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BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Date: December 23, 2016

SUPERINTENDENT – JOSÉ L. BANDA

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
S-196	José Banda	School Services of California's Sacramento Weekly Update

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER – DR. IRIS TAYLOR

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
CAO-61	Iris Taylor	College Readiness Block Grant

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER – VACANT

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
CCO-368	Janet Weeks	Washington Elementary Wins CASH Award

CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER – CANCY MCARN

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
CHRO-104	Tiffany Smith-Simmons	California Classified School Employee Teacher Training Program



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: S-196

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 12/23/2016
Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent						
To the Members of the Board of Education						
Prepared by: José L. Banda, Superintendent					Contact Email: superintendent@scusd.edu	
Subject: School Services of California's Sacramento Weekly Update						

Attached is the weekly update from School Services of California for your review.



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DATE: December 21, 2016

TO: Jose Banda
Superintendent

AT: Sacramento City Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

RE: ***SSC's Sacramento Weekly Update***

The significant activity in Sacramento this week was the gathering of California's delegates to the Electoral College on Monday, December 19, 2016. With the Legislature on winter break, little else is disturbing the quiet that has settled on Sacramento.

Like many of you, legislators will return from their holiday break on January 4, 2017. This week we are highlighting new (or newly returning) legislators that bring an education background to the Capitol:

- Assembly Member Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto) served as the Development Director at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, a nonprofit focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and closing the achievement gap in Silicon Valley public schools.
- Assembly Member Phillip Chen (R-Brea) served on the Walnut Valley Unified School District Board and taught urban politics at California State University, Los Angeles and at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
- Assembly Member Steven Choi (R-Tustin) taught at numerous higher education institutions, including California State University, Los Angeles; Saddleback College; and Coastline Community College
- Assembly Member Jordan Cunningham (R-San Luis Obispo) served as a trustee on the Board of the Templeton Unified School District
- Assembly Member Kevin Kiley (R-Granite Bay) taught 10th grade English at a high school in South Central Los Angeles, where he chaired the English department
- Assembly Member Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) served on the Santa Barbara Unified School District Board
- Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) served on the Torrance Unified School District Board

- Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton) was a teacher for more than three decades
- Assembly Member Eloise Reyes (D-San Bernardino) was an adjunct professor at Cal Poly Pomona and served on the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation
- Assembly Member Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) served on the Baldwin Park Unified School District Board
- Senator Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) chaired the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and championed concurrent enrollment while serving in the Assembly
- Senator Scott Wilk (R-Antelope Valley) served on the Santa Clarita Community College District Board

Expect to see at least a few of these names on the education committee rosters once announced by Assembly and Senate leaders.

Holiday Break

Like many of you, our office will be closed from December 23 through January 2, 2017. We will return to our regular *Sacramento Update* production schedule in January.

Happy holidays from School Services of California, Inc.!

Nancy LaCasse
Robert Miyashiro

Note: The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) Board is expected to approve the decreased investment returns rate assumption today, which will increase the already increasing employer rates further.

Calpers Moves To Slash Investment Forecast. That Means Higher Pension Contributions Are Coming.

By Dale Kasler
The Sacramento Bee
December 20, 2016

The cost of that government pension is about to go up again, for California taxpayers as well as some public employees.

CalPERS moved to slash its official investment forecast Tuesday, a dramatic step that will translate into billions of dollars in higher annual pension contributions from the state, local governments and school districts.

Employees hired after January 2013, when a statewide pension reform law took effect, will also have to kick in more money. Older employees could see higher contributions, too, although that would be subject to contract bargaining.

CalPERS' Finance and Administration Committee voted 6-1 to lower the forecast from 7.5 percent to 7 percent in phases over three years, starting next July. Although the committee's vote must be ratified by the entire board Wednesday, most other board members indicated they support the move as well.

It would be the first adjustment to the forecast in four years.

The move is a recognition that investment returns are falling and that the California Public Employees' Retirement System, which is just 68 percent funded, needs higher contributions from government agencies to solve its long-term problems.

"We're in a low-growth (investment) environment, and it's expected to remain that way the next five to 10 years," board member Henry Jones said.

CalPERS adviser Wilshire Consulting has predicted the fund will likely earn just 6.2 percent a year over the next decade, and critics such as Dan Pellissier of California Pension Reform said Tuesday's move doesn't go far enough.

Board members, however, defended the action as a compromise; it will help stabilize the fund while giving municipalities and other government agencies some breathing room before they absorb the impact. Richard Costigan, chairman of the finance committee, said CalPERS officials will continue to look at the fund's investment strategies over the next year.

"This is just a start," Costigan said.

The state will start to absorb the impact of higher rates with the start of the new fiscal year next July. Municipalities and school districts won't start feeling the effect until a year later. All told, the higher contribution rates will be phased in over eight years.

Government officials said they aren't thrilled about the higher rates but appreciate the phase-in period. The move will cost the city of Sacramento about \$6 million a year but is still "a reasonable and responsible action," city finance director Leyne Milstein told the committee.

Board members said they fully understood the impact on government agencies. But they said letting the pension fund drift financially would be considerably worse.

"An unfunded pension is a hollow promise," said board member Richard Gillihan.

Eric Stern of the state Department of Finance said the phased-in plan is supported by Gov. Jerry Brown, who previously scolded CalPERS for moving too cautiously on lowering its investment forecasts. Stern said the annual payment to CalPERS from the state's general fund, now about \$5.4 billion, will likely rise by \$1 billion.

CalPERS has been looking at its investment outlook for some time but wasn't expected to make any decisions until February. The timeline was moved up because "it allows folks to begin planning for it," Costigan said.

CalPERS last year adopted a mechanism that was designed to lower the forecast by 1 point, but it would take 20 years to kick in. After earning just 0.61 percent on its investment portfolio in the latest fiscal year, the second straight year of subpar returns, the pension fund decided to move more aggressively.

Despite predictions of lower investment returns, CalPERS has been wary of adjusting its investment forecasts. Six of CalPERS' 13 board members are affiliated with public workers or retirees, and a lower investment forecast means government agencies will pressure employees during contract bargaining to put more money toward their retirement. By imposing higher contribution rates on cash-strapped school districts and municipalities, the adjustment also could energize pension-reform advocates who are advocating steep cuts in retirement benefits.

CalPERS already raised rates two years ago, largely in response to actuarial studies showing retirees are living longer.

Note: Governor Jerry Brown contemplates his next move with a facilities bond program he openly objects to.

Brown Exploring If New Bond Measure Can Be Divvied Up Differently

By John Fensterwald
EdSource
December 18, 2016

Gov. Jerry Brown hasn't given up his quest to reform how the state allocates money for school construction, even though state voters last month approved a \$9 billion school facilities bond that left the current funding system in place.

Brown opposed Proposition 51. He said the bond measure, which will add about \$500 million to the \$2.4 billion the state is already paying annually in interest and principal payments on past school bonds, was too large, and the process for divvying the money is too convoluted and stacked against small school districts and low-income communities.

Now that what he called a "blunderbuss effort" has passed, Brown wants to revise the funding distribution system to make Prop. 51 more efficient and fairer to districts that wouldn't get a share of the money under the current first-come, first-served basis. That prospect is worrying the coalition of school districts and the construction industry behind Prop. 51; they believe Brown might use his influence to sit on the money or not release bonding for Prop. 51 at all.

The spokesman for the state Department of Finance, which represents Brown on budget and fiscal matters, denies this will happen but confirmed that the Brown administration is exploring ways to carry out reforms.

The administration "will honor the commitment of voters and won't sit on Prop. 51 by not issuing bonds," said H.D. Palmer. "But the outcome of Prop. 51 did not change longstanding concerns for school financing in the state. The administration will engage with stakeholders to move forward on issues Gov. Brown has identified."

But others predict that Brown will find that, for now, he'll be able to change the system only at the margins. Prop. 51's sponsor, California's Coalition for Adequate School Housing, or CASH, crafted the initiative's language explicitly to tie the distribution formula to existing law (the sections of the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998, [starting here](#)). The statute can be amended only by going back to voters or by the Legislature after 2020.

CASH wrote it that way so that voters would know what they were voting for, and school districts would know the rules, said Jenny Hannah, CASH's chair and the chief facilities officer for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office.

What the State Allocations Board, which authorizes funding for school districts' proposed building projects, can change are the regulations that flesh out the particular statute. The director of the Department of Finance chairs the board, whose members include the director of the Department of General Services, the superintendent of public instruction, three members of the Senate, three members of the Assembly, and another appointee of the governor.

But the scope of the revisions may be narrow, said Eric Bakke, interim co-director of Los Angeles Unified's Office of Government Relations and the district's expert on facilities. Any changes in regulations must be consistent with the applicable statute.

Of Prop. 51's total, \$2 billion in bonds will be reserved for community colleges and \$500 million each for charter schools and career and technical education facilities. That will leave \$6 billion for K-12 districts, split between new construction, which districts must match on a 50-50 basis, and modernization projects, for which the state will pay 60 percent of the cost.

In November, K-12 districts passed \$16.5 billion worth of construction bond initiatives. That's nearly three times what could be eligible for matching funding from Prop. 51. Many districts needing building renovations have waited years for an economic recovery and rising property values to fund larger bonds. Others, like Fremont and Dublin in the Bay Area, are dealing with increasing enrollments and a pressing need to build new schools.

In addition, districts have submitted about \$2 billion worth of unfunded proposals since the last state bond initiative – \$7 billion in 2006 – ran out of money. The State Allocations Board has reviewed and approved projects valued at about \$300 million of the \$2 billion. It has received but not reviewed the remaining \$1.7 billion worth of projects.

Brown's dislike of the state construction program is nothing new. He outlined his objections in the past several budget messages and reiterated them this year in the five-year state infrastructure plan (see pages 50-53). Criticisms include:

- “Cumbersome” bureaucracy adds expense; more than 10 state agencies provide “fragmented oversight.”
- The first-come, first-served process gives “substantial competitive advantage for large school districts with dedicated personnel to manage facilities.”
- Funding eligibility is based on standardized building standards that discourage innovation.
- Current rules were put in place when the state was expecting substantial enrollment increases; now, statewide forecasts project a slight decline in enrollment over the next decade.

Brown said the system should be changed to target districts most in need, giving priority to those with severe overcrowding. Funding should be on a sliding scale to help districts whose small tax bases can't support their projects, he said.

Last spring, representatives of CASH and the governor began discussions, with the goal of agreeing on an alternative bond proposal that Brown could support for the November ballot. Talks broke down, and both sides walked away frustrated.

Palmer said the administration has not yet presented a specific proposal. Bakke said that he'll be looking to Brown's state budget message on Jan. 10, when the governor will comment on the state's debt limit and bonding priorities, for a sign of what he intends to do.

“The perception in school district land is that the governor has leverage” on the State Allocations Board and might be “passive-aggressive” in issuing Prop. 51 bonds to get what he wants, Bakke said.

The Legislative Analyst's Office, which issued its own ideas for reforming the system in 2015, is also examining the statute covered by Prop. 51 and regulations to determine what, if anything, can be revised, said LAO fiscal analyst Dan Kaplan. Its report likely will be issued in February.

Note: Newly introduced bill would create a Bill of Rights for Children and Youth.

California Bill Declares All Children Have a Basic Right To Quality Education, Healthcare and Social Services

By Jazmine Ulloa
Los Angeles Times
December 15, 2016

State Sen. Richard Pan on Monday said all California children should have a basic right to quality childcare, early education and health and dental services no matter where they live or the income of their parents.

At a news conference held in the playground of the Discovery Tree School, the pediatrician and Sacramento Democrat unveiled the [Children's Bill of Rights](#), stating all children have the right to live in a just, safe, healthy and supportive society.

The proposal, sponsored by Common Sense Kids Action, states the Legislature's intent to expand and formalize the rights of children and to work on legislation that aims to help families provide and care for their children.

No other state in the nation has established the rights of children to have their basic needs met. In California, parents, school officials and lawmakers have sought to build a consensus centered on the issue since 2009.

Parents scored a victory last legislative session when Gov. Jerry Brown [signed a bill expanding](#) California's pioneering family-leave law.

But the Legislature has made little headway in building a coordinated effort. Parents and school officials said the children's bill of rights is a step in that direction.

Pan and organizers will be holding town hall meetings statewide to ensure that the bill addresses crucial issues such as access to high-quality childcare, early childhood education and paid family leave.



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: CAO-61

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 12/23/2016
Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent						
To the Members of the Board of Education						
Prepared by: Iris Taylor, Chief Academic Officer					Contact Email: iris-taylor@scusd.edu	
Subject: College Readiness Block Grant						

The purpose of this Board Communication is to provide an update on the actions the Academic Office has taken to engage stakeholders regarding the College Readiness Block Grant following the 12/8/16 Board meeting. Staff met with the LCAP PAC on 12/13/16 and solicited input on the actions outlined in the district plan. In addition, staff was scheduled to meet with the ELPAC on 12/14/16 however the meeting is being rescheduled because only one committee member was able to attend. Staff will reschedule this meeting for January. Staff also met with SCTA on 12/16/18 to review the proposed actions outlined in the plan and SCTA has requested to participate in site-level discussions regarding the use of funds allocated to school sites. Staff will continue to engage principals in decision-making regarding the funding set aside for administration of the SAT college readiness assessments.



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: CCO-368

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 12/23/2016
Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent						
To the Members of the Board of Education						
Prepared by: Janet Weeks, Communications Manager					Contact Email: janet-weeks@scusd.edu	
Subject: Washington Elementary Wins CASH Award						

The Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) and the American Institute of Architects (California Council) recently announced that Washington Elementary will receive an Award of Honor in the Modernization/Transformation category during the 2017 awards program to be held early next year. HMC Architects, the district and the school will all be recognized.



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: CHRO-104

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 12/23/2016
Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent						
To the Members of the Board of Education						
Prepared by: Tiffany Smith-Simmons, Ed.D., Director, Human Resources					Contact Email: tiffany-smith-simmons@scusd.edu	
Subject: California Classified School Employee Teacher Training Program						

The Human Resource Department is pleased to announce participation in a consortium with surrounding districts and Sacramento County Office of Education that will help support current SCUSD classified employees interested in becoming a teacher.

The goal of the program is to create a bachelor degree-credential pathway, the program will allow employees to continue to work while attending evening and online courses. The highlight of the program is, it offers fiscal resources (\$4,000/per year/per participant) to help alleviate the financial burdens of pursuing a degree and a teaching credential. The grant intends to offer assistance for books, fees and tuition.

The district will host an informational session for interested employees on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Representatives from our partners, Sacramento County Office of Education and Brandham University, will join us to share information about the program that will lead to a BA and a Teaching Credential in either Multiple Subjects, Math, Science or Mild/Moderate Education Specialist.

For more information about recent grants awarded by the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing to address the teacher shortage, please click on the following link:
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/briefing-room/pdf/PR-2016-12-07.pdf>