

THE **CORE** California County Boards of Education

In this issue

CCSESA legislative committee update	2
CCBE joins CSBA at SBE hearing on LCFF regulations	3
Brown v. Board of Education	4
2014 CCBE Fall Conference update	5



President's message

by Heidi Weiland, CCBE President, El Dorado COE Board Member

As summer speeds by, I hope that you are carving out some time for rest, relaxation and restoration. Even with school out of session, there is much for all of us to do, making time to regroup more critical.

It has been an intensely hectic year for all of us, and CCBE has not been exempt from the busyness. We are very pleased to announce that in cooperation with CSBA, we were able to recognize the outstanding work that Charlyn Tuter performs for our organization. She received a promotion to program manager, which better reflects what she does for both CCBE and CSBA. Many of you have heard us talk about her tremendous contributions, and in a perfect world that we would make her our executive director. At the May Board of Directors meeting, the board reviewed the budget, membership, dues structure, accomplishments (see list below), goals and objectives. The truth of the matter is: our current structure does not support and/or require an executive director.

CCBE accomplishments

Inclusive of the 3% dues increase we are able to:

- Maintain staffing levels, with provision for reclassification/promotion and accompanying salary and compensation increases.
- Provide a growing/improving annual conference.
- Maintain, for the time being, a similar level of legislative action. We had a huge gap in our legislative committee when Greg Geeting, for personal reasons, resigned his position as legislative chair. However, both Ken Berwick and Ramón Flores have stepped up and continued our engagement: with our own committee, as well as ongoing engagement with CSBA and CCSESA legislative committees.
- Continue to make improvements to the organization's website.
- Complete the development and distribution of the member needs assessment survey.
- Work with CCSESA to update and clarify the official "white paper" with county board roles and responsibilities, to include some focus on the unique relationship with the elected superintendents.

2014 Calendar of Events

September

CCBE Fall Conference, September 12-14

CCBE Board of Directors Meeting, September 12

CCBE General Membership Meeting, September 13

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Monterey, CA



CCSESA legislative committee update

By Ramón Flores, CCBE Immediate Past President, Ventura COE Board Member

The CCSESA State & Federal Legislative Committee tracks state and federal legislation corresponding to the CCSESA Legislation Priorities. The committee takes positions on legislative bills and advocates on behalf of county offices of education and other educational organizations. CCBE continues to collaborate with CCSESA's legislative committee. As CCBE's representative on this committee, I attended CCSESA's face-to-face legislative committee meeting in Santa Barbara in April 2014. I also attended the committee meeting via conference call on May 22, but was unable to attend the face-to-face meeting in Lake Tahoe on June 22.

Over the course of three months, the committee reviewed 30 pieces of legislation. CCBE's legislative committee took similar positions on a number of these bills. Both committees took a Support position on AB 2235. This bill enacts the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2014 to authorize an unspecified amount of state general obligation bonds to provide aid to school districts, county superintendents of schools, county boards of education, charter schools, the California Community Colleges, the University of California, the Hastings College of the Law, and the California State University to construct and modernize education facilities and school district facilities funding.

The committees also took a Support position on SB 1387. This bill amends existing law that authorizes the governing board of a school district or a county office of education to offer independent study. It extends the maximum duration of an independent study agreement under this provision to two semesters of one school year for a school on a year-round calendar. The bill permits the required signatures on the independent study written agreement to be submitted through a PDF or facsimile copy of the original written agreement.

On May 14, 2014 CCSESA sent a letter to the Honorable Al Muratsuchi, Chair of the Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Education Finance. The letter was in reference to AB 2216: Regional Occupational Centers and Programs. The bill would extend the maintenance of effort (MOE) currently in effect for counties and districts by another two years, through 2016-17. CCSESA has been vocal in ensuring the MOE not be extended, as they believe it would undermine efforts to transition full local control and accountability.

CCBE Executive Committee & staff

Heidi Weiland

CCBE President | Region 6: El Dorado COE

Juliana Feriani

CCBE President-elect | Region 8: Tuolumne COE

Joaquin Rivera

CCBE Vice President and Editor of CORE
Region 7: Alameda COE

Dr. Ramón Flores

CCBE Immediate Past President
Region 11: Ventura COE

Mike Walsh

CSBA Director-at-Large, County | Region 4: Butte COE

Elizabeth Romero

CCBE Treasurer | Region 18: Riverside COE

Charlyn Tuter

Program Manager

About CCBE

Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact information

3251 Beacon Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
ph: 800.266.3382, ext. 3281
fax: 916.371.3407

www.theccbe.org

Holidays (office closed)

Jan 1 | New Year's Day
Jan 20 | Martin Luther King Day
Feb 17 | Presidents' Day
May 26 | Memorial Day
July 4 | Independence Day
Sep 1 | Labor Day
Nov 11 | Veterans Day observed
Nov 27 | Thanksgiving Day
Nov 28 | CCBE Holiday
Dec 25 | Christmas Day

CCBE joins CSBA at SBE hearing on LCFF regulations

By Juliana Feriani, CCBE President-elect, Tuolumne COE Board Member

We met early in the morning at The Courtyard in downtown Sacramento, just blocks from the State Board of Education building. It was a cool morning for July and when I arrived, CSBA staff was already hard at work setting up a breakfast buffet table, decorating dining tables, setting up TV equipment, and meeting and greeting people. So much energy for so early in the morning! That energy carried over to the SBE building.

After welcoming and thank you speeches from CSBA President Jo Lucey and ACSA Executive Director Wes Smith, staff started escorting groups of 12 to the SBE hearings. There were over 60 speakers from all over the state, ready to tell their stories of LCFF in one minute or less—stories about LCAP plans and LCFF goals, asking to continue flexibility, accountability, and transparency of the process. CCBE, in particular, asked the SBE to watch for any language changes that would substantively diminish any flexibility, accountability, or transparency. We stated that the insertion of the word “principally” regarding the use of supplemental/concentration funds for district/school-wide purposes would do just that.

Our statement (next column) also mentioned that COEs across the state are seeing greatly improved engagement of parents, students, educators, administrators, and community members in both their own programs and the districts they serve. Furthermore, we believe that it is because there is more community buy-in and belief that there is room for all voices, and that the process will be transparent and fair.

After my testimony, hearing some of the others’ testimonies, and looking at the long line of speakers, I felt confident that the SBE was hearing our message. I hope they incorporate our suggestions.

Juliana Feriani, CCBE President-elect

P.S. Good news from CSBA: The SBE approved LCFF permanent regulations and revised LCAP template! The SBE on July 10 voted unanimously to move ahead on the Local Control Funding Formula permanent spending regulations and the Local Control and Accountability Plan template after hearing testimony from school board members, CSBA and ASCA representatives, advocates, students, parents, and others.

CCBE statement to SBE

Good morning. I am Juliana Feriani, President-elect, California County Boards of Education and trustee of the Tuolumne County Office of Education. As you are aware, the basis of LCFF is to allow educators, administrators, board members, parents, students and community members to work together at a local level to best meet the needs of their students. Working within our communities is not a new practice and the process which we have just completed enhanced that engagement and ultimately lead to stronger academic achievement for our students. With the greater flexibility and accountability, our stakeholders have more faith that their voices will be heard and that they can have a positive impact on student achievement. Transparency is critical to ongoing and improved stakeholder engagement. We are concerned with any language changes that substantively diminish that flexibility and accountability, or transparency. We believe that the insertion of the word “principally” into the language regarding the use of supplemental/concentration funds for district/school-wide purposes does just that.

County offices of education across the state are seeing greatly improved engagement of parents, students, educators, administrators and community members in both their own programs and the districts they serve. We believe that it is because there is more community buy-in and belief that there is room for all voices, and that the process will be transparent and fair. We respectfully request that before you make any changes to the rules and regulations, you measure it for flexibility, accountability and transparency; and continue to engage your partners in education as you have been.

We learned much in this first year of LCFF and LCAP that we can incorporate and build upon in our work updating our LCAP. In closing, the LCAP process is valuable and holds great promise for our students and communities.

Brown v. Board of Education

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case. We're thrilled to have Vernon M. Billy, CSBA CEO & Executive Director as this year's CCBE Fall Conference Saturday Luncheon keynote speaker. Billy's address, *County Boards and the Achievement Challenge: From Brown to LCFF*, highlights the significance of the *Brown* decision for public education in our nation, the challenges and barriers to success that are still facing ethnic minority students, and the opportunities for county boards created through the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula.

Brown history and background

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that "separate but equal" public schools for blacks and whites were unconstitutional. The *Brown* case served as a catalyst for the modern civil rights movement, inspiring education reform everywhere and forming the legal means of challenging segregation in all areas of society.

Brown v. Board of Education was actually a consolidation of cases from five jurisdictions: *Brown v. Board of Education* (Kansas), *Briggs v. Elliot* (South Carolina), *Bulah v. Gebhart* and *Belton v. Gebhart* (Delaware), *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* (Virginia), and *Bolling v. Sharpe* (District of Columbia). These cases were combined because they all sought desegregation of schools as the remedy for grossly inadequate conditions in segregated black schools.

The Supreme Court's *Brown* decision was particularly important because it was not based on the gross inequalities in facilities and other tangible factors that characterized previous desegregation cases. In *Brown*, the Court dealt directly with segregation and ruled that even if tangible factors like facilities, teachers and supplies were equal, separation itself was inherently unequal and a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. With *Brown*, the Court effectively overturned the infamous 1896 case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* which had permitted racial segregation under the guise of "separate but equal" by allowing separate facilities of equal quality.

The unanimous Court wrote that a quality education was crucial for all children and ruled that it was the state's responsibility to ensure educational equality:

"Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our



recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities, even service in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him/her for later professional training, and in helping him/her to adjust normally to his environment. In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education. Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms."

The Court also noted that segregation has a detrimental effect upon children of color and that the impact is more profound when it has the sanction of the law. To reach this conclusion, the Court made the unusual decision to rely on social science more than legal precedent. In its arguments and brief, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund had provided the testimony of more than 30 social scientists affirming the harmful effects of segregation on blacks and whites.

After *Brown*, the nation made great strides toward opening the doors of education to all students. With court orders and active enforcement of federal civil rights laws, progress toward integrated schools continued through the late 1980s. Since then, however, many states have been resegregating and educational achievement and opportunity have been falling for minorities. ■

2014 CCBE Fall Conference update

By conference co-chairs Joaquín Rivera, CCBE Vice President, Alameda COE and Juliana Feriani, CCBE President-elect, Tuolumne COE



toward county governance team members and their student populations.

This year our conference starts on Friday afternoon with two great informative sessions for all board members. The first session provides the opportunity to learn about the ins and outs of the legislative process, how to build and maintain relationships with your legislators and their staff, and effective strategies to become a successful advocate for your county office on education on legislative issues. The second session will discuss the separate duties and responsibilities of county boards of education and county superintendents of schools and how these responsibilities can lead to conflict or present an opportunity to develop practices and policies for the board and superintendent to work cooperatively. For the first time, these Friday workshops are part of the conference and there is no additional charge to attend.

By attending the Saturday workshops, you'll have an opportunity to learn about:

- Tools and approaches to assist board members to authorize/renew quality charter schools and deny/close poorly performing charter schools.
- How to develop a county board governance framework and research agenda to improve student achievement.
- The impact that the passage of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) legislation in and the implementation of Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) has had on county offices of education and the changes it has brought about.
- Responsibilities of county boards of education with respect to facilities and how facilities committees can engage board members and keep them well informed regarding the facility planning and programming process.
- An Educational Leadership Summit for school districts and county governance teams that can help establish cohesive team relationships, advance leadership skills, boost knowledge on today's topics, and develop well-functioning governance teams.
- How county offices of education can develop a countywide approach to school safety that includes: planning tools that can be replicated across sites, partnership with first responders, putting plans into practice through exercises and a preventative approach that encourages schools to identify and address issues before they become safety problems

This year's CCBE Fall Conference, to be held Sept. 12-14 in Monterey, will be packed with exciting and engaging workshops and sessions geared specifically

President's message, continued from page 1

- Work with CCSESA to develop a county board/superintendent rights, responsibilities and relationships workshop/training for county board members and superintendents.
- Contract with Diane Greene to update our Board Member Training Manual.
- Start developing updated new and ongoing board member training.
- Make significant progress on the Board Self-Evaluation Tool, which is almost complete.

Together we are doing a great job and accomplishing much. Yet we still have much to do.

We continue to work with CCSESA on the "white paper," growing our annual conference, including sponsorships, and we are developing an updated new board member training to include LCFF/LCAP and other new or revised legislation, upgrading the website and working on developing a revenue and resources committee.

On a somber note, the results of the June election changed the faces that we will see around our leadership gatherings. Two of CCBE's strongest leaders and supporters, Liz Parker, Orange County Office of Education and Lynne Craig, Riverside County Office of Education—great voices for public education and in particular at-risk youths—lost their bids for re-election. Both have served CCBE in many capacities over the years, including on the executive board, committees, training, etc.; and the list goes on. Liz and Lynne, you will both be missed more than words can tell.

The 2014 CCBE Fall Conference is shaping up to be the best one yet. If you are not already registered, please do so soon. With constantly changing legislation, rules and interpretations, we need all the tools available to serve our students and communities. I can promise that you will come away from the conference with more and better tools, plus new friends and colleagues to support you in your role as a county office of education board member. See you there! ■

continued on page 6

2014 CCBE Fall Conference update, continued from page 5

- Important do's and don'ts about conflict of interest reporting and the importance of filing a Form 700 and the rules around public official gifts, donations and hospitality.
- How and why charter petitions make their way to a county board, the board's legal responsibilities, and the importance of having a plan in place for conducting ongoing, thorough legally compliant oversight.

On Sunday, we will start the morning with a CCBE and CCSESA joint critical issues session and will close the morning (and the 2014 conference) with a training session that will focus on research-based solutions to promote a healthy and positive climate of respect and establish systematic action plans to reduce bullying on school campuses.

Don't miss what promises to be a great conference! Visit www.thecbce.org and click on the CCBE Fall Conference link under Upcoming Events to learn more about the CCBE Fall Conference and to register. ■

Thank you to the following 2014 CCBE Fall Conference sponsors

