



OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County
School Boards
Association**

P.O. Box 9050
B-1008
Costa Mesa, CA
92628-9050

2007-2008

Editor:

Sheila Benecke,
Capistrano Unified
School District

OCDE Liaison:

Ellin Chariton
Executive Director

Editorial Staff:

Blanca Zimmerman
(714) 966-4313
bzimmerman@ocde.us

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

November 2007 Edition

A Message from the OCSBA President – Judy Edwards

ARE WE EVER REALLY PREPARED?

California was on fire! We have witnessed one of the worst natural disasters our state has seen in many years. OCSBA along with CSBA and the rest of the educational community send our sincere sympathies to those who have been displaced by these terrible firestorms.



Many of our schools were closed due to fire and smoke. Several high schools throughout the county have been used as evacuation sites. This was a terrible strain on many both in and out of our school systems. There must be such a great terror for children who fear the loss of their home but also think that their school will be lost as well. We, in education are working to help these children, their parents, and their local school districts. While our sites were being used to house those displaced, we were also there to comfort and care for those who may have lost so much.

State Superintendent of Public Education Jack O'Connell announced that facilities would not lose Average Daily Attendance (ADA) due to fire related issues. The Orange County Department of Education is still busy with issues related to Outdoor Education projects that are in the affected burn areas, as well as many support issues for our county as well as others. On Friday, October 26th, 130 schools within Orange County were closed due to smoke and ash. This was the largest number of school closures since 9/11. All high school sporting events were also canceled for the same reason.

Scott Plotkin reminded us that, "It is during devastating times like these that our school leaders work hand-in-hand with local, state, and federal government agencies to assist people during their time of greatest need." CSBA president, Dr Kathy Kinley, tells us that, "Our students and our school officials are priority number one during a disaster. That is why CSBA developed an Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan for all of our members." Each member district has a copy of this plan.

With help from the federal, state, and local governments, we are making it through this terrible time. Being a strong organization is what helps our individual districts face the worst because they have others who care and support them. We need to be prepared, but you never really know what you will need until the time comes. My thoughts and prayers are with all who have been affected by this disaster.

Judy Edwards



State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Congratulates California Schools for National Honor

27 Schools Given Blue Ribbon Distinction

The NCLB-Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a 24 year-old program that encourages states to nominate public kindergarten through grade twelve schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. California public schools were chosen from among the 2006 California Distinguished Schools. Private schools were nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

Schools must fit one of two categories. The schools' student body must be comprised of 40 percent or more disadvantaged students whose level of proficiency places the school at the 60th percentile in English language arts and mathematics in the highest grade tested when compared to other schools in the state. The school must show dramatic growth in both content areas. Or, the school must show a student proficiency level that places the school at the 90th percentile in English language arts and mathematics in the highest grade tested when compared to other schools in the state.

All awardees met the federal 2005, 2006, and 2007 Adequate Yearly Progress requirement and California Academic Performance Index growth targets. The schools will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in November 2007. To obtain further information on the program and review a list of 2007 winners nationwide, please visit the U.S. Department of Education's web page:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>

The 2007 NCLB-Blue Ribbon Public School Awardees from Orange County are:

*Arroyo Elementary, Tustin Unified
Beechwood Elementary, Fullerton Elementary
Deerfield Elementary, Irvine Unified
Fairmont Elementary, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified
Mariners Elementary, Newport-Mesa Unified*

*Olinda Elementary, Brea-Olinda Unified
Tustin Memorial Academy, Tustin Unified
Victoria Elementary, Newport-Mesa Unified
Mariners Christian School, Private School*

Hispanics to Become O.C. Majority in 2034

By Brian Joseph, The Orange County Register



Hispanics will become Orange County's ethnic majority in 2034, seven years earlier than previously projected, according to new state figures. The new projections update numbers released in 2004.

"Politically, you are going to have a very diverse pool of elected officials at all levels," said Assemblyman Van Tran, R-Westminster. Tran envisions Orange County's elected officials at the state and local levels will more and more look like the county population as a whole, instead of being largely white. The key, he said, will be for the political parties to engage Hispanics and Asians now by recruiting members of their communities and getting them elected to high-profile positions.

But Assemblyman Jose Solorio, D-Santa Ana, warned that the change won't happen quickly or without significant effort. In an immigrant community like Orange County, he said, the first step is simply getting the newcomers naturalized. Then you have to encourage them to register to vote, and then actually vote. Any Hispanic takeover of Orange County politics will take time, Solorio said.

"There is a lot of hoops to jump through before raw numbers become political power," he said.

However, Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, R-Irvine, said a change in demographics doesn't foreshadow a change in county or party politics. Just because Republicans, for example, will have to reach out more to Hispanics and Asians doesn't suggest to him that party ideology or the balance of power would change.



Teen Drug Use Dips As Drinking Stays Steady, U.S. Says

Teenagers these days are smoking less pot and cigarettes than they did a few years back, but drinking just as much alcohol, a new survey shows.

The 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, released September 2007, found that the rate of marijuana use by those ages 12 to 17 dropped from 8.2 percent in 2002 to 6.7 percent last year. That trend was particularly strong among teenage boys, the report says.

“The trends in general are very encouraging,” said U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt, whose department oversees the substance-abuse and mental-health-services administration, which conducted the survey.

The overall rate of illicit drug use by teenagers has also dropped, the survey also found that in 2006, 9.8 percent of 12 to 17 years-olds admitted to drug use in the past month vs. 11.6 percent in 2002.

“Fewer teens using drugs today means fewer Americans suffering destructive consequences tomorrow,” said John P. Walters, the White House’s director of national drug control policy.

Still, the 2006 rates of both marijuana use and overall teen drug use remained essentially the same as the 2005 rates.

When it comes to underage drinking, about 10.8 million people ages 12 to 20, or 28.3 percent of that age group, reported having consumed alcohol in the previous month. Nineteen percent qualified as binge drinkers, and 6.2 percent were heavy drinkers. Rates of alcohol use in that age group have remained steady since 2002, the survey found.

The national survey, which the federal government has conducted since 1971, collected information from about 67,500 people age 12 or older on a range of behaviors that included smoking, drinking, and use of heroin, cocaine, and other drugs.

Regarding tobacco use among those ages 12 to 17, the survey found the rate of smoking declined from 13 percent in 2002 to 10.4 percent in 2006. However, the use of smokeless tobacco rose slightly, going from 2 percent in 2002 to 2.4 percent in 2006. The full report is available online at www.samhsa.gov

–Michelle R. Davis in *EDUCATION WEEK*

Why Parents Choose a School

Research on the choice movement is still not definitive, but some information is becoming available explaining why parents choose one school over another. Some of those characteristics are:



- High expectations of students
- Results-orientation
- Good curriculum
- Open, warm atmosphere
- Accessible staff
- Positive communication
- Academic and athletic achievement
- Involved parents
- Safe neighborhood
- Location convenient for parents

Source: *NSPRA’s Making/Marketing Your School of Choice*



Political Action Group Efforts
 Wednesday, November 14, 2007
 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

“Do You Know the Status of Your Wellness Policy? Questions to Ask”

**Presented by
 Pamela Kahn, R.N., M.P.H.**

Coordinator, Health and Wellness
 Orange County Department of Education

School Boards have the responsibility of ensuring that their Local Wellness Policy is being implemented in accordance with the monitoring plan established by Board Policy 5030. As the past two years have shown, there are many challenges to overcome as school districts attempt to promote healthy eating and physical activity among students. Pamela Kahn, RN, MPH, the Coordinator of Health and Wellness with OCDE, will discuss these challenges, guidelines for implementing the policies, and how to collect the data necessary to generate the Student Wellness Policy Implementation Monitoring Report that is due at the end of the school year.



OCSBA
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OCSBA/ACSA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
 Irvine Marriott Hotel

“Education Funding in California: Where are we now? Where do we need to go?”

**Presented by
 Thomas Timar, Ph.D.**

Thomas Timar, Ph.D., is an expert in international educational policy and governance and school finance.

Dr. Timar received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Comparative Literature, and his Ph.D. in Educational Policy from University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Timar is an author whose work includes “Evaluating State Intervention: The High Priority Schools Grant Program” and “Exploring the Limits of Entitlement: Williams v. the State of California.” He has been a professor at the University of California, Davis and at UC Riverside, UC Berkeley, Stanford, and Harvard. Dr. Timar is a recipient of the prestigious Spencer Fellowship (Spencer Foundation), “Local Responses to State Policy,” 1991-1993.

CSBA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



The OCSBA Board of Directors invite all Orange County School Board Members and Administrators to a reception at the CSBA Annual Education Conference in San Diego. Come, meet, and visit with other conferees from districts throughout Orange County.

**Thursday, November 29, 2007 • 5:30-7:00 p.m.
 San Diego Marriott Hotel - Cardiff Room**

We look forward to seeing you in San Diego! For further information contact Blanca Zimmerman at (714) 966-4313 or go to CSBA’s website: www.csba.org

**MARK THE DATES!
 2007-2008**

OCSBA Reception at CSBA Annual Conference
 Thursday, November 29, 2007, San Diego Marriott Hotel, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

ACSA Region XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting
 Wednesday, February 13, 2008, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2008-2009 Board Elections
 Wednesday, May 7, 2008, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

