

# THE CORE

California County Boards of Education

## In this issue



## President's Message

Amy Christianson, CCBE President, Butte COE Board Member

The California County Boards of Education (CCBE) is committed to serving as an organization that is dedicated to equity and knowledge by being engaged, tenacious and champions for education. While it is an ambitious statement, I am certain that with the leadership of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, staff, members, CSBA and partnerships, we will succeed.

In early January, the Executive Committee engaged in a two-day retreat, beginning with a working dinner on Friday evening, all day Saturday and half-day on Sunday. With the help of a facilitator, Lauren Ball, and Program Manager, Charlyn Tuter, the Executive Committee engaged in rich dialogue and discussions; reviewed the growth from past years and challenges that continue to face all California County Boards of Education; and completed the planning for the upcoming year. This year's priorities include a continued focus on advocacy, a roll out of the CCBE 2016 Blueprint for Better Charter Schools Task force report, increased marketing and communications through social media, on-going professional development and adding a mentoring program for new county board members.

Legislative advocacy continues to play an important role in what we do. This year we have decided to split the Legislative Committee into two groups. The Defense Committee will continue with the important work of reviewing legislation through a County Office of Education lens. The Offense (proactive team) Committee members will take a look at legislative possibilities to support county offices of education and the unique students served by COEs, as well as the identification and implementation of reliable funding sources to provide the variety of services related to LCFF and LCAP, as well as other areas of need. Stay tuned for ongoing updates.

We also realize that continuing education plays a critical role in ensuring all members are aware of the many changing aspects of education in California. We will continue expanding the way we offer information through enhanced social media, updated training programs, continued use of the CORE newsletter and mentoring. I am anticipating that questions about the LCFF and LCAP template updates, summaries and the accountability "dashboard" will

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## 2017 Calendar of Events

### May

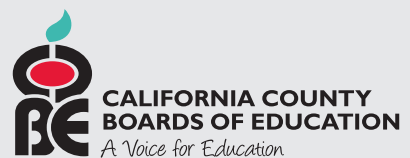
CCBE Charter Schools Deeper Dive Training, May 3,  
Location: Yolo COE  
CCBE Board of Directors Meeting, May 21  
Location: Sacramento

### September

CCBE Annual Conference, September 8-10  
CCBE Board of Directors Meeting, September 8  
CCBE General Membership Meeting, September 9  
Location: Portola Hotel & Spa, Monterey, CA

### December

CCBE Board of Directors Meeting, December 1  
CCBE General Membership Meeting, December 2  
Location: Marriott Marquis Hotel, San Diego, CA



# NSBA Advocacy Institute 2017

Amy Christianson, CCBE President, Butte COE Board Member and Bruce Dennis, CCBE President-elect, Riverside COE Board Member

For a second year, CCBE participated in the NSBA Advocacy Institute, learning from state leaders about how to extend and maximize our organizational federal advocacy experience, exploring successful strategies for communicating, building campaigns, and leveraging resources to defeat proposals that are harmful to public education in our state and communities. As a part of continuing towards achieving CCBE advocacy goal, President Amy Christianson and President-elect Bruce Dennis attended the NSBA Advocacy Institute where over 600 school board members, state association leaders, and education advocates participated in a successful Advocacy Institute, Jan. 29-31, in Washington, D.C. Their report follows.

The feel in D.C. was far less optimistic than last year's visit. The offices we visited were very upfront about not expecting any new initiatives and their collective uncertainty of what to expect moving forward. California continues to be a leader in education, forging ahead with LCFF and LCAP implementation. All the offices expressed interest in what we have going on, both good and bad. It is imperative as board members we stay educated and support our county offices of education and the districts we serve to remain transparent, while focusing on continuous improvement practices and equitable services for all of California's 6.2 million public school students.

The event culminated with NSBA's Day on Capitol Hill when Federal Relations Network members met with their members of Congress to discuss the NSBA priorities outlined in the legislative agenda at <http://www.nsba.org/events/advocacy-institute/advocacy-institute-agenda>.

Keynote speakers included world-renowned presidential historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Paul Clement, former U.S. Solicitor General (2005-2008) as well as Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), members on the Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor & Pensions, Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), and Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), members on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, who spoke to local school board members during the conference. In addition, Brad Fitch, President and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation offered conference attendees tips and strategies for how to influence the 115th Congress and state legislatures.

Priorities included:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Implementation

Rural Schools Act

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act Reauthorization

Special Education — IDEA ■

## CCBE Executive Committee & Staff

### Amy Christianson

CCBE President | Region 4: Butte COE

### Bruce Dennis

CCBE President-elect | Region 18: Riverside COE

### Dana Dean

CCBE Vice President and Editor of CORE  
Region 3: Solano COE

### Joaquin Rivera

CCBE Immediate Past President | Region 7: Alameda COE

### Heidi Weiland

CSBA Director-at-Large, County  
Region 6: El Dorado COE

### John McPherson

CCBE Treasurer | Region 9: Monterey COE

### Charlyn Tuter

CCBE Program Manager

### Jenn Ng

CCBE Administrative Assistant

## About CCBE

### Hours

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

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### Holidays (office closed)

Jan 1 | New Year's Day  
Jan 16 | Martin Luther King Day  
Feb 20 | Presidents' Day  
May 29 | Memorial Day  
July 4 | Independence Day  
Sep 4 | Labor Day  
Nov 11 | Veterans Day observed  
Nov 23 | Thanksgiving Day  
Nov 24 | CCBE Holiday  
Dec 25 | Christmas Day  
Dec 21-Jan 1 | CCBE/CSBA Holiday

## LAO ‘re-envisions’ County Offices of Education

A new report from the non-partisan Legislative Analyst’s Office, “Re-Envisioning County Offices of Education: A Study of Their Mission and Funding,” offers an analysis of how COEs are funded and how LCFF money is spent, and makes a series of recommendations related to alternative education, required district services and optional services – many of these recommendations include shifting current levels of funding to the district level.

This report is not written in response to any recently proposed or enacted legislation, but it may spark some discussions in the legislative policy committees.

CSBA staff is carefully reviewing the recommendations in the report and, if warranted, will address concerns about the findings with the LAO and/or members of the Legislature.

Summary of recommendations (Pg. 19):

- **Alternative Education:** Provide districts funding directly for alternative school students. Allow pass-through to COEs. For juvenile court schools, set COE as default provider, but allow districts the option of selecting another provider. Also, set default COE reimbursement rate but allow for rate to be locally negotiated.
- **Fiscal and Academic Oversight:** Fund COEs directly for

these state-required activities. Allocate funds according to the number of districts in each county and the size of those districts.

- **Other Compliance Monitoring:** Continue to fund COEs for other compliance monitoring through the K-12 mandates block grant.
- **Optional Services:** Shift funding to districts and have COEs charge fees for the optional district services they provide.

Additional information from the LAO:

The LAO is expected to release a new analysis of the proposed 2017-18 Proposition 98 spending package in February. It is expected that the proposal will include a series of accounting maneuvers that would effectively lower the guarantee for 2017-18 and make downward adjustments to current and prior year funding levels. The report will also include updated information on the impact of employer pension cost increases. CSBA will report on this analysis when it is released.

Please visit <http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3547/reenvision-coes-020617.pdf> to download a copy of the LAO report on county offices of education. ■

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*President’s Message, continued from page 1*

be the new topics that parents and other community members will want to discuss with you in the grocery store aisle and parking lot. They will want to know about how schools in your area are doing. I want to be sure you are ready to talk about them.

At the federal level there are quite a few unknowns as a new administration takes over. The uncertainty seems to underscore the critical importance of charter school partnership and authorization. CCBE will be partnering with California School Boards Association (CSBA), California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), and Charter Authorizers Regional Support Network (CARNet) to host a workshop in the spring and follow up at the CCBE Annual Conference. Lastly, mentoring within CCBE to support new county board members and foster the growth of new CCBE leadership is in the planning stage. If you are interested in being a mentor or mentee, watch for applications in the first half of the year.

I’d like to thank you for your commitment to CCBE, however big or small. The diversity of our organization is one of our greatest assets. We learn from each other by working together, engaging in difficult conversations, and sharing our expertise where and when we can. I look forward to learning from and alongside you in the coming year. ■



## 2016 Apple for Excellence

CCBE believes that two of the most critically important investments in our future are providing excellent education to students and providing leadership and services to county board members that allow them to address students' changing needs. CCBE is proud to have established the "Apple for Excellence" award that specifically recognizes outstanding programs administered by county offices of education who are awarded the Golden Bell Award in the County Offices of Education category. Last year, during the 2016 CSBA Golden Bell Awards Luncheon on Dec. 3, then President Joaquin Rivera had the privilege of awarding the following two county offices of education the CCBE Apple for Excellence award.

### COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION CATEGORY

*District/Countywide/Statewide/Nationwide/International*

#### LIFE GAMES

##### *Madera County Office of Education*

The Madera County Office of Education Life Games is an event that brings together approximately 400 community members and 400 students with the most significant disabilities in Madera County for a day of fine art, performing arts and physical activities. Entertainment is provided by groups who serve persons with disabilities. Participants also receive information about resources available in the community. The Life Games allows every single child to participate in every single activity — significant due to students' high physical, cognitive and emotional needs. Students interact with first responders in a non-threatening environment, parents spend time with other parents who face similar challenges, community members and general education students experience a positive day learning about these special children and office staff see the impact of their work.



*Sara Wilkens, Board President; Cecilia Massetti, Superintendent; Cheryl Mohr, Executive Director, Student Programs and Services; Paige Sanders, Administrator, Special Education Programs; Loner Abbott, President, Brothers of the Third Wheel; Pam Glueck and Sandra Gostanian, Adapted PE Specialists*

#### STUDENT ANNUAL NEEDS DETERMINATION INVENTORY

##### *Riverside County Office of Education*

The Student Annual Needs Determination Inventory was developed for the specific purpose of providing the 23 school districts and county office-operated special education programs access to student-centered summative and formative assessment data to drive teacher collaboration and increase student achievement. For students with significant disabilities, the Student Annual Needs Determination Inventory mirrors the general education best practice of focusing on data-driven instruction. With this program, special educators have — for the first time — the opportunity to assess students in a meaningful way and analyze student data to inform instruction. The Student Annual Needs Determination Inventory program brings out the potential, the dignity, and the achievement for students with significant disabilities.

Please visit the CSBA Golden Bell Awards website at <http://gb.csba.org/winners.aspx> to view summaries of all 2016 Golden Bell Award winning programs. Congratulations to all county offices of education Golden Bell Award winners for their innovative programs and hard work! ■



*Wendel Tucker, Board President; Kenneth Young, Superintendent; Diana Walsh-Associate Superintendent; Ann Vessey, Executive Director, Special Education; Denise Chappell, Principal, Special Education; Rebecca Silva and Kate Cahill, Retired Administrators; Mike Barney, Executive Director, Instructional Services*

## CCBE Board of Directors and General Membership Meeting

The CCBE board of directors and general membership held its meetings in December at the Marriott Hotel in San Francisco. At the General Membership Meeting, county board members elected new officers; adopted the Blueprint for Better Charter Schools 2016 report and the CCBE Vision, Mission and Core Belief and Values; elected members to the 2017 Nominating Committee; received a report from then President Joaquin Rivera and heard from the CCBE Outstanding Legislator award recipients Assemblymembers Bill Dodd and Tony Thurmond, and Amanda Dickey, CCSESA Policy Consultant on joint county offices of education priorities.

Butte County Board of Education, board member Amy Christianson, began her term as president following the close of the CCBE general membership meeting and CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. Joining Christianson on the CCBE executive committee are President-Elect Bruce Dennis, Riverside COE; Vice President Dana Dean, Solano

COE; Immediate Past President Joaquin Rivera, Alameda COE; Treasurer John McPherson, Monterey COE; and CSBA Director-at-Large, County Heidi Weiland, El Dorado COE.

Incoming President Amy Christianson remarked on what a privilege it is to serve an organization that is dedicated to equity and knowledge by being engaged and tenacious to influence the future of students. She plans to continue the excellent work that Past President Joaquin Rivera has started to create a brand for CCBE to educate and train all members on their role and to continue to work collaboratively with CSBA and CCSESA to achieve our objectives. She concluded by encouraging members to share their vision and reasons for serving as a county board member by being an advocate for public education.

Please visit our website [www.theccbe.org](http://www.theccbe.org) to learn more about your 2017 Executive Committee, priorities and upcoming events. ■

## County Board Governance Workshop

On Jan. 27-28, 2017, CCBE held its county board governance training workshop in collaboration with CSBA at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Sacramento. With 40 participants, including staff from county offices of education, presenters covered a broad range of topics critical for new and veteran board members to perform their duties well.

The topics covered during this training included:

- **Effective Governance:** This session provided information on the role and critical aspects of board governance, the attributes of a highly effective governance team and what every board member needs to know about the county office and their relationship with the Superintendent.
- **Budget and Finance:** Attendees learned how to read and interpret "SACS" financial reports, gain an understanding of how all the budget pieces come together to provide a

plan that reflects the goals, objectives and priorities of the county office of education.

- **Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP):** This session provided an overview of what every board member should know about LCAP and the role of county board members.
- **Appellate Role of the Board:** This session helped board members understand their roles as appellate decision makers by addressing the common elements of appeal procedures generally and the importance of understanding the standard and scope of review in an appellate process.
- **Dashboard Report Card:** This session provided an overview on how to decipher school district performance using a dashboard of measures to inform continuous improvement.

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## Save the date for CCBE Charter Schools Deeper Dive Training

The CCBE Charter Schools one-day training will be held in collaboration with CSBA, CCSESA and CARSNet on Wednesday, May 3 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Yolo County Office of Education located at 1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite 100, Woodland, CA 95776-6127.

California has the largest number of charter authorizers in the country, but many of them — including many county board of education authorizers — have small portfolios and limited resources to develop their authorizing practice. This training is not an introduction to charter schools. It builds on the CCBE 2016 Blueprint for Better Charter Schools Task Force report and covers more in-depth key issues regarding educational fiscal transparency, accountability and the differing roles of county board members, superintendents and county office

staff in the process. County board members, superintendents and county office staff are encouraged to attend. Seating will be limited. Please visit <http://www.theccbce.org/Events/CharterSchoolsTraining> to register for this training event.

The fee to register is \$250, or \$275 on site, and includes materials, lunch and refreshments. Superintendents: attend with two or more of your board members and your registration is complimentary. Board members and superintendents must be registered to attend first, then the Superintendent's registration fee will be refunded after the training event.

Be sure to download a copy of the CCBE Blueprint for Better Charter Schools 2016 report at <http://theccbce.org/AboutUs/Committees/CharterSchoolsTaskForce>. ■

### *County Board Governance Workshop, continued from page 5*

- Board bylaws and policies: This session reviewed best practices, bylaws and policies that every board should have in place.
- Advocacy 101: This session reminded attendees of their role as community leaders and advocates and the power of relationships board members have as elected officials.
- Call to Order Parliamentary Procedures: This session provided an overview of what every board member should know about how to conduct a board meeting.

It was a busy and action-packed weekend from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Most attendees were newly-elected and first-term board members while a few others were veteran board members. The majority of attendees we heard from felt this was an excellent source of focused training for county boards and their role and provided real world experience. ■

## Save the date for the CCBE Annual Conference

Plans are already underway for the 2017 CCBE Annual Conference. Be sure to mark your calendar for Sept. 8-10, 2017 and put this in your budgets, because you really won't want to miss out!

The CCBE Annual Conference is a three-day event that provides county board members with learning opportunities specifically focused on unique issues and student populations that counties work with. Conference participants will enjoy opportunities to network with other county board members, share tips and best practices, and gather new ideas to help county board members address the unique issues that only you face. The conference registration fee includes materials, meals and workshops, and all the critical information you need to serve your students and communities well. We look forward to learning and sharing with you this fall.

Registration is expected to open by the end of March. Please visit <http://theccbce.org/Events/CCBEAnnualConference.aspx> for the latest news and updates on the CCBE Annual Conference.