

## Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, March 2017

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

- Betsy DeVos was recently appointed U.S. Secretary of Education. During the confirmation process, National PTA expressed concerns about her lack of experience with public education and her support of private school choice programs. National PTA President Laura Bay issued a statement saying that PTA hopes to work with Ms. DeVos where possible, but that we will continue to oppose vouchers, tax credits or deductions that divert funding from public schools.
- The next Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at Orange City Hall. Five Orange County school superintendents will talk about how their school districts are dealing with current education issues. Fourth District has had superintendent panels in the past and they are really interesting! It's a great way to find out what is happening in our local school districts.
- California's new school accountability Dashboard is going on line this month! The *Communicator* shows the color-coded system that will be used to rate multiple measures of school performance. It also has the website where you will be able to see the new Dashboard results for your school.
- Last month we reported that Gov. Brown was going to hold up Prop. 51 school bond funding until new auditing procedures could be put in place. As it turns out, that won't take as long as expected and the state will begin disbursing funds in the fall.
- The arts are an important part of a comprehensive education! We should all be arts advocates. The *Communicator* has some ideas about that.

###