

THE **CORE** California County Boards of Education

In this issue



President's message

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

CCBE membership has reached 56 counties strong, thanks to all of you who reached out to your non-member neighboring counties. To date, Colusa and Modoc are the only remaining non-member counties.

Earlier this month, the Executive Committee engaged in a full two-day retreat, beginning with a working dinner on Friday evening, all day Saturday and half-day on Sunday. With the help of Christopher Maricle, Policy and Programs Officer of CSBA, the Executive Committee and Sr. Administrative Assistant Charlyn Tuter engaged in teambuilding exercises; worked through our accomplishments from our past year's planning retreat; and completed the planning for the upcoming year—taking to heart our commitment to building our external strength by first building internal strength. This year's priorities include greater staff support and resources, seeking and utilizing member input, training—including, but not limited to: the 2014 and 2015 CCBE Fall Conferences; continued improvement of our website and expansion of our communications abilities; and having our board self-evaluation service up and running as soon as possible. Challenges include finite capacity in both in revenue and human resources (both staff and volunteer).

One of the strategies unearthed during the retreat was to offer members more opportunities to become involved in the work of CCBE. Watch your email inboxes closely as we will be inviting you to participate in committees and surveys.

Legislative advocacy continues to play an important role in what we do. This year, the committee will not only be meeting with CSBA and CCSESA, but will also be working to create our own legislative day. The relationships forged with these organizations through mutual support and engagement are sure to serve our members and their students well.

Each year, CCBE has grown stronger, building on the successes and lessons of the past with commitment to the future. I look forward to working with you this year to continue strengthening our relationships and together growing this great organization. ■

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2014 Calendar of Events

May

CCBE Board of Directors Meeting, May 18
Location: Sacramento

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

Looking forward, and looking back

by Ken Berrick, CCBE Past President, Alameda COE Board Member

It has been almost five years since I began as an active member of CCBE. During those years, I have witnessed a sea change in the association—a transformation in our organizational capacity, in our ability to analyze and influence public policy, and in our relationship to our parent organization, the California School Boards Association. As is often the case in significant positive change, our growth began with people, and our progress can be narrated and tracked by their contributions.

Change began with the addition of Sr. Administrative Assistant Charlyn Tuter to our team. Charlyn provided structure where little had existed, added organization where much was needed and gave warmth and welcome that invited participation and engagement from both leadership and membership. With her support, the vital functions of the organization were reinvigorated and began to thrive once again. Board and committee participation were well-organized and dramatically increased, as membership and leadership began to feel that their work was more effective and their time better used. Collaboration with CSBA increased—as did our organization's credibility. Members felt connected to a larger team.

Into this environment came a number of individuals, not all of whom can be mentioned here, who each made exceptional contributions to our continuing momentum. Greg Geeting from the Sacramento County Board of Education made remarkable contributions by chairing efforts toward charter reform and bringing oversight and focus to our Legislative Committee. Leon Beauchman from the Santa Clara COE led our efforts to rethink our community schools and Liz Parker, Heidi Weiland, Juliana Feriani, Eileen McDonald and others led efforts to engage, educate and inform our membership that met with unprecedented success. In the midst of these efforts, Vernon M. Billy and the CSBA Executive Committee brought their leadership to bear by fully engaging in the joint mission of our interconnected organizations.

Finally, Ramón Flores brought his organizational skill and leadership to our Executive Committee, consolidating our gains into a long-term strategic plan that will help to ensure our continued success through our transition to the capable leadership of Heidi Weiland, Juliana Feriani, Joaquin Rivera and a host of others.

These leaders, along with our membership, have the remarkable opportunity of shaping the largest shifts in education in decades, from the training of Common Core to shaping the implementation and accountability of and for the Local Control Funding Formula. Still one question remains: who among you, reading this column, will step up to be the next inspired leaders that help move education forward in California? Serving as part of the leadership team of CCBE and on the CSBA Board of Directors have been a great privilege and among the most rewarding experiences of my professional career. Now, it's your turn to add your voice, your energy and your spirit. ■

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

CCBE Sr. Administrative Assistant

About CCBE

Hours

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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

Tuolumne County kids lead the state in fitness tests

Worrying about the softening of America is not a new concept, though we continue to see data legitimizing these concerns and—hopefully—inciting us to act. More than 50 years ago, John F. Kennedy said it was a “national problem [requiring] national action.” He wrote, “We do not want our children to become a generation of spectators. Rather, we want each of them to be a participant in the vigorous life.” Fit for the Future is a program for fifth- and seventh-grade students committed to preventing a “generation of spectators”.

As a long-time vigorous participant, a former personal trainer and youth fitness programs director, I am passionate about kids’ health and fitness. And as a registered nurse, I see the debilitating long term effects of a sedentary lifestyle. Serving as the program coordinator for Fit for the Future gives me the incredible opportunity to be on the preventative side of those health problems and help students develop lifelong habits for a healthier future.

Fit for the Future began three years ago after a call by Sonora Regional Medical Center for an innovative solution to a county health problem. Joe Silva, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, answered that call by creating Fit for the Future, a collaborative effort dedicated to eliminating childhood obesity in our county. I had worked with Mr. Silva and our schools through our Tuolumne County Fitness Challenge, the Healthy Schools Summit, and President’s Challenge for Physical Fitness. Knowing my dedication and passion for youth health and enjoyment in working with our schools and teachers, he recruited me to help build this new program.

We started the pilot program in the fall of 2011 with two schools, adding a third in the spring. That first year showed excellent results and Mr. Silva was determined to roll it out to all our schools the following year. He knew the program required the right teacher to be successful.

Curtis Creek was one of our pilot schools where we had the opportunity to see Paul McIlroy, certified PE teacher, in action. He set the bar high for his students, motivating them to push themselves harder each week, all while wearing the hallmarks of a successful PE program: sweat and smiles.

Thanks to a grant from Anthem Blue Cross in 2012, we added Mr. McIlroy as a full-time Fit for the Future teacher expanding the program to include fifth and seventh grades in all nine public schools. He brought with him over 20 years of experience in teaching—the majority in physical education—and a passion for improving the fitness levels of his students. He possesses that special quality that inspires students to work hard, do more, and exceed even their own expectations.

Fit for the Future uses the California Physical Fitness Test (PFT) as a metric for success. The PFT is comprised of six components. Each component has associated standards of achievement called Healthy Fitness Zones (HFZ). Achieving the HFZ in all six components is an indicator of good health and correlates to improved academic achievement.

Historically, the fifth and seventh-grade students in Tuolumne hover around 32 percent achieving the Healthy Fitness Zones in all six components—slightly above the state average.

Our lofty 2012-13 goal was that 50 percent of all students in our program would reach the HFZ in all six test components. Remarkably, we surpassed our goal with 55 percent of fifth and seventh-grade students achieving the HFZ in all six components. Notably, this is significantly higher than the 29 percent state average and is a considerable improvement over our county’s results in prior years. This is an incredible success; we are so proud of the extraordinary effort our students put forth.

Fit for the Future is unique in that it asks for no additional class time outside of regularly scheduled PE. Mr. McIlroy or I visit each fifth- and seventh-grade class weekly. We have 13 short nutrition lessons and goals taught every two weeks. The nutrition lessons are overseen by Sonora Regional Medical Center’s Registered Dietician, Jodie Rodriguez. The remainder of PE is focused on practicing the five fitness tests (the sixth is BMI) and assigning students “fitness homework” to help them improve over the week. We monitor their individual goals and track their progress. We have countywide top 20 lists for pushups and mile times that students scramble to get on.

While the results speak for themselves, students are learning powerful lessons through this program: to set and achieve goals in physical fitness; that with a little extra practice at home they can improve their strength, flexibility, and aerobic capacity; and that things get easier the more they try. These are lifelong health and fitness lessons that will provide our youth with a brighter, healthier and smarter future. More than fifty years after JFK wrote *The Soft American*, I believe he would be happy to see a generation of not-so-soft participants in the vigorous life here in Tuolumne County. ■

Fit for the Future is a partnership of Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, Sonora Regional Medical Center and Tuolumne County Public Health. Brie Ferguson divides her time between working as a registered nurse at Sonora Regional Medical Center and as program coordinator for Fit for the Future.

CCBE meetings and conference news

The CCBE Board of Directors and general membership held meetings in December at the Marriot Marquis & Marina Hotel in San Diego where special guest Mr. Glenn Singleton, President and CEO of Educational Group and co-author of *Courageous Conversations About Race*, spoke on the systemic issues of educational inequity and how to advocate on closing the achievement gap. In addition, Peter Birdsall, Executive Director of CCSESA, spoke at length on LCFF and the new role in accountability, Common Core implementation and Smarter Balanced Assessments. Jack Dilles, CCBE Treasurer, reported that CCBE's overall financial status is in excellent standing.

At the general membership meeting, county board members elected new officers who will serve for one year in each position. El Dorado County Office of Education board member Heidi Weiland began her term as president following the close of the CCBE general membership meeting and CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show. Joining Weiland on the CCBE Executive Committee are Immediate Past President Dr. Ramón Flores, Ventura COE; President-Elect Juliana Feriani, Tuolumne COE; Vice-President Joaquin Rivera, Alameda COE; Treasurer Elizabeth Romero, Riverside COE; and CSBA Director-at-Large, County Mike Walsh, Butte COE.

Dr. Ramón Flores, in his closing remarks as president, noted that CCBE continues to grow as an organization that is creating strategic goals that can be achieved and striving to be recognized as a leader in the education community.

Heidi Weiland, President-Elect, gave a special thank you to the members on the Fall Conference Planning Committee for all their hard work to achieving a very successful annual Fall Conference.

Some reflections on last year's conference from board member Betty Vassar from Butte County were: "The CCBE Fall Conference was 'right on target' in addressing the issues that are facing county board members this year. Prior to my attendance, I was familiar with some of the new acronyms and the programs they stood for but I came away with a greater appreciation of the implications for county board members.

The planning committee did an excellent job in assessing 'the need to know immediately' of county board members and assessing the challenges they would be facing this year. The agenda was narrowed down to a few of the most important topics and those topics were delved into with depth. The committee selected knowledgeable presenters and I came away with a better understanding of the daunting task facing county board members this year. The most worthwhile conference that I have ever attended!"

Be sure to save the date for this year's CCBE Fall Conference: Sept. 12-14 at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa in Monterey. ■



CCBE Executive Committee, hard at work

SAVE THE DATE CCBE Fall Conference

Plans are already underway for the 2014 CCBE Fall Conference. Be sure to put this on your calendar September 12-14, 2014 and in your budgets, because you really won't want to miss out!

The CCBE Fall Conference is an annual conference that provides county board members learning opportunities specifically focused on unique issues and student populations that counties work with, opportunities to network with other county board members, share tips and best practices, and new ideas to help county board members address the unique issues that only you face. Everything included in the conference rate includes, materials, meals and workshops, with all the critical information you need to serve your students and communities well.

We look forward to seeing you all this fall, with plenty of opportunity for everyone to learn and share, because....Connecting Counties Benefits Everyone!

Poverty and the LCAP

by Mike Walsh, CSBA Director-at-Large, County, Butte COE Board Member

At the core of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) lies a very critical component that can't be ignored: the opportunity to finally do something about poverty. The former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, lead attorney for the NAACP during the groundbreaking *Brown v. Board of Education* school desegregation case, was once asked if perhaps the Civil Rights movement was pushing too fast for change. He responded by explaining, "I'm the world's original gradualist. I just think 90-odd years is gradual enough."

Well, it's been 60 years since *Brown* and 50 years since President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced what is referred to as the War on Poverty—and I, too, believe it's been gradual enough. Johnson believed in expanding the government's role in education and health care as poverty-reduction strategies. The LCAP makes it clear that as board members, we are expected to finally move the conversation of poverty away from blame and towards aim. This is no longer a conversation where we talk about what the poor need to do or should have done. This is the conversation about what schools will do to address the culture that is a part of poverty. In August of 2002, I had the privilege of working with a group of teachers during their district in-service in Jackson, Miss. During one of the sessions, we stopped to watch the district superintendent give her "Welcome Back" address that was being televised districtwide. She explained that the students are the volunteers. They come to the schools as they are. She made it clear that it's the job of educators to find ways to engage the minds of those very volunteers. That is the essence of the LCAP.

So where do we begin and how do we get our hands wrapped around that task? We start by moving past blame, and beginning to focus on aim. It means that we as board members cannot afford to be distracted by judging or condemning our students who are living in poverty. We have to stay focused on answering the question, "What can we do that is best for meeting the needs of all students?" It means that we start working to understand poverty. That does not mean understanding it for the sake of making excuses. That means understanding poverty for the sake of overcoming it. One of the goals of education should be in helping students reach their full potential. It is estimated that cutting the dropout rate in half would add a trillion dollars to the economy over a 10-year period.

The famous psychologist Abraham Maslow says that there are a few important steps to reaching full potential that can't be skipped.

According to his hierarchy of needs, humans require certain conditions in order to survive: they need their basic needs met, to feel safe, to be loved and have a sense of belonging, to respect themselves and to reach their personal potential. Sounds easy enough until you realize the impact of not having one of those in your life. A lack of basic needs means a person is preoccupied with survival. For families living in poverty, everything is about survival.

The work of educator Ruby Payne, who grew up poor herself and now studies poverty, gives a full understanding of just how pervasive the need to survive is for many poor families. Their lives are often governed by certain rules that don't necessarily translate to middle-class society. She explains that people who grow up in poverty learn different things from people who grow up middle class. Most schools and businesses operate under middle-class rules, with most teachers and business owners having grown up learning about those hidden rules. Hidden rules are the salient, unspoken understandings that cue the members of the group that this individual does or does not fit in. Special note: If you have a college degree, it doesn't matter if you grew up in poverty, as you have now learned the rules for survival in the middle class. Hence, the importance of seeing education as a means for escaping poverty.

These are not rules that can be argued as right or wrong. They simply are the rules that allow someone to survive in poverty. The rules for survival in middle class do not ensure survival in poverty. They are not interchangeable any more than the rules for living in wealth are interchangeable with living in middle class. Take a look at the rules for food. In poverty, the goal is to get enough to eat. Quality is not nearly as critical as quantity when you're not sure if you'll have enough. In middle class, quality is very important as evidenced by the success of stores like Trader Joe's. In wealth, it's important who creates the meal, where it comes from and how it's presented. If you can understand that none of the three approaches is better or superior, that they are all a component to survival in that class, and that they are all based on the hidden rules of each class, then we can finally get to the business of using education as a tool for overcoming the impacts of poverty. Payne makes it clear that our job as educators is not to scold or blame students who come to us living in poverty. Our job is to educate by providing support, insistence and expectations. That means that we as educators and board

2013 Apple for Excellence and Golden Bell Award winners

CCBE believes that two of the most critically important investments to 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.

As a division of CSBA, CCBE is proud to have established the "Apple for Excellence" award and recognize outstanding programs administered by county offices of education reflecting the depth and breadth of a county education program necessary to address students' changing needs.

Last year, the County Office of Education category had the highest number of entries in the CSBA Golden Bell Awards, making it a challenge to select only two to be awarded the CCBE Apple for Excellence award.

During the 2013 CSBA Golden Bell Awards Luncheon, President Ramón Flores had the privilege to award Santa Barbara and Riverside County Offices of Education the CCBE Apple for Excellence award. Congratulations to all 2013 award winners for their innovative programs and hard work!

Multi-District | Countywide | Statewide | Nationwide | International



College Connection

Riverside County Office of Education, Riverside County

Elizabeth Romero, Board President; Kenn Young, Superintendent; Charles Fischer, Sheila Faulkner-Loser, Debra Sacks and Diana Walsh-Reuss, Specialists

College Connection helps at-risk, alternative education students identify pathways to earn a diploma, a GED, or a certificate of completion; and to develop a transition plan that details academic resources, college links, and career and technical training. College Connections has successfully assisted more than 1,000 highly at-risk students in attending college.

Golden Bell Award Winners County Offices of Education

High School



Road to Success Academy

Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles County

Dr. Rebecca Turrentine, Board President; Dr. Arturo Delgado, Superintendent; Dr. Cuauhtemoc Avila, Assistant Superintendent; Dr.

Perry Wiseman, Director; Diana Valasquez, Principal; Dr. Ron Randolph, Past Superintendent

Incarcerated teen girls struggle with a host of emotional and psychological issues in addition to long periods of truancy and significant high school credit deficits. The Road to Success Academy is improving educational outcomes for this high-risk student population through interdisciplinary project-based learning focused on themes that address both academic and mental health needs.

2013 Apple for Excellence and Golden Bell Award Winners | County Offices of Education

High School



Partners in Education Internship Program

Santa Barbara County Office of Education, Santa Barbara County

Richard M. Fulton, Board President; William Cirone, Superintendent; Michelle Magnusson, Director; Chelsea Duffy, Program Manager

Santa Barbara COE's Partners in Education Internship Program builds on classroom learning and provides high school students with job skill development and meaningful, paid work experience. After a rigorous application and interview process, students complete seven weeks of job training focused on 21st century learning skills and basic employment proficiencies before they are matched with local businesses where they serve an eight week internship.

Golden Bell Award Winners County Offices of Education, continued

Multi-District | Countywide | Statewide | Nationwide | International



FRESH After-School Consortium

Fresno County Office of Education, Fresno County

Dr. Allen Clyde, Board President; Keith Eubanks, Board Member; Jim Yovino, Superintendent; Randy Mehrten, Senior Director; Alix Frazer, Director; Dr. Steve

Price and Mike Snell, Consultants; California Teaching Fellows Foundation

Fresno's Recreation, Enrichment and Scholastic Help (FRESH) After-School Consortium program is a place where previously marginalized kids can create a new perception of themselves. It begins with caring, talented staff that have "walked in our children's shoes" and are now anxious to serve their communities.



Regional Technology Hosting Program

San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego County

Sharon Jones, Board President; Randolph Ward, Superintendent; Stephen Clemons, Assistant Superintendent

The Regional Technology Hosting Program is designed to provide high-quality technology services and resources to school districts in the region. The program supports school districts by connecting them through single sign-on cloud resources, on-site technical support, and professional development while saving districts an average of \$14 million per year.



Inclusion Collaborative, All Children Learning and Playing Together

Santa Clara County Office of Education, Santa Clara County

Grace Mah, Board President; Nancy Newkirk, Board Member; Xavier De La Torre, Superintendent; Jean Gallagher and

Lisa Kaufman, Directors; Janice Battaglia, Manager

The Inclusion Collaborative program supports parents, community programs, and districts to create and implement inclusion models through professional development and on-site coaching. The program was created to help children with significant disabilities to have access to inclusive, high-quality learning environments in the community and schools in our county.



Leadership Institute

Sacramento County Office of Education, Sacramento County

Jacquelyn Levy, Board President; David Gordon, Superintendent; Dr. Steven Winlock, Executive Director; Kristen Coyle, Director

The Sacramento County Office of Education's Leadership Institute provides high-quality leadership training and development in the capital region. The program includes six courses taught by skilled instructors, mini sessions conducted by experts in the field, fieldwork experiences, and a web-based component guided online by principal-coaches.



Curriculum Leadership Council

Santa Clara County Office of Education, Santa Clara County

Grace Mah, Board President; Dr. Xavier De La Torre, Superintendent; Dr. Angelica Ramsey, Chief Academic Officer; Melissa Christie, Director,

Curriculum and Instruction Department

Curriculum Leadership Council is a train-the-trainer professional development model comprised of teacher leaders throughout Santa Clara County collaboratively building county-wide capacity for Common Core State Standards implementation. Teachers create core and unit maps to ensure the rigor needed to raise student achievement by utilizing 21st century skills, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication.

Golden Bell Award Winners | School Safety

Jr. High | Middle | Intermediate School



Restorative Practices

San Francisco County and Unified School District, San Francisco County

Rachel Norton, Board President; Sandra Lee Fewer, Board Member; Richard A. Carranza, Superintendent; Kim-Shree Maufas, Commissioner;

Kevin Truitt, Associate Superintendent; Thomas Graven, Executive Director; Claudia Anderson, Retiree-Executive Director; Kerri Berkowitz, Program Administrator

Restorative Practices are based on principles and processes, emphasizing the importance of positive relationships as central to building community and repairing relationships after harm occurs. Restorative Practices enhances pro-social relationships and positive culture in school communities, decreasing the suspensions, expulsions, and time that students are excluded from instruction due to behavior infractions.

Golden Bell Award Winners | Special Education

Multi-Level | Districtwide



Professional Learning Communities Program

Butte County Office of Education, Butte County

Brenda McLaughlin, Board President; Mike Walsh, Board Member; Tim Taylor, Superintendent; Stacy Doughman, Principal; Butte County Office of Education Collaborative Team; Dr. Steve Olmos, Assistant

Superintendent; Michelle Zevely, Director Special Education

The Professional Learning Communities program is a unique model for teachers of students with severe disabilities. Butte County Office of Education teachers collaborate in an innovative team and use assessment and data to drive instruction with a population that often isn't seen as needing rigorous academic instruction.

Golden Bell Award Winners | Student Services

Multi-District | Countywide | Statewide | Nationwide | International



Fresno County Teen Parent Support Collaborative

Fresno County Office of Education, Fresno County

Dr. Allen Clyde, Board President; Jim A. Yovina, Superintendent; Kayla Wilson, Consultant; Mary Ann

Cusator, Coordinator; Wilma Hashimoto, Director

The Fresno County Teen Parent Support Collaborative has positively impacted the graduation rate of teens living in foster care and homeless and/or impoverished areas. The collaborative catches teens and their children before they fall through the cracks so they will graduate high school, learn healthy parenting skills and techniques, and become self-sufficient.

Poverty and the LCAP, continued from page 8

members must first start by educating ourselves. Here is a list of a few other key points to remember:

- For students to be successful, we must understand their hidden rules and teach them the rules that make them successful at school and at work.
- Poverty is relative. If everyone around you has similar circumstances, the notion of poverty is vague.
- It's important to have a mentor from the class to which you aspire to serve as a role model and teach you the hidden rules of that class.
- Even though the income of the person may rise significantly, many of the patterns of thought, social interaction, cognitive strategies, etc., remain with that person.

Educational success for every student is critical. As the Director-at-Large, County I will be making that education one of my priorities. Now who's with me?