

Fourth District PTA

Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

NOVEMBER 2016

Ron Bennett provides a wealth of information at Advocacy Forum

As always, Ron Bennett presented a wealth of valuable information at the Advocacy Forum on October 28. Here are some highlights:

- California's rate of economic growth is slower than expected for the current fiscal year. There hasn't been a real recovery from the Great Recession. "Things don't get worse, but they don't get better."
- State revenues for the 2015-16 fiscal year fell short of expectations by \$706 million and are almost \$1 billion below expectations for this year. "It is still too early to conclude that a negative trend is developing, and this shortfall can be reversed in a few months."
- During the Great Recession, Prop. 98 funding for education was cut by 22 percent. Increased education funding during the past few years has only been a restoration of previous cuts.
- The fate of Prop. 55 will have an impact on state revenues beginning in 2018-19, when the current income tax increase on high earners is set to expire. The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates Prop. 55 would generate \$4 billion to \$9 billion in General Fund revenues annually. Polls show Prop. 55 has a good chance of passing.
- The amount of additional funding schools will get if Prop. 55 passes will depend on economic conditions in the state. "In every case, education is much better off if Prop. 55 passes."
- The passage of Prop. 55 would make the state's tax structure even more volatile, with greater reliance on tax payments from wealthy individuals whose income fluctuates with the stock market. Half of the state's income tax comes from the top one percent.

- Before Prop. 13 passed in 1979, California was in the top five nationally in education funding. California schools were the best in the country. For the past 40 years California has been in the bottom 10 in funding and school staffing. None of the state legislators want to talk about changing Prop. 13.
- Prop. 51, the statewide school facilities bond, lost support in the past few months and is likely not to pass.
- Parent engagement is one of the eight priorities that must be addressed in Local Control and Accountability Plans developed by school districts. "This is your issue! Everyone is watching PTA for leadership."
- Many school districts continue to find it difficult to get the parent community engaged. PTA has created the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide to help families and schools implement meaningful engagement. (See box on page 2 for resources.)
- At the end of the last legislative session, Governor Brown vetoed two bills that dealt with teacher evaluations. "Given the composition of the Legislature, and the prospect of the Democrats obtaining a supermajority on November 8, teacher evaluations could again become a contentious issue with the specter of California Teachers Association diminishing the role that student performance plays in teacher evaluations."

Ron Bennett is CEO of School Services of California.



Sacramento Safari

February 27 and 28, 2017

**Don't miss the most exciting,
informative advocacy event of the year!**

Questions? Contact Suzanne Gauntlett at
Sac-safari@fourthdistrictpta.org

Sacramento Safari Orientation
Friday, February 3, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley

**Register now at
www.fourthdistrictpta.org**

- Attendees must be current PTA members and must be voted as representatives by a PTA unit or council.
- Attendees must be at least 18 years old or accompanied by a parent.
- Cost is \$330 per person double occupancy, \$445 per person single occupancy, until December 18. After that, date prices increase to \$360 and \$475.
- Airfare and ground transportation not included.

Bills supported by PTA are signed into law by Gov. Brown

At the end of the last two-year legislative session, 38 bills supported by California State PTA were signed into law. Here is a sampling of some of those bills:

- **AB 1299** (Ridley-Thomas) Ensures that foster children who are placed outside of their county of original jurisdiction are able to access mental health services in a timely manner.
- **AB 2007** (McCarty) Requires an annual concussion and head injury information sheet to be signed and returned by a student athlete and parent or guardian before the first practice or competition. An athlete suspected of sustaining a head injury must be removed from sports activity until he or she receives clearance from a licensed health care provider.
- **AB 2097** (Melendez) School districts may not collect and use social security numbers to identify special needs students and may not collect social security numbers or the last 4 digits of social security numbers from pupils or their parents unless required to do so by state or federal law.
- **AB 2246** (O'Donnell) Requires school districts to adopt policies for the prevention, intervention and postvention of student suicides.
- **SB 977** (Pan) Prohibits the use of tobacco products within 250 feet of a youth sporting event.
- **AB 1557** (Mathis) Limits the amount of fees a school district may charge for the use of school facilities by a nonprofit organization or an organization that promotes youth and school activities.
- **AB 1567** (Campos) Schools that provide programs before and after school must give enrollment priority to homeless youth and children in foster care.

- **SB 916** (Allen) Authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue teaching credentials in dance and theatre.
- **AB 1554** (Irwin) and **SB 819** (Huff) Both of these bills prohibit the manufacture, possession and sale of powdered alcohol and impose additional regulations on the sale of alcoholic beverages.
- **AB 1639** (Maienschein) Requires students and parents to return a signed receipt acknowledging they have received information on sudden cardiac arrest before the student participates in athletic activities. A student who faints during or after athletic activity must be removed from participation. Coaches must complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course every other school year.
- **AB 1719** (Rodriguez) High school health education classes must include instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- **SB 1383** (Lara) Requires the State Air Resources Board to begin implementing strategies to reduce emissions of methane, hydrofluorocarbon, and anthropogenic black carbon by 2030. Also establishes specified targets for reducing organic waste in landfills.

Save the date
Advocacy Forum
Wednesday, January 18, 9:30 a.m.
Program to be announced

PTA Parent Engagement Resources

- PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide in English and Spanish**
<http://capta.org/resource/family-school-partnerships/>
- LCAP Quick Guides for each of the state priority areas in English and Spanish**
<http://capta.org/resource/quickguides/>
- School Smarts Parent Engagement Program General Information**
www.capta.org/schoolsmarts
- School Smarts Parent Engagement Brochure in English and Spanish**
<http://capta.org/resource/school-smarts-parent-engagement-program-brochure/>
- General Tips for Parents**
<http://capta.org/focus-areas/family-engagement/tips-for-parents/>

When did PTA become so political?

Many people think PTA exists only to raise money for schools. That has never been the case. PTA was founded in 1897 to address the way our country nurtures, protects and educates its children. Those concerns continue to be PTA's primary focus.

PTA members work hard to support their own schools, but they realize that *every* child deserves a healthy upbringing and a good education. This can only be accomplished by securing "adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth."

PTA carefully studies the facts and supports or opposes proposed laws or ballot measures that affect children and youth, based on the purposes and values of PTA and on resolutions approved by the membership. PTA members are encouraged to learn how the various levels of government function and to take action when children's issues are at stake.

PTA is active in political issues but is not partisan. PTA does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate for political office.