

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Communicator



FOURTH DISTRICT PTA ADVOCACY TEAM

JANUARY 2018

PTA advocacy begins in your school district

PTA advocacy begins in your own community, in the school district where you live. Important decisions that impact your children and their schools are made here.

This is especially true now that the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), enacted four years ago, gives school districts more say in how they use the funding they receive from the state. School districts are required to develop a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and to obtain parent participation in this decision-making process. This is the perfect place for PTA action.

It's important to understand how your school district is structured and who the key players are.

A school district is a specific governance entity that is separate from other government entities, including cities. School district boundaries do not often coincide with city or county boundaries. Some school districts serve only elementary grades, others serve only higher grades. "Unified" school districts serve every grade from Kindergarten through high school.

In each district, an elected school board determines the basic policies and direction of the school district. The superintendent, hired by the school board, carries out those policies and oversees the day-to-day operation of the district.

State law requires every California county to have an office of education that oversees the finances and operation of school districts in that county. The 28 school districts in our county are supervised by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), which also provides an array of services and resources to students and school districts.

Orange County school districts generally have five to seven members. In recent years, many school districts have gone to a "ward" system, where board members represent specific areas of the school district. In some cases, school board candidates run from specific wards but are elected by voters in the entire district. In other cases, voters elect only the board member in their own ward.

Take some time to learn about your school district. Here are some things to find out:

- ☐ Who are your district's superintendent and top administrators?
- ☐ Who is on your school board? Have you met any of them?
- ☐ What kind of information is posted on your school district website?
- ☐ What is your district's process for the development of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)?
- ☐ When does your school board meet? Are agenda and minutes posted on the website?
- ☐ Attend a school board meeting. Ideally, your PTA should have a representative who consistently attends meetings and reports to your PTA.
- ☐ Do school board members run from wards or at large?
- ☐ When is your next school board election? Will there be a PTA-sponsored candidate forum? (This is normally organized at the PTA council level.)

Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum



Dianna MacDonald

**Friday, January 12
9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley**

Guest Speakers from California State PTA

Dianna MacDonald, President

Lynn Miyamoto, Vice President for Family Engagement

Dianna and Lynn will talk about how to advocate for a healthier school climate to improve the emotional and mental well-being of our children.

This event is free and open to all PTA members.



Lynn Miyamoto

California will have extra money to spend on education

As they head into the next state budget process, Governor Brown and state legislators will have an interesting problem: what to do with billions in extra education funding.

The state could have \$5.3 billion in “uncommitted Prop. 98 funds” to allocate in 2018-19, according to a report issued by the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) in November. Prop. 98 provides funding for K-12 education and community colleges.

The LAO suggests the state could use this funding to fully implement the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which would cost about \$2.7 million, and to give select K-14 programs a 1.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment. This would leave another \$2.4 billion to spend. The governor and legislature will have to decide whether to use this for one-time purposes or ongoing programs, the LAO said.

Countering that good news is the fact that much of the additional funding school districts receive will go to increased payments to the state retirement system for teachers and other school employees. Those payments will eat up \$1.3 billion, more than 40 percent of the Prop. 98 increase next year and for the following two years, the LAO says.

And while full-funding of LCFF sounds wonderful, it will only return school districts to the level of per-pupil funding they received in 2007-08, adjusted for inflation. Schools were far from adequately funded at that time.

The state budget process will begin with the development of a proposed budget, based on estimated revenues, which the governor must submit to the legislature by January 10. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) will issue its analysis of this proposal by the third week of February.

During the next months, Assembly and Senate budget committees will review the proposal and develop their

own versions of the budget.

In mid-May, the governor will issue an updated “May Revise” version of the budget based on actual revenues received through taxes. The LAO will again present its analysis. A conference committee may meet to resolve the differences between the Assembly and Senate versions of the budget, and there may be continuing discussions between legislators and the Governor.

The state Constitution requires the legislators to complete the budget by June 15. If they miss the deadline, they permanently lose their pay and expenses for every day that the budget is not passed. If the Governor receives the budget on time, he must sign it by June 30.

Get ready for LCAP involvement

As the new year begins, your school district will gear up to review and update its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), a state-required document that describes how your district will spend its education funding. PTA members should be actively involved in this process.

California State PTA has extensive resources to help you understand this process and participate in a meaningful way. Go to www.capta.org and click on Resources. Information can also be found in the Fourth District Advocacy Resource Notebook, under California Education, Finance. Copies of the notebook are available for \$15 at the Fourth District PTA office.

Don’t miss the most exciting and informative advocacy event of the year!

Sacramento Safari

February 26 and 27, 2018

Registration closes January 26

www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Safari Orientation Meeting

Friday, February 2

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Fountain Valley School District
10055 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley**

PTA Advocacy Conference Call

The next California State PTA advocacy conference call is scheduled for Monday, January 8, at 7 p.m.

Call-in Directions:

- Conference Dial-In Number: 1 (712) 775-7300
- Participant Access Code: 960878#
- To mute or unmute during the session, press *6.

**Save the Date
Fourth District PTA Advocacy Forum
Friday, March 9
Focus on Mental Health**

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