**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, MAY 2024**

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

* Will there be school board elections in our district this fall? If so, our PTA council should start making plans now for a candidate forum.
* The Advocacy Forum in April featured two members of Braver Angels, who showed the group how you can have a civil conversation with someone whose opinions are different from yours. Braver Angels is a national organization that is working to bridge the polarization that is dividing our country.
* The bill that would have required schools to teach literacy through “the science of reading” died without a hearing. Supporters say they will bring it back during the next legislative session.
* The National PTA president responded to President Biden’s 2025 budget proposal as it relates to education. The comments were generally positive.
* The 2023 California School Dashboard is available online. Some of the indicators were not included during the past few years because of the pandemic, but they are back now. The California Department of Education has an online Toolkit to help us understand the Dashboard.
* Dr. Al Mijares, who has been the Orange County Superintendent for the past 12 years, has announced he will retire at the end of June. The Orange County Board of Education will appoint someone to complete the rest of his term, which ends in 2026.
* We need to be sure to include advocacy in our PTA budget for next year, including money to send someone to Sacramento Safari.

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