

## Sacramento Safari 2016 Talking Points



- On February 22 – 23, about 75 Orange County PTA members participated in our annual 4<sup>th</sup> District PTA Sacramento Safari trip.
- We heard from 14 different speakers including California Secretary of State, Alex Padilla; President Pro Tem, Kevin de León and the Assembly Education Chair, Patrick O'Donnell.
- Highlights of what we heard include:
  - This is an exciting time for education, with new standards, teaching materials, training, assessments and accountability.
  - The new accountability system will have a dashboard of multiple measures.
  - A revised LCAP rubric will be done by this Fall.
  - We have to make strategic investments education – it is the great equalizer.
  - California is nowhere close to adequately funding public education.
  - Any hope of a stable funding source likely needs to come from the local level – income tax, sales tax, excise tax, sin tax, etc.
  - Investment in high quality early childhood education is critical, which is a priority to the incoming Speaker of the Assembly, Anthony Rendon.
  - CAPTA is working to obtain \$1 billion of one-time funding from the state for family engagement and is sponsoring AB 2680, which would designate funding for family engagement.
  - CAPTA objects to the release of student data as demanded in the Morgan Hill case.
  - CAPTA supports the \$9 billion school facilities bond that is currently on the November 2016 ballot. There is concern that if this and the Prop 30 extension are both on the same ballot, either one or both will fail.
  - This year's education budget looks very good, although not as good as last year.
  - The state needs to address the teacher shortage.
  - The Secretary of State's office is working hard to increase voter turnout.
- We made visits to all of our Orange County legislator offices in small groups on Tuesday afternoon and advocated for the following:
  - Elimination of the Opportunity Gap and the Achievement Gap.
  - Improvement of teacher recruitment and retention.
  - Securing adequate and stable funding for public education.