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BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Date: December 9, 2016

SUPERINTENDENT – JOSÉ L. BANDA

BC NO.	FROM	REGARDING
S-192	José Banda	School Services of California's Sacramento Weekly Update
S-193	José Banda	Highlights of Calendar for the Week of December 12



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

BC NO: S-192

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 12/9/2016
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 8, 2016

TO: Jose Banda
Superintendent

AT: Sacramento City Unified School District

FROM: Your SSC Governmental Relations Team

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

On December 5, 2016, the 120 members of the California State Legislature convened in Sacramento to officially open the 2017-18 legislative session. Both houses held swearing-in ceremonies for the 80 new Assembly Members and 20 new Senators who were elected in November. Additionally, Senate President

pro Tempore Kevin de León, and Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon were reelected to their respective leadership positions by their colleagues. Following lengthy debates on resolutions related to immigration, both houses adjourned and will return on January 4, 2017, to officially begin work on legislation and the State Budget. When they return, Democrats will hold a two-thirds majority in both houses, which gives them broad authority to pass constitutional amendments, bills with urgency clauses, tax measures requiring a two-thirds vote, and, legislative rule waivers to expedite legislation during the final days of the legislative session, which will be hampered by the passage of Proposition 54, requiring bills to be in print for at least 72 hours before a final vote.

While in town, the Legislature also introduced several bills for the 2017-18 legislative session. One significant bill impacting K-14 education, Assembly Bill (AB) 52 by Assembly Member Jim Cooper (D-Sacramento), would require all public employers to provide employee orientations that expressly authorize the exclusive representative (unions) to participate. This is a reintroduction of last year's failed legislation, AB 2835 (Cooper), however does not yet include all of the detailed requirements.

Additionally, this week Assembly Budget Chair Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) unveiled his "Assembly Blueprint for Responsible Budget Priorities." The Blueprint focuses on "strengthening California's fiscal health, protecting the state from harm inflicted by the federal government, and making responsible investments in Californians." The plan includes new budget investments to improve Early Education by "expanding access and requiring Full-Day Kindergarten" statewide, and to phase in "Debt Free College Education." The plan also focuses on expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to serve more working families and providing funding to assist with affordable housing and homelessness prevention.

As we have heard from other California Democratic legislative leaders since the November election, Ting takes a hard stance against potential federal law changes that could impact the state and Californians negatively, especially in the areas of immigration, health care, and climate change. And while noting that a repeal of the Affordable Care Act would cost the state more than \$20 billion in federal funds, he said, “We need a plan to move this state forward. We can’t govern by asking a Magic 8 Ball whether Washington will hit us this way or that way.” The full press release and presentation can be found [here](#).

The 2017-18 State Budget will be released on January 10, 2017, and there are few hints regarding what is in store for K-14 education as part of the Governor’s 2017-18 spending plan.

Nancy LaCasse
Robert Miyashiro

Note: Critics speak out against merging special education funds with general education funds in Chicago schools.

Chicago Public Schools unveils more capital spending

By *Chicago Tribune* Staff
December 2, 2016

A day after Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner effectively stripped \$215 million out of Chicago Public Schools' operating budget, the district put out a supplemental budget for a number of proposed projects that raises capital spending for the fiscal year to \$938 million.

The district said the additional spending will be funded by a capital improvement tax that raises about \$45 million a year and will be used to repay bonds. The supplemental capital spending released Friday comes on top of \$338 million in capital projects announced in August.

The additional borrowing doesn't figure to come cheap. The district's bond rating has for some time been accorded junk status by all of the major agencies.

In addition, district officials have not said how they will cover the shortfall left by Rauner's veto. The state Senate overrode the governor's veto, but a vote by the House, which adjourned for the holidays without weighing in on the issue, is far less certain.

Three public hearings on the supplemental capital spending are set for Monday. Among the projects being proposed:

- Roof work, mechanical projects and renovations totaling \$285 million.
- Annexes, modulars or possibly new school buildings at \$243 million.
- Facility upgrades including new classroom and physical education spaces and new labs at \$37 million.
- Turf fields, campus parks and other improvements at \$29 million.

The \$338 million capital budget released earlier included projects to relieve overcrowding at several schools and more air conditioners to meet Mayor Rahm Emanuel's promise to have air conditioning in every school by this spring.

The city's school board is expected to vote this week on a redrawn operating budget that now totals more than \$5.5 billion. The district had to redraw its budget to allow for new expenses linked to the contract deal reached in October with the Chicago Teachers Union.

Note: President-elect Trump's education agenda will likely focus on school choice with his Secretary of Education selection.

Trump Education Secretary Likely to Focus on School Vouchers

By Jill Tucker
San Francisco Chronicle
December 2, 2016

Toward the back of Mike Kirst's filing cabinet in his Stanford University office is a stuffed folder he hasn't needed for more than a decade.

It's filed under "V" — for vouchers.

"I have it. I know just where it is," said Kirst, president of the California Board of Education and professor emeritus at Stanford, where he started teaching education policy in 1967.

He expects he might need that file folder again after all these years. President-elect Donald Trump's nomination of Betsy DeVos as education secretary has pushed the controversial idea of vouchers — public money for private-school tuition — back into the national conversation.

DeVos is a strong supporter of vouchers, as well as school choice in general, and with the president-elect and Congress aligned, the education establishment is questioning what that could mean for public schools.

"It's back big-time," Kirst said. "My guess is the Trump administration wants to be disruptive, proposing radical change, and certainly vouchers fits into this category — it shakes education to its core."

Yet creating an education system that incorporates vouchers in a substantive way will be difficult if not nearly impossible, experts say. And it will be especially hard in California, where state voters have soundly rejected voucher initiatives, not once but twice, the last time in 2000.

Voucher supporters say they allow parents to choose the best option for their children, in turn pushing struggling schools to get better — a market-based approach that sees schools as competitive vendors and families as customers. Other proponents say it's only fair that those who pay taxes and private-school tuition get their share of education dollars.

Opponents say vouchers threaten the concept of a free education system for all children — operating with little oversight and skimming only certain students while leaving traditional public schools to grapple with less funding and the most needy students.

"Logistically, how do you make vouchers work for everyone?" said Maria Ferguson, executive director for the Center on Education Policy, which advocates for public education. "I worry the argument is, 'Who cares if it doesn't work for everyone?'"

Still, vouchers have maintained a foothold in several states and particularly in Washington, D.C., where every family receives federal funding — \$8,452 per year for elementary and middle school and \$12,679 for high school — to redeem at the public or private school of its choice.

Bolstering the voucher effort was a 2000 U.S. Supreme Court decision that found publicly funded vouchers redeemed at religious schools did not violate the constitutional separation of church and state.

Across the country, 13 states have voucher programs, but some are only in certain cities, and vary in how much they're worth and who is eligible, typically limiting recipients to special-needs, low-income or rural students or those in underperforming schools. The programs include the following:

- Milwaukee has offered vouchers since 1990. About 27,000 children who meet income requirements use them to attend more than 100 private schools — most religious.
- Florida offers vouchers to parents of children with special needs, to be used at public or private schools. The state also offers tax credits for donations to nonprofit groups that provide private-school scholarships to children of low-income families.
- Indiana, the home state of Vice President-elect Mike Pence, offers an opportunity scholarship — another term for vouchers — that helps pay for private-school tuition for special-needs and low-income students and those in struggling schools.

Trump has said he wants to spend \$20 billion on school choice, redirecting federal funding and letting states decide if the money follows low-income children to public, private, charter or magnet schools.

Where the money would come from is unclear. That amount is about a third of current federal education funding. And \$20 billion wouldn't go far. After all, there are about 21 million poor students in public schools.

The billionaire DeVos, a philanthropist and fundraiser, has long pushed for vouchers in her home state of Michigan, but has been thwarted by the state's Constitution, which prohibits public funding for private schools. California and many other states have similar constitutional clauses.

"Every time you have a voucher program, you have a lawsuit," said Paul Peterson, a Harvard University government professor.

The easiest thing for DeVos and the Trump administration to do, he said, would be to expand the Washington, D.C., program, which is controlled by Congress. Education is a state and local matter everywhere else.

Oakland's outgoing superintendent, Antwan Wilson, has been appointed by the District of Columbia's mayor to be the new school chancellor, and is open to exploring the issue, he said.

"D.C. already has one of the most robust choice systems in the country, so this may not be at the top of the Mayor's agenda," Wilson said in an email. "However this may possibly be something we'd be willing to work with the new president on if it made sense for District families."

Pushing vouchers across 50 states would be financially and politically challenging, Peterson said. "It will be a harder thing to do to come up with a federal plan that can be implemented throughout the country," he said. "They can't tell states to set up a voucher program — the only thing they can do is induce them to do it."

Federal officials could, for example, divert funding from the Title I pot of money now allocated to states for low-income students or from other sources, and tell states and districts they have to implement choice programs if they want the money.

“Getting that kind of thing through the congressional labyrinth would be a challenge,” Peterson said.

Despite the barriers, voucher opponents believe the issue has been given new energy with the DeVos appointment.

“I think this sort of opens the door to all of this,” Ferguson said. “Some states won’t play. Some will.”

Like Kirst, Ferguson said she had filed away the issue years ago, noting that studies had shown that vouchers don’t improve student test scores. Other studies, however, showed that voucher students were more likely to graduate high school and go to college despite those stagnant test scores.

Public support for vouchers has declined in recent years, and Democrats still favor them more than Republicans, according to a 2016 poll by Education Next, a journal published by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

When it comes to politicians, however, it’s just the opposite: Conservatives support vouchers and liberals don’t, said Peterson, an editor of the journal.

There’s more support across the political aisle for charter schools, which are public but with less institutional oversight, according to the poll. The Trump administration could find it easier to focus on expanding charters, which President Obama has done as well.

To push the voucher movement forward, the Trump administration will have to grapple with logistical, financial, political and legal hurdles, said Stanford law Professor William Koski, an expert on school-choice issues.

But at the core of the voucher debate is one question, he said: “How do you look at a kid in Detroit or Baltimore and say we’re not going to give you any way out?”

For now, Kirst is blowing the dust off his voucher file and wondering what DeVos and Trump will do next.

“I’m going to wait and see,” he said. “She knows how to play the game. She’s an experienced policy advocate, that is her main claim for this job.”

School choice, he said, “is her only issue.”



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BC NO: S-193

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM - <i>(Check a Box)</i>	No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 12/9/2016
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: Highlights of Calendar for the Week of December 12						

Monday, December 12

- Swearing-In Ceremony for City of Sacramento’s Interim Chief of Police, Brian Louie
- 1:1 Meetings with Cabinet Members
- Meeting with Joe Stymeist

Tuesday, December 13

- Cabinet Retreat
- Mayor Elect Darrell Steinberg Swearing-In Celebration

Wednesday, December 14

- 1:1 Meetings with Cabinet Members
- Teacher Recruitment Meeting with Dr. Alan Rowe
- Operations Cabinet Meeting

Thursday, December 15

- Leading with Learning/District Leadership Team Meeting
- ALAS Board Meeting
- Credit Recovery Meeting
- Superintendent’s Principal Advisory Committee

Friday, December 16

- School Visits
- Negotiations