. Sylvia Evans from Metro Ed has done an outstanding job for us. She makes sure that Region 8 folks meet key legislators, arranges housing, and makes sure that everyone is prepared for these encounters. This effort ensures that our message gets through and provides an invaluable experience in advocacy for our members.

The second person I would like to thank is Lety Villa-Gascon, principal of Rancho Milpitas Middle School. Lety is our Programs Chair and as such has had the responsibility for organizing all of Region 8's programs. These have included recognition for our colleagues at each of our Leadership Forums, cutting edge technology information at a session hosted by Cisco, and a mini-conference dealing with current educational trends and research as presented in the book *Mindset*. Lety's tireless efforts in this arena have provided engaging professional activities that benefit all of us and keep Region 8 vibrant and growing.

As we move into the spring, we begin to deal with the implications of budget decisions made in Sacramento for 2010-11. ACSA's representatives in Sacramento will be spending much of their time advocating on our behalf. Part of their efforts are also directed at keeping members apprised of what is happening. As the federal stimulus dollars run out, events in Sacramento surrounding budget negotiations will have an even larger impact on public education. The ACSA web site at [www.acsa.org](http://www.acsa.org) is a great place to keep up with the constantly changing landscape in Sacramento. We also try to post this information on the Region's web site as well at [www.region8.acsa.org](http://www.region8.acsa.org). It is important to stay informed and if you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of your other ACSA Region 8 Executive Board.

**- - Steve Hope**

**Region 8 President, 2009-2010**

**[steve.hope@mvla.net](mailto:steve.hope@mvla.net)**

## **Charter, Council, & Committee Updates . . .**

**Alum Rock Charter:** Nancy Gutierrez, President, reported that they recently facilitated "PD on the Go," professional development for principals and by principals. The topic focused on the concept of RtI for Teachers, and we were honored to have two principals from Rocketship Public Schools, one of our community partners, join us. We discussed the various tiers of teacher support and engaged in courageous conversations about the role administrators play in ensuring excellent teaching and learning at every school. In addition, they nominated and honored Alum Rock administrators for every ACSA category. The Executive Board honored each individual with a glass star, balloons and a certificate, delivered personally by the ARAA Prize Patrol. We are very proud that three of our nominees were chosen as ACSA Region 8 Administrators of the Year!

**Morgan Hill Charter:** Patrick Buchser, President, reported that they are continuing to work on focusing on Educational Equity and we are moving into RtI with the arrival of our new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. The current budget reduction to our District is about \$1 million. This number could have been higher but our Business department and budget committee worked closely with each other last year as well as this year. They planned for another "financial hit" this year while not sacrificing needed services for kids. Last year, classified took the hit and for this year, we unfortunately will have to lay off some teaching staff.

**San Jose Charter:** Melanie Amaris, President, stated that this school year has brought new leadership, new ideas, and new energy to the organization, as well as a focus on succession planning and a revival of the Meet and Confer committee. This committee has met with the Superintendent regarding important issues. In difficult budget times it is critical that they have one strong voice to influence decision-making, and the committee is that voice. As the year continues, San Jose Administrators Association (SJAA) will do its best to represent all the administrators.

After a districtwide survey to assess interests of administrators, SJAA sponsored two panel presentations: (1) the first was for all classified personnel interested in becoming Confidential, with members from the Superintendent's Council and Confidentials sharing important information, as well as details from the HR about the application process; and (2) a second panel was a Principal's Panel where Assistant Principals and administration credential candidates were treated to some great information and asked questions of current principals. The next steps will include a series of training sessions to sharpen the skills of interested candidates.

Social activities continue, including TGIF's, a fabulous Holiday Breakfast, and Bocce Ball. It was fun and relaxing to interact (and compete) with colleagues outside of the workplace.

**Milpitas Charter:** Damon James, President, reported that they are busy trying to pass an \$84 parcel tax for the district. Charter members are organizing parent house meetings in order to spread the word about budget deficits facing the district. Members continue to push forward in working to close the achievement gap by utilizing a walk-through tool to capture student engagement in the classroom. Members not assigned to a school site continue to work to ensure that district processes are supportive to site goals.

**Career, Technical, Education (CTE) Council:** Alyssa Lynch reported that on March 3 San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce hosted a forum at Adobe Systems called Paying It Forward: the Economic Case for Business Engagement in Schools. The event was moderated by Dr. Charles Weis, SCCOE Superintendent. Keynote speaker Dr. Pat Ainsworth from California Department of Education provided valuable data supporting the value of Career Technical Education to students, schools and local businesses. The session wrapped up with a call to action providing business attendees with multiple options of how they could partner with schools to support the 21st Century Career Choice Programs in Santa Clara County.

**Business Services Council:** Ann Jones reported that the Council met in Sacramento on February 24 with staff from the LAO and the Legislature. They discussed the special session budget issues including the need to defer cash payments within the fiscal year. Both staff from the Assembly and Senate stated that little work was being done on the budget and probably wouldn't be done until after the May Revise. They did say the Legislature was not interested in the Governor's attempt to include policy decisions related to contracting out or changing layoff notices, in the budget act. The Council pushed for the need to maintain CSR flexibility through 2012-13. They shared that all were looking at increasing class size for K-3 & high school as well as furlough days. The next meeting is scheduled for May 26 where the major topic will be the May Revise and State Budget for 2010-11.

*continued on page 4*

## **Update from State ACSA - March Madness!**

Greetings to all our ACSA members and educational leaders in Region 8. First, let me start by thanking you for the many ways in which you continue to serve public education. Every single role is important and critical in ensuring "all students have the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel." It is especially important, too, that you take care of yourself and those around you during these times of March Madness.

It is madness that funding for public education continues to dwindle.

It is madness that schools are on a "failure list" with madness methods used to determine the list.

It is madness that the Governor and the Legislature don't keep their promises to public education.

It is madness that the Governor continues to manipulate Proposition 98.

It is madness that we still have to fight so hard for local control.

It is extreme madness that our people, OUR educators have to suffer so many layoffs!

Through all of this, YOUR leadership is of utmost importance. "Leadership Matters" is more than a slogan or a rallying cry. It is the substance of what we need to get through some very difficult times. As one of my teachers said, "Tough times never last but tough people do." I have to add that that our "toughness" will come from our focus on deepening and extending our understanding, our patience, and our caring for each other. I also have to add that it is important to start with yourself. Model the patience, understanding, and caring to yourself first as a way to have more to give to others. In addition, let's all remember to put the "Human" in Human Resources as our organizations are challenged with unprecedented cutbacks.

ACSA continues to lead the way in fighting for our students. There are so many big picture items on the horizon (for example, Core Standards at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org), the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/ESEA, etc.) that we have to continue to be involved on so many fronts. Stay in the loop; give feedback to your respective Councils and Committees; continue to advocate for our students as the decisions and big picture items before us will have lasting and deep impact.

Let me conclude by thanking you for your support in our ACSA Vice President journey. I am very humble and honored to have the opportunity to represent you and ACSA as a candidate. The election is May 13 and will take place in Sacramento at the State Delegate Assembly meeting. We want to give a special "THANK YOU" to Dr. Lisa Gonzales for her leadership in our campaign.

Finally, I hope to see you at our Annual Awards Ceremony. Thanks to Lety Villa-Gascon, Region 8 Programs Chair, for coordinating this special recognition event. In tough times, it is even more important to stop and recognize our service to public education.

May You Continue To Champion Public Education,

- - Dr. Joel Ruiz Herrera  
Proud Region 8 Board Director

**Congratulations to Yvette Irving - Director of Curriculum and Instruction in San Jose USD - Recipient of the 2009 Summit for Courageous Conversation - Summit Leadership Award.** The Summit Leadership Award is presented to Administrators who skillfully and courageously establish an equity/anti-racist culture and climate in schools that enables all staff and students, especially those of color, to feel their power and achieve at higher levels. In her career, Yvette has received the ACSA Administrator of the Year award for Valuing Diversity, the Benito Juarez Humanitarian Award, and the Multicultural Education Award from San Jose State University. Yvette has also been honored twice by the California State Legislature for her work in mentoring aspiring educational leaders from historically under-represented populations. Her work has been featured in Glen Singleton's Book Courageous Conversation and in the video journal's Closing the Achievement Gap series. We are proud of Yvette and her accomplishments.

### *Updates from Councils - continued from page 2 . . .*

**Human Resources Council:** Will Ector reported that the Council met again in January to review the fall Personnel Institute held in September at the Berkeley Marina and the Negotiators Symposium held in January in Universal City. Each member gave a summary on events focusing on mid-year cuts, furlough days (instructional/staff development), CSR reductions, proposed school closures, and spring layoffs. Bret McFadden, ACSA's Management Services, presented the finished and first edition of the Collective Bargaining Manual that the Council had been working on over the past year. This is a very comprehensive CD that covers everything from establishing relationships with our bargaining units, to bargaining styles, to a ready to go Strike Manual. This CD is available from ACSA for \$50 a disk. (Well worth it.) Other items addressed included the Race to the Top updates; AB 1025 that requires an Activity Supervisor Clearance for classified employees, paid and unpaid volunteers; and reports from the Liaisons (CTC, Legislative Policy, CEL, PASSCo). Due to the budget challenges throughout the state, the final meeting of the year will be a webinar to be held later this spring.

**Middle Grades Education Council:** Suzanne Barbarasch reported that at their recent meeting Mary Gomes announced a call for proposals for Signature Practice Workshops for the Middle Grades strand at the ACSA Leadership Summit, Nov. 4-6, 2010, in San Diego. Members also provided suggestions for speakers and workshops for the Conference. Suggestions included, among others: How to Build Collaborative Teams, How to do More with Less, and Principal as Staff Developer, as well as speakers such as Doug Fisher and Tom Carroll. Principals would also like to have an opportunity to participate in a school visit. A Middle Grades Leadership Academy is in the planning stages. There is an opening for a Director, and a pilot program is likely. The Academy will be based on the California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (CPSEL's). Sherry Skelly Griffith and Adonai Mack, Legislative Advocates, provided updates on the following: NCLB/ESEA hasn't yet been reauthorized - there is a debate over federal v. state control, as well as discussion about a common core of learning and a student growth model; STAR is in place at least until 2013; State Superintendent's Race - Larry Aceves is the only educator candidate; the list of Persistently Underperforming California Schools, scheduled to be published on the CDE website in late February, will now be published at a later date, as the federal government had concerns about the list. Representatives of the California After Schools Network and the California Association of School Psychologists presented information on state-funded after school programs and Response to Intervention and Instruction, respectively.

### **Leadership 3.0 Symposium**

ACSA, TICAL, and CUE team up each year for a joint technology conference, and this year its April 15 - 17 right here in our own backyard at the Santa Clara Marriott. The symposium is held by administrators for administrators. The keynote speaker is Dr. Yong Zhao, author of "Catching Up or Leading the Way." As one attendee of last year's event described it, "...a visionary conference for administrators which supports and celebrates our journey into the future as we seek to educate students for their future." Region 8 still has some funds that can be used for professional development scholarships. Contact Steve Hope ([steve.hope@mvla.net](mailto:steve.hope@mvla.net)) for more information. To register for Lead 3.0, visit [www.lead3.org](http://www.lead3.org)

## Region 8 - Administrators of the Year - 2010

Each year, ACSA recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions as educational leaders. There are over 19 nomination categories for which a member might be eligible for recognition. Each ACSA region in the State reviews and selects regional awardees who are then forwarded to State ACSA offices for consideration in the Statewide program.

Thanks to the many Region 8 members who believe that leadership matters and took time to nominate a colleague for an award. Region 8 is proud to recognize the following individuals as 2010 Administrators of the Year in Region 8.

Middle Grades Principal ..... Nancy Gutierrez  
 Elementary Principal ..... Marty Lux  
 Central Office ..... Kathy Harris  
 Secondary Co-Administrator ..... Barbara Campbell  
 Elementary Co-Administrator ..... Adriana Ramos  
 Classified Manager ..... Philip Benfield  
 Confidential Employee ..... Carol Bartholomew  
 Adult Education Administrator ..... Carolyn Richardson  
 Special Education Administrator ..... Laurene Beto  
 Pupil Personnel Administrator ..... Ana Trujillo  
 Curriculum and Instruction Administrator ..... Yee Wan  
 Robert E. Kelly Award ..... Mitsu Kumagai  
 Partners in Education Excellent Award ..... Xilinx Corporation  
 Every Student Succeeding ..... Jessica Ybarra  
 Outstanding Media Coverage  
 of Public Education Award ..... Shannon Barry (*Milpitas Post*)

Please join us in recognizing these esteemed Region 8 leaders at our May 19 Award Ceremony at the Silver Creek Country Club. A reservation form is below.

### Congratulations to all of the 2010 nominees!

<p><b>ACSA Region 8</b></p> <p><b>Annual Awards Dinner and Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday, May 19, 2010</b></p> <p><b>Silver Creek Country Club, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.</b></p>	
<p><b>Name:</b> _____</p>	<p><b>District:</b> _____</p>
<p><b>Contact Phone:</b> _____</p>	<p><b>Email:</b> _____</p> <p><small>Please be sure your email is one that will accept emails from us.</small></p>
<p><b>Reservations Required:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No Charge for ACSA Members</li> <li>➤ Award recipients permitted one guest at no charge</li> <li>➤ \$50 for Non-ACSA members</li> <li>➤ <b>Registration Deadline: May 11, 2010</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>For questions call Bob Lowry at (408) 266-0739</b>  <b>or Erica Gilbert at (650) 559-3200</b></p>	
<p>Make checks payable to <b>ACSA Region 8</b>              No POs, credit cards, or cash will be accepted</p> <p>ACSA and Non-ACSA Members mail reservations to:  <b>Leticia Villa-Gascon</b>  <b>Rancho Milpitas Middle School</b>  <b>1915 Yellowstone Ave.</b>  <b>Milpitas, CA 95035</b></p>	

## Welcome! New ACSA Members

### January

Christina Castro - San Jose USD  
 Jill Fraka - San Jose USD  
 (student member)  
 Tom Huynh - East Side Union SD  
 Angela Lyon - Mountain View Whisman  
 Neil Rauschhuber - Alum Rock  
 Sara Smith - Santa Clara USD

### February

Karen Barrett - Cupertino USD  
 Janet Boehme - Gilroy USD  
 Aine Garcia-Post - San Jose USD  
 Pamela Hoult - Campbell UHSD  
 Armando Lara - Evergreen ESD  
 Teri Morrow - Santa Clara USD  
 Depanjana Mukherjee - San Jose USD  
 Eric Peterson - Campbell ESD

## Legislative Action Day - May 15

Region 8 participation at Legislative Action Day on March 15 was a huge success with 26 members meeting with our seven elected officials! The very best news: more than half who attended had never participated in Leg Action Day. The bleak news, to quote directly from Superintendent Jack O'Connell, "The state budget is a four letter word, "ugly." The financial crisis was reiterated in the visitations with legislators.

Two major items were stressed in these visits: (1) to support Proposition 98 and (2) not allow the base year to be manipulated as proposed by the Governor. Another request was for support of AB 2095 (Brownley), an ACSA-sponsored legislation, to assure teachers will have the tools necessary to serve the more than two million English learners and students with disabilities and to further close the achievement gap for these students.

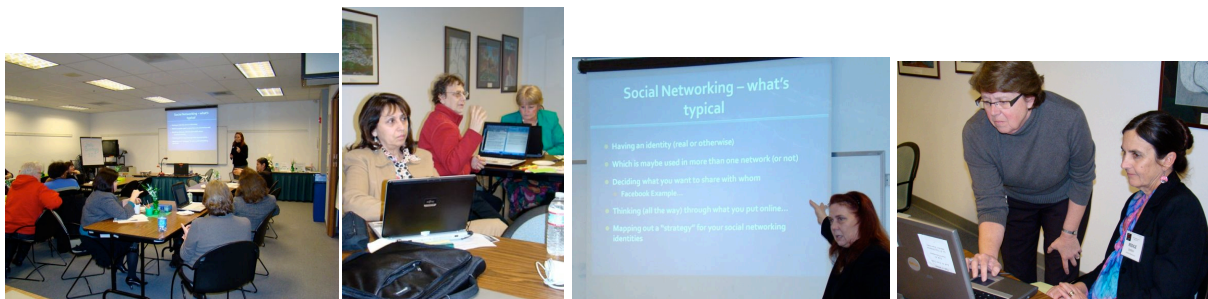
The Region 8 website has more details from our visits with the legislators - you will see what Assembly Member Jim Beall is doing related to autism costs; plus Senator Joe Simitian's parcel tax legislation; and how the Democratic Assembly Leader plans to address this year's budget. ([www.region8.acsa.org](http://www.region8.acsa.org))

-- Sylvia Evans, Leg. Action Rep.

## Women's Leadership Network

The Women's Leadership Network hosted its third professional development event of the year on Thursday, March 4 with its workshop, "Tech Training 101 - by Women for Women." SCCOE Chief Technology Officer and ACSA member Dr. Kelly Calhoun provided information and answered many questions about how to be safe and maintain privacy in a web2.0 world. Technology for Leadership Partnership Coordinator Paula Hundley taught about how to use your cell phone for....well....just about everything. Did you know that you can text Google and put in Starbucks and your zip code and get the nearest location? Or put in "weather" and your zip code and receive a text message? Attendees learned this and much more as resources like Twitter and Doodle were presented by ACSA member and TICAL cadre leader Dr. Lisa Gonzales closed the workshop with a final presentation.

The final workshop will focus on negotiations and will be held on Saturday, May 22. This full-day event will be one not to miss as participants will learn powerful techniques that lead to win/win negotiation success and plenty of time for networking while practicing new skills. For more information, contact Brenda at (408) 453-6504.



Left to right: Large back of room shot ; ACSA members Martha Martinez, Sandi Yellenberg, and Tish Nielsen; Dr Kelly Calhoun shares the strengths and pitfalls of social networking sites; and Paula Hundley (Technology for Learning Partnership Coordinator - SCCOE) assists attendees during the exploration of new websites.



## Update from Membership

More than two dozen ACSA and prospective ACSA members made it out to Billy Berk's Restaurant in downtown San Jose on March 5. This was the second membership social of the year and while attendees were relaxing in San Jose, ACSA members from other regions around the state were doing the same. March Madness proved an evening to meet new friends. Congratulations to Alum Rock's Irma Manzo who won the door prize - an iPod shuffle.



Left to right: Irma Manzo (Fiscal Services Director in Alum Rock) who won the door prize - an iPod; Tony Frascione (Asst. Principal in Milpitas USD) and Dr. Joel Herrera (Director in Oak Grove SD); and Erik Burmeister (State Membership Chair - ACSA and Principal in Union SD), Martha Martinez (District/School Support Director - SCCOE), Mary Berkey (HR Director in Union SD), and Lisa Gonzales (Coordinator - SCCOE)

Our membership count has remained steady this year, and we thank you all for your commitment to ACSA. We've been one of the few regions that hasn't seen drops due to layoffs and position elimination. During challenging budget times, it reminds us to ask what ACSA does for us. So, what does ACSA do for us? Professional development is one of the key areas of ACSA's focus, and this year the offerings have begun to include more webcasts and webinars that are free for participants and can be done in your office with no travel requirements.

Membership in ACSA also means a team of support in Sacramento for key legislation and constant, unwavering advocacy for funding. In recent weeks, ACSA has been instrumental in its participation at hearings for State Board of Education members whose positions seem to be counterproductive to public education.

Don't forget that professional assistance is available. If you have questions about March 15 notices, layoffs, dismissal, demotion, or need support with the \$1 million insurance policy, you can call for support from our Professional Standards Advocates by calling (800) 608-ACSA. Are you a potential first-time Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent? If so, ACSA will assist you with negotiating that first contract. Give the 800 number a call for more information.

Finally, we're all interested in saving a bit of money, and entertainment discounts are huge! For example, if you want to take two adults and two children to Great America, you can save \$106 on tickets! Save \$20 for that same family to head to the San Diego Zoo Wild Animal Park. Call TSA for more information (800) 537-8491.

- - Lisa Gonzales, Membership VP

## Update from Programs

It is not too late to RSVP for the ACSA Region 8 Mini-Conference with **Allison Master** on **MindSet on Thursday, March 25!** Contact **Lety Villa-Gascon** to see if there is still space available! She will even take your RSVP over email. (lvilla@musd.org)

- - Lety Villa-Gascon, Principal  
Rancho Milpitas Middle School, 408-635-2656

## **ACSA - Region 8 2009-2010**

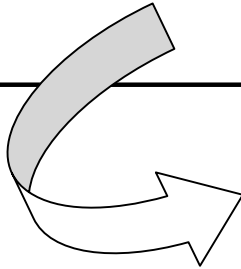
**Steve Hope**  
President  
(650) 940-4675  
steve.hope@mvla.net

**Patricia Einfalt**  
Executive Director  
(650) 493-6105  
pjreinfalt@sbcglobal.net

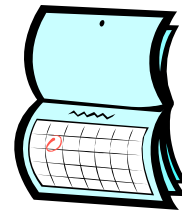
**Virginia (Ginny) Fahimi**  
Ocho Editor  
Region 8 Secretary  
(925) 516-1375  
gfahimi@yahoo.com

### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

- **Region 8 Mini-Conference**, Thursday, March 25, (See page 7)
- **Executive Board Meeting**, Thursday, April 1, at Hobee's in Cupertino
- **Executive Board Meeting (3:30pm) and Leadership Forum (4:30pm)**, Wednesday, May 5 at SCCOE
- **Region 8 Annual Awards Dinner**, Wednesday, May 19 at Silver Creek Country Club (See page 5 to sign up.)



**Save these  
dates!**



**Association of California School Administrators**  
**ACSA - REGION 8**  
Ginny Fahimi, *OCHO* Editor  
P. O. Box 1873  
Brentwood, CA 94513