

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS

BUSINESS SERVICES COUNCIL

May 7, 2008

ACSA Third Floor Conference Room, Sacramento, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Members

Region 13, Jeff Baarstad, President
Region 1, Wes Grossman
Region 2, Joan Kingery
Region 3, Cindy Petersen
Region 5, Elaine Ogawa
Region 7, Patricia McGuire
Region 8, Chris Jew

Region 13, Jon Sand
Region 16, Rex Patton
Region 18, Karl Christensen
Region 19, Wendell Tucker
Region 9, James Foley,
President-Elect

David Gasser, ACSA Staff Liaison
Brett McFadden, ACSA Staff Liaison
Adonai Mack, ACSA Staff
Mike Bossi, ACSA Staff

GUESTS

Dennis Myers, CASBO Assistant Executive Director
Jeff Frost, Frost, Davis and Donnelly

MEETING RECORDER: Jeff Baarstad, President

MEETING MINUTES:

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Jeff Baarstad welcomed Council members and requested they introduce themselves.
2. The minutes of the February 26 Business Services Council meeting were reviewed and approved. Karl Christensen from Region 18 was elected to serve as Council President-Elect in 2008-09. As the President-Elect, he will also serve as the Council's representative on the Legislative Policy Committee. James Foley of Region 9, the current President-Elect will assume the office of President in 2008-09, while the current President, Jeff Baarstad of Region 13 will be Past-President.
3. The Council engaged in a discussion of its current Goals and Objectives and proposed Goals and Objectives for 2008-09. Current Goals and Objectives include: 1). Providing Council members with the most up to date information on finance/budget and school business issues. This includes opportunity for direct interaction with ACSA and CASBO legislative staff to obtain information and provide staff with feedback to shape legislative positions. 2). Perform direct lobbying of legislators and legislative staff on finance/budget and school business issues. 3). Hold quick response phone conferences between Council members and ACSA staff as needed to provide input on emerging fiscal and school business issues to shape initial ACSA policy responses. 4). Contribute to training and continuing education programs for current and future CBOs. Council members expressed strong support for continuing and expanding on the existing goals. With respect to Goal 1, direct information

and feedback to and from ACSA and CASBO staff, suggested topics included transportation, STRS, negotiations, health benefits, facilities issues and charter schools. Members were strongly supportive of continuing Goal 2, the direct lobbying of legislators and their staff, taking advantage of the Council's Sacramento meeting location. Members felt like these efforts were making a difference, and were unique to the Business Services Council. Members suggested continued meetings with LAO representative Jennifer Kuhn and Rick Simpson from the Assembly Speaker's staff. The Council will also strive to provide more consistent participation on ACSA's Legislative Policy Committee. ACSA staff was pleased that the members still see the value in the quick response phone conferences, and the next conference was scheduled for May 20 at 3:00 pm to provide feedback on the Governor's May-Revise budget proposal. The Council also discussed potential venues and topics for future CBO training presentations.

4. ACSA Management Services Executive Brett McFadden presented an overview of the newly created ACSA Governmental Relations Management Services Program. Brett will oversee the program, which will provide individual member and school district professional development and consultation services in the areas of school management, finance, collective bargaining and program operations. ACSA will partner with Total School Solutions to provide budget and policy advisories and workshops, and with SEAC to continue the very successful Collective Bargaining Summits as well as training and consultation on negotiations topics. ACSA will partner with the California Association of School Psychologists on the Response to Intervention Program, and will also develop a Charter School Advisory Committee within ACSA. The ACSA Education Legal Support Fund will also be included within the program unit. Brett presented more in-depth information on several negotiations training programs and solicited feedback from the Council on proposed topics for the training.
5. Mike Bossi, Director of ACSA's Leadership Coaching program provided a description of a proposed Central Office Leadership Coaching program. Mike explained why leadership development is so important to ACSA, and summarized the evolution of the program to date, which has focused on developing the skills of principals and site administrators. The next phase of the program is to expand to superintendents and other central office leaders. Council members provided input for the development of qualifications for program coaches, as well as identifying the challenges faced by new central office leaders. Mike asked for a volunteer from the Council to serve on a design committee for the program. Because it involves a very significant time commitment, no member came forward. As an alternative, the Council requested that Mike return to Council meetings in the future with program updates and opportunities to solicit Council feedback on selected topics.
6. Following lunch, ACSA Legislative Advocate Adonai Mack, Jeff Frost of the firm Frost, Davis and Donnelly, and Dennis Meyers, Assistant Executive Director of CASBO provided information and participated in discussions centered on the soon to be released 2008-09 May-Revise budget proposal. Estimates of the potential deficit in the 2008-09 State Budget range from \$15 - \$20 billion. It was noted that the focused efforts of the Education Coalition to attack the Governor's proposals to suspend, and significantly cut Prop. 98 as part of an across-the-board cut of the State budget were softening his stance on that approach. How much of a cut to education would remain in the May-Revise proposal was unknown, but the Governor has indicated his priorities are preserving revenue limit and special education funding, while providing school districts with more budget flexibility. Potential legislative scenarios involving program cuts vs. tax increases were discussed. It was the consensus opinion that both Democrats and Republicans would hold stubbornly to their respective

ideologies, and that a protracted budget stalemate was probable. Council members provided significant input with regard to priorities for educational cuts and spending increases.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL:

1. Minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting were approved.
2. Karl Christensen was elected to serve as President-Elect in 2008-09.