

Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, June 2015

Details are in the June issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- There's still a lot of good news coming out of Sacramento. The state is getting much more tax revenues than Governor Brown expected and because of Prop. 98, most of it has to go to K-12 schools and community colleges. In his May revision of the budget, the Governor put in another \$6 billion for K-12 schools.
- The Legislative Analyst's Office predicts the state will get even more money -- \$3 billion more than the Governor thinks. The Senate and Assembly have developed budgets based on those figures.
- Things could change when the tax increases from Prop 30 begin to expire next year, or if we run into another recession. But for now things are great for schools.
- The state lawmakers have to complete the budget by June 15 and the Governor has to sign it by June 30.
- There's still a chance that Congress will revise the ESEA this year, which would put something new in place of No Child Left Behind. Two reauthorization bills have been introduced, one in the Senate and one in the House of Representatives. The Senate is scheduled to discuss its version in mid-June. The House bill has stalled.
- The Fourth District Advocacy Training Workshop will be on September 25. It's free and anyone can go.
- Next year's Sacramento Safari will be on February 22 and 23. Have we budgeted \$650 so someone can go and represent our PTA?
- Three resolutions were approved by the delegates at the California State PTA Convention in May. They deal with synthetic marijuana, climate change and LGBTQ+ issues. State PTA can now use these resolutions to advocate and take action.
- SB 277, which would eliminate most exemptions to the requirement that children have to be immunized before entering public school, was approved by the state Senate. It has to be approved by the Assembly and signed by the Governor in order to become a law. PTA supports this bill.
- Who is going to pay for school construction in the future? That is the question. Up to now, schools were built with a combination of local money and state money from a voter-approved school bond. The last school bond was passed in 2006. Now that money is gone and the governor wants the state to get out of the school construction business. Two state lawmakers have introduced bills to put another bond on the ballot, but Governor Brown probably will veto them. A group of school districts and people from the construction industry are collecting signatures to put a \$9 billion school bond on the November 2016 ballot. We'll have to wait and see how that turns out.

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