



Association of California School Administrators

SUPERINTENDENCY COUNCIL

Notes of Meeting of November 5, 2009
ACSA Sacramento Office, in conjunction with the
ACSA Leadership Summit at the Sacramento Convention Center

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS -- Phil Quon

President Phil Quon welcomed the council at 9:05 am. Attendees introduced themselves.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING – The Council....

- Reacted affirmatively to the work of the ACSA Task Force on Assessment and Accountability which is getting keen interest in Sacramento and Washington. Council members reviewed the draft's principles given for the strands of Accountability for Excellence and Equity, Standards, Performance Measures, and Incentives and Interventions.
- Engaged in discussion with Glen Thomas and Gavin Payne on the state's ability to become qualified for Race to the Top funding. A major focus of RTTT is helping persistently low performing schools.
- Reviewed the issues in legislative bills to bring California into compliance with Race to the Top. The ACSA survey on use of student achievement data and interventions provided guidance to ACSA's governmental affairs staff.
- Learned from ACSA's advocacy delegation to Washington, DC how the Obama administration is dealing with education issues. ACSA experienced greater access to legislators and administration than in recent years. An asset is having Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana in a key Department of Education leadership role.

ATTENDING (signing in)

Council President: Phil Quon, Region 8

Region Representatives

Region 1: Jim Cloney

Region 2: Sherry J. Smith

Region 3:

Region 4: Sue Field

Region 5: Emerita Orta-Camilleri

Region 6: Dennis Byas
Region 7: Patrick Sweeney
Region 8: John Porter
Region 9: Elaine Cash
Region 10:
Region 11: John Snavelly
Region 12: Marc Jackson
Region 13:
Region 14: David Verdugo
Region 15: Dean Conklin
Region 16: Earl Perkins
Region 17:
Region 18: Janice Cook
Region 19: Elliott Duchon

Committee Members:

Tod Anton, Scribe
Tom Armelino, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
Susan K. Burr, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
Dennis Byas, Superintendents Symposium
Donald Carter, High School Districts Association
Bill Draa, FCMAT
David Gomez, Latino Superintendents
Barry Groves, Mid-Sized School Districts
Don Iglesias, California City Schools Superintendents
Gil Montano, ROC/P
Gavin Payne, California Department of Education
Bob Price, California League of Middle/High Schools
Jane Russo, Large School Districts
Mary Sakuma, Small School Districts Committee
Susan Silver, Association of Low Wealth Schools
Glen Thomas, Education Secretary
Catherine Jovicich Walcott, WestEd
Chuck Weis, ACSA President and Board Liaison
Bob Wells, ACSA Executive Director

Others Attending

Larry Aceves, ACSA Past President
Marc Ecker, ACSA Assessment and Accountability Task Force
Sherry Skelly Griffith, ACSA Governmental Relations
Adonai Mack, ACSA Governmental Relations
Laura Preston, ACSA Governmental Relations
Sal Villaseñor, ACSA Governmental Relations
Karen Stapf Walters, ACSA Assistant Executive Director, Governmental Relations
Julie White, ACSA Assistant Executive Director, Communications

UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Glen Thomas

There appears to be no end to the challenges before us; however, there are opportunities. The Race to the Top will be the focus of reauthorization for ESEA. Low performing schools will be sharply in focus. Why are some schools persistently low performing? Glen shared a sheet of current thinking of the CDE, Governor and the SBE on RTTT. It outlines what local

districts must do. Make sure your neighborhoods have access to quality pre-school programs. A new growth model of accountability is proposed. Examples of potential strategies are bulleted. It will maximize use of federal funds; we must maintain eligibility. We have the chance to have longitudinal data. We will be on a tight timeline to get legislative action to qualify California. How can districts prepare applications on a short timeline? There is no one-size fits all in planning turnaround of low performing schools. Council members noted the importance of the fourth bullet. There are some good models of change in New York City, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. We have some quality experience in use of SAIT and DAIT. How can we get union leadership to engage in change process? What kind of side bar agreements would help a specific school district? Side bar agreements will be needed for content of teacher evaluation and peer review models.

Gavin Payne joined in with Glen Thomas in engaging with superintendents on RTTT. In government, use of research in developing proposals is relative. Collaboration of stakeholders is essential. Innovation must come from states and districts. Districts can build applications based on local needs and experiences. Feds are seeking the best thinking from the field. In teacher preparation we have had recent experience in a variety of ways to prepare teachers. Will common core standards be aligned with our current efforts? The CTA needs to sign off on the state application. Will that occur? It is vital. The governor and the state department are working hard to ramp up support for schools. Does SB X5 1 bring us to qualification for RTTT? While the focus is on persistently low performing schools, we also want to help underperforming schools and, eventually, all schools. What is the metric for measuring growth by schools? We need to find one that works for California in our API process. Gavin said that the CDE and the SBE are encouraging being imaginative in seeking ways to help low performing schools.

Adopting a new curriculum is an example of what a low performing school can do. What will be the definition of a new curriculum? If a school does engage in a new curriculum, it needs appropriate professional development in order to implement. Will there be support for professional development?

We have examples from other states on how we can upgrade skills of principals. How can we get better principals to serve in the lowest performing schools?

Glen and Gavin are pushing out whatever information about federal guidelines is known.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Karen Stapf Walters and Governmental Relations Staff

Federal Update – Sherry Griffith

Sherry briefed the council on the Washington, DC scene and the work in California to qualify for Race to the Top funds. The accountability issue never has a lull. Using data must be a vital part of school improvement. California districts will be seeking Memoranda of Understanding for funding not yet on table. California might receive about \$500 million from RTTT with about half going to low performing schools probably on a formula basis (maybe \$17/pupil) and the rest to the state for projects such as CALPADS.

Sherry shared results of a survey sampling ACSA members' opinion on elements of proposed legislation to qualify for RTTT. Senate Bill X5 1 (Romero) represents the governor's position. The bill has a strong open enrollment thrust. The council, discussing the first three bullets in Glen Thomas' summary sheet noted above, averred that we need more alternatives. We need a differentiated model. We have some high performing districts that

may be labeled for program improvement because of one sub-group status. The bill now has program improvement schools in the lowest three deciles as qualifying. Perhaps districts could identify their lowest 5% and tell the state what they plan to do. The state board says it is willing to provide waivers for creative ideas that have a chance to work. There will be always the lowest 5% for which corrective action must be made. We have to make sure that X5 1 is workable. The state is not willing to take on the collective bargaining issue. Will state data on teachers and principals result in the state rating teachers and principals?

The open enrollment issue – children in low performing schools would have options to transfer to other schools – raises planning and fiscal issues that could be destructive to students' programs. Receiving districts would have limited rights to refuse enrollment. What parents would be able to move their children? The transportation issue is big; some state/federal funded programs might be required to be used to transport children from one district to another. On open enrollment, what will happen to urban schools when 200 or 300 students transfer? It must occur in a responsible way. Contracts and tenure are a major constraint on districts' ability to cope with a sudden drop in enrollment.

The Assembly is working to develop a better plan, an alternative plan. The Education Coalition has asked the SDE and the governor to allow them to be at the table when the application is developed.

State Budget Update – Adonai Mack

State revenue is coming in slower than expected. The Legislative Analyst's Office will come out with a five-year fiscal forecast in a few weeks. Don't expect any good news on budget. The required maintenance of effort for federal programs may deter mid-year cuts.

American Education Week – Adonai Mack

Adonai reported for Julie White that American Education Week will be November 15-21, 2009. Julie White has sent out a survey. Please provide input from your district and its schools. This will help her send out appropriate releases and communications regarding the week.

Swine Flu – Adonai Mack

Adonai shared a letter from the California School Employees Association to Governor Schwarzenegger regarding the H1N1 virus, swine flu. CSEA urges that school districts be flexible in requiring doctor's excuses upon returning to work.

Adonai also shared an early draft of a bill relating to Swine Flu and School Attendance. It is AB 317 (Solorio). This is a bill to recoup ADA if excessive absences occurs from the H1N1 virus. Please offer ideas for this bill to Adonai; he is assisting in the drafting of the bill. One idea offered was to allow schools to use the prior year's attendance. Some parents are keeping children home because they might come in contact with the virus. The bill could be written to address any irregular attendance pattern due to emergency situations.

Quality Education Investment Act Funding – Adonai Mack

Although Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed SB 84, the education coalition has worked with the governor's office and the legislature to find the solution to funding QEIA for 2009-10. AB 56 (Evans) replaces the funding mechanism passed in the July budget that caused concern to many of the QEIA districts and schools. This new bill, which is expected to be signed by

the governor, will ensure QEIA districts are made whole and will not experience a revenue limit cut to offset funding for QEIA. State funds are being moved around; don't expect to receive more fiscal stabilization funds.

Federal Census – Adonai Mack

Next year, 2010, is a federal census year. The census bureau will be asking schools to help parents to fill out census forms. Qualification for federal funds is typically based on census data. It is to the school's advantage to have accurate census data.

Textbook Purchasing and Reform – Sherry Griffith

Sherry reported on an upcoming meeting in Sacramento with the Association of American Publishers on textbook development, delivery and pricing.

CANDIDACY OF LARRY ACEVES FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Larry Aceves, an experienced school district superintendent and state professional leader, is running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide leadership and serve the state of California. In many ways the campaign is our campaign. This is the profession's opportunity to have a state leader who understands the needs of California schools and how to address them. Larry shared his cell phone number with council members. If superintendents want to offer ideas or discuss issues with Larry, call him on his cell phone.

CATEGORICAL PROGRAM MONITORING REVIEWS -- Gavin Payne

There is an ongoing discussion on how schools and the CDE can function with diminishing funding. Facing multiple bad finance years, the CDE put a moratorium on making on-site compliance reviews. While appreciated by school districts, advocacy groups have attacked this saying the needs of some students are being neglected. Now there is serious internal discussion on how to assure compliance without needed resources. Federal compliance issues are a challenge. Council members stated that districts do not have people in place to do compliance reports. Also, there is too much minutia in compliance reporting. That is probably true; however there are legislative and advocacy groups that keep pressuring to correct perceived gaps in school services. The CDE has a major challenge, especially with multiply-funded programs in the consolidated application process.

Council members noted that providing needed services to special education students is even more difficult in a time of diminished resources.

WASHINGTON, D.C. ADVOCACY TRIP UPDATE – Chuck Weis and Jane Russo

Chuck referred to a book by Matt Miller, *The Tyranny of Dead Ideas*. In a chapter on education, the book speculates that local control of education is an obsolete concept? We need to be aware of this view and offer testimony from our experience.

Meeting with members of the Department of Education, the ACSA group got the idea that in some ways Arne Duncan is sounding like NCLB II. While hoping to hear about growth models and support for local initiatives, the group heard about charter schools and common core standards.

The ACSA group was respected in Washington and had access to key people. Officials gave them a lot of time. DOE officials and legislative staff members were interested in what ACSA is doing on its Assessment and Accountability task force and on curriculum content standards. California is big and gets attention.

The ACSA delegation became very cognizant that there are tall walls separating the political parties. Parties seeking power seem to be more important than the quest for sound government. The group became quite aware that health care and energy issues are paramount. California is so fortunate to have Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana in a leadership position in the department. She is the point person on ESEA. The DOE has many top staffers with little or no school experience; there are several lawyers and foundation people. Thelma did hire two principals to work with her. Thelma will be keynote speaker at the ACSA Leadership Summit this Saturday (November 7). Communication to Thelma goes through several people. Chuck Weis and David Gomez do have access to her.

REPORT OF THE ACSA PRESIDENT – Chuck Weis

Chuck Weis noted that the board has cut \$1.2 million from the ACSA budget. Chuck affirmed that we have the best staff an organization could possibly assemble.

ACSA is offering its annual student services symposium, "Every Child Counts, Thriving in a Changing World," in Monterey January 13-15, 2010. Brochures of the symposium were distributed.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE REPORT REVIEW -- Tom Armelino

Tom Armelino shared the work of ACSA's task force on Assessment and Accountability. The October progress report describes the purpose of the task force, provides background on current accountability systems, and states principles for 1) Accountability for Excellence and Equity, 2) Standards, 3) Performance Measures, and 4) Incentives and Interventions. Marc Ecker and Tom Armelino serve on the ACSA Task Force. Sherry Griffith also has worked with the committee to help craft the principles. Tom asked for input and reactions to the draft. The principles were well received and the work of the committee was appreciated. Other comments and reactions included:

Accountability for Excellence and Equity: Can we affirm that students are college ready without need for higher education to remediate? How broad or narrow should this report be? Should we state the place for teacher time for collaboration or is that one of the components of implementation? We need a growth model that measures the same students' skills over time, rather than the annual cohort autopsy. Do we want to *reduce* or *eliminate* the achievement gap? Is there a need for common linkage to community colleges, CSU and UC?

Standards: Can our lengthy and specific curriculum content standards be refined to essential standards? The task force has spent much time on this. What can be achieved in a year of 180 days of schooling? When do students take ownership of their own learning?

Performance Measures: Data needs to measure meaningful content. Students need to have a sense of value regarding what they are learning. Performance assessment takes time. There is the need for periodic and parallel local assessments. We should build a scaffold of

achievement levels that are valued by other institutions.

Incentives and Interventions: What are the incentives for students to invest themselves in learning and in demonstrating that learning on tests? The focus on multiple years is vital.

The comments and feedback will be provided to the committee for input into the final draft.

SUPERINTENDENCY COUNCIL GOALS 2009-10 -- Phil Quon

Phi Quon presented the council with a draft of its proposed goals. The council unanimously approved the goals which are:

To identify and study issues related to the role and responsibilities of superintendents and proactively advocate for solutions. To strengthen a network for communication among superintendents. To be proactive in representing the viewpoints and vision of superintendents on critical education issues with a view toward influencing policy and practice at the local, state and national levels. To plan strategies and practices which will influence the quality of education for all California students. To represent superintendents in ACSA's relations with the Governor's office, Legislature, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction. To plan and coordinate professional development activities for superintendents and activities to enhance professional development of administrators and all school district positions. To encourage the active participation of superintendents and all other management team members in ACSA. To maintain a liaison relationship with AASA and other state organizations and agencies. To recommend policies and practices to the ACSA board and follow up on goals and directives established by the board.

AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL BYLAWS -- Phil Quon

Region 15, Los Angeles County excepting Los Angeles Unified, is a vast region in population and geography. Getting together for meetings is difficult. Approximately a year ago, Region 15 approached ACSA about the possibility of splitting Region 15 into separate regions. After discussion Region 15 decided for now to remain one region and to try a variety of remedies to solve perceived problems. One remedy would be for Region 15 to have two representatives on the Superintendency Council. It is therefore proposed that the council bylaws be amended under II. Membership to have language added to item #1: *ACSA's largest region, Region 15, will have two elected representatives.* The council unanimously approved the addition to the bylaws.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO SUPERINTENDENTS -- David Gomez

CALSA is a community of educators whose mission is to increase the number of successful Latina/Latino administrators committed to closing the Latina/Latino achievement gap. CALSA will hold its annual summer institute in Carlsbad. Its mentoring program is directed by Dr. Kenneth Magadleno of CSU Fresno.

WEB SITE ACCESS TO MEETING NOTES AND HANDOUTS -- Phil Quon

Phil announced that the ACSA web site, www.acsa.org, will now have the handouts provided to council members at the meetings accessible. Meeting notes will also be available.

APPOINTMENTS -- Phil Quon

Again, Scott Plotkin and Jeff Vaca of CSBA have requested two superintendents to be part of the 2010 CSBA Annual Conference Program Planning Committee. Phil Quon appointed John Porter and Barry Groves.

AASA LIAISON -- David Verdugo

The annual American Association of School Administrators National Conference on Education will be held in Phoenix February 10-13, 2010. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan will speak as will Michael Fullan. Council members hailed AASA's leadership in advocating for special education funding.

AASA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS – Phil Quon

The nominating sub-committee nominated Virginia Peterson, superintendent of Garvey School District, as California's nominee for AASA's superintendent of the year. The council unanimously approved the recommendation.

CALIFORNIA CITY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS -- Don Iglesias

The October meeting of the CCSS in Burlingame brought in several legislators to a dinner session with superintendents. The meeting was lively and productive. Jim Brown had a panel on assuring effective and efficient succession in the superintendency of a district. Attendees gave attention to the question: Are you building capacity of the coming generation of leaders? Carlos Garcia of San Francisco Unified shared his perspective on being superintendent in SFUSD.

The next meeting of CCSS will be in San Diego on April 29-30, 2010. Chris Steinhauser of Long Beach Unified and Michael Hanson of Fresno Unified will give a progress report on how their collaborative is working.

SUPERINTENDENTS' SYMPOSIUM -- Dennis Byas

The annual ACSA Superintendents' Symposium will be held in Monterey January 27-29, 2010. The theme is "From Crisis to Opportunity: A Time for Bold, Caring Leadership." The keynote speaker will be Doug Reeves. Dennis reported that the planning committee is trying to get Arne Duncan. As usual, there will be up-to-date and in-depth information on California and federal budgets. Again the Symposium will be at the Monterey Convention Center.

WESTED -- Catherine Walcott

WestEd is focusing attention on what research tells us about turning low performing schools around. The research paper, "How 'Turnaround' Schools Are Breaking the Cycle of Chronic Failure" was shared with the council members. WestEd will have another report on low performing schools out soon. WestEd illuminates research to aid practice. Will research influence the planning of Race to the Top? WestEd has a report on measuring teacher

effectiveness coming out soon. How can we measure the value added quality that schools can provide? WestEd is open to ideas for study.

FISCAL CRISIS & MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM -- Bill Draa

Bill Draa distributed the FCMAT *Update* for October 2009. FCMAT has a new edition of its *Associated Student Body Accounting Manual & Desk Reference* available. FCMAT has scheduled five workshops on Charter School Fiscal Management this November and December.

The council discussed what receivership really means, its impact on governance, resources and personnel. Council members engaged in discussion on how districts can anticipate, avoid or cope with weak fiscal status. A challenge in many California districts is how can competency of unknowing or dysfunctional board members be upgraded to a satisfactory level? One council member said that if efforts to improve school board functions are not effective, superintendents need courage to speak out on school board weaknesses; speak out and be ready to get out. Should the FCMAT scope of inquiry be expanded? How could the state facilitate modifying contracts or decertifying exclusive representatives in times of district inability to pay its bills? What could supersede contract authority? There are reported incidents of teacher organization threats or actions that have bullied trustees to approve imprudent budgets.

OTHER REPORTS REVIEWED

Improving Teacher Preparation: Teacher Quality Partnership Grants: Six CSU campuses (Bakersfield, Monterey Bay, Cal Poly SLO, Chico, Dominquez Hills and Los Angeles) will receive \$35,550,000 over a five year period from the U. S. Department of Education to improve teacher preparation. In addition, other CSU campuses (Fresno, Humboldt, Long Beach, Northridge, Sacramento and San Diego) are applying for the second round of funds.

Candidate for SPI: Larry Aceves invites participants at the CSBA conference to meet with him on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at Bondi's Restaurant, 333 5th Avenue, San Diego, the Gas Lamp District, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

Exemplary ROC/Ps: The October newsletter of the California Association of Regional Occupational Centers and Programs shared by Gil Montano spotlighted the automotive program of Clairemont High School in San Diego. The students are studying alternative fuel vehicles. Students at Warner Springs High School in San Diego County are building the first "green" goat barn.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Friday, December 4, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., San Diego, San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 234-1500, in Conjunction with annual CSBA Conference.

ADJOURNMENT: The council president, Phil Quon, adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm for lunch, informal discussion regarding council topics and attendance at the ACSA Leadership Summit.

NOTES PREPARED BY: Tod Anton, Professor of School Administration Emeritus, California State University, Stanislaus.

NOTES REVIEWED BY: Phil Quon, Superintendent, Cupertino Union School District, and Bob Wells, Executive Director, Association of California School Administrators.