President’s message

Joaquin Rivera, CCBE President, Alameda COE Board Member

I hope you are having a restful and relaxing summer. As we get ready for what promises to be a very interesting presidential race in November, I wanted to remind you that amongst the propositions on the November ballot that include such hot topics as the legalization of marijuana, regulation of firearms, overturn of the ban on plastic bags and whether performers in adult films should use condoms, there will be three very important measures that stand to make a deep impact on the future of education in California.

Proposition 51 (School Bonds) authorizes $9 billion in general obligation bonds: $3 billion for new construction and $3 billion for modernization of K-12 public school facilities; $1 billion for charter schools and vocational education facilities; and $2 billion for California Community Colleges facilities.

Proposition 55 (Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare) extends by 12 years the temporary personal income tax increases that was enacted in 2012 (on earnings over $250,000 for single filers; over $500,000 for joint filers; over $340,000 for heads of household). It allocates a lion’s share of these tax revenues to K-12 schools and community colleges and up to $2 billion per year for healthcare programs. Projections are that it will increase state revenues between $5 billion and $11 billion annually from 2019 through 2030.

Proposition 58 (English Language Education) amends and repeals various provisions of Proposition 227 (approved by the voters on June 1998) and authorizes parents or legal guardians of pupils enrolled in school to choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child. Proposition 58 gives school districts and county offices of education more local control by weaving the process into the LCFF’s procedures and removing costly mandates, including the current expensive waiver requirement. Proposition 58 supports English instruction for all students and it provides schools and parents with a broader opportunity to offer multilingual programs and prepare students with the vital skills they need for success in the 21st century global economy.

CSBA has taken a support position on these three propositions. Please join me in supporting the CSBA Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly by voting ‘yes’ on these propositions this November.

continued on page 5
Advocacy Institute 2016

As was mentioned in the President’s Message in the spring Core Newsletter, CCBE’s top priority this year is advocacy. As a part of realizing this goal, President Joaquin Rivera, President-elect Amy Christianson and Vice President Bruce Dennis attended the NSBA Advocacy Institute along with 23 other school and county trustees from throughout California, joining more than 600 school board members, state association leaders and education advocates participated in a successful Advocacy Institute, held June 12-14, in Washington, D.C.

The event culminated with NSBA’s Day on Capitol Hill when Federal Relations Network members met with their members of Congress to discuss the NSBA priorities outlined in the legislative agenda. Keynote speakers included U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King, Jr., Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Representative Todd Rokita (R-IN), Jeffrey Toobin and Larry Sabato. Participants also heard from NSBA leadership and legal, legislative, and public advocacy experts.

Priorities included:
1. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Implementation
2. Child Nutrition Reauthorization
3. Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act Reauthorization
4. Federal Investments in Education

The California trustees had the opportunity to discuss the LCFF and LCAPs with our representatives, and how those processes put California at the forefront of educational equity. Members also shared personal stories regarding nutrition programs in various counties and the great need to pass an extension of the Secure Rural Schools Act including special education.
This year’s CCBE Annual Conference is scheduled for Sept. 9-11 at the Portola Hotel & Spa in Monterey. The conference schedule is packed with exciting and engaging workshops and sessions geared specifically toward county governance team members and their student populations.

This year’s conference will have two dynamic keynote presentations, nine informative workshops and an opportunity to talk to presenters one-on-one at scheduled table talks on Saturday. Our Friday workshops begin with a workshop that will explore how county board members can better navigate state and federal policymaking bodies through gaining a basic understanding of the policymaking process, followed by the workshop titled “Nightmare on Board Night,” which promises to be a fun, informative and highly interactive session!

On Saturday, we welcome keynote speakers Superintendent David Gordon and Justice Judith McConnell who will be presenting on “Preparing Students for College, Career and Civic Life: What County School Boards Can Do.” Members will learn about the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning and how six pilot counties across the state are working to implement its recommendations as well as gain resources that show how civic learning supports LCAP priorities, as well as resources to share with superintendents, site administrators and teachers.

Finally, Sunday morning’s presentation “Traps of a Trafficker” will include a panel comprised of Jenny Williamson, CEO/Founder, Courage Worldwide, Inc., Jeneé Littrell, Director of Safe and Supportive Schools for San Mateo COE and Mike Brosnan, San Mateo County Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, who will be discussing the extremely dangerous world of sex trafficking and the impact of this crime on our children. In this presentation, the vulnerabilities of our children will be discussed as well as the “traps” the trafficker uses to lure them into this world. The Department of Justice has identified Human Trafficking as one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. Exploiters target and recruit school-age children and count on school personnel to remain in the dark about this crime, how it works and how many young children fall victim. Over the last decade, the issue of human trafficking and its manifestation in our nation’s schools has become a focus for the Department of Education and numerous school districts across the nation. As advocates and leaders in their communities, county board members and offices of education are well-positioned to play a critical role in the prevention of domestic sex trafficking of children.

Please download the schedule-at-a-glance for a more detailed listing of conference sessions. This will be a great conference. Don’t miss it! Visit www.theccbe.org and click on the CCBE Annual Conference link under upcoming events to learn more and to register. Share photos and see content posted by other participants, before, during and after the conference by using the hashtag #ccbeac!
Courage Worldwide
Changing the world one individual at a time

Jenny Williamson, Founder and CEO, Courage Worldwide

Courage Worldwide™ was founded in 2005 to help people find their unique purpose. In 2007, we learned that we live in a world where children are sold for sex, so our organization began to focus on this issue, both domestically and internationally. We wanted to protect these vulnerable children and give them tools to propel them into their future. We vowed to give them hope and a home. In 2011, we did just that.

In 2011, Courage House — homes for minor girls rescued from sex trafficking – were opened in Northern California and Tanzania, Africa. Courage House is not just a structure or building, a program or approach; it is a place where hope is given, healing is offered, and lives are restored. It is a community that not only shares a similar past but now shares the common purpose of finding their true identity and fulfilling their destiny while embarking on a journey of healing. Set in a rural, serene, undisclosed location, Courage House offers a comprehensive, holistic approach — unique to each child — which encompasses her physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.

Her emotional needs are met via focused trauma therapy, delivered in a menu of modalities on the campus which include art, equine, dance, music and recreational therapy. Courage House utilizes the H.E.A.R.T. Model (Healing Emotional Affective Responses to Trauma) for its treatment program, developed by trauma expert Dr. Benjamin Keyes. The H.E.A.R.T. model is highly effective in decreasing symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) facilitating positive growth and emotional healing.

A young resident’s mental and educational needs are assessed and met at an on-site school where learning is at her pace and scheduled in small increments throughout the day. Most of our residents feel like failures in an academic setting. Learning is stressful and difficult due to the constant trauma our girls have endured. However, once they begin to develop healthy coping skills and are able to apply what they have learned in therapy to their lives daily, their brains become able to absorb and process new knowledge. They begin to learn! Girls enter Courage House below grade level, with multiple school placements and an average GPA of 1.5. After participating in therapy, they then become eager learners and embrace their academic journey, setting goals for their future. GPAs at Courage House average 3.5 after a 12-month stay.

An equestrian and riding program provides these vulnerable children with a means to build confidence and trust while also promoting healthy self-esteem and a release of healing chemicals from the brain. Classes in social and life skills are offered to each resident at Courage House so she is thoroughly equipped, encouraged, and empowered to begin the journey of healing and restoration that is unique to her. A Unique Life Plan™ (ULP) is developed with each resident, empowering and encouraging positive choices that allow her to discover her own unique purpose, strengths, gifts and talents.

The campus is home to girls, where they learn to be a family and develop healthy relationships. Each evening she gathers with her “family” to eat dinner and express her gratefuls; a treasured tradition at Courage House for staff and the girls. Labrador retrievers provide constant companionship and snuggles, even when a girl wants to be away from other people.

Though Courage House is a licensed, long-term therapeutic residential program it is not an institution or a hospital. It is a community that mimics an ordinary neighborhood facilitating eventual re-integration to society. The campus is intentional and provides a well-organized environment, necessary for our girls to find the courage to confront the chaos and pain from their past.

“Courage Worldwide’s Courage House is one of the most well designed therapeutic environments and programs that I have worked with in the United States for the population of children rescued from sex trafficking. They extended family approach and focus on personal responsibility while in a supportive environment is cutting edge in the industry.” – Dr. Benjamin Keyes, Director of Trauma Studies, Regent University and Author of the H.E.A.R.T. Trauma Treatment Model; Mental Health Consultant, Courage Worldwide
President’s message, continued from page 1

As you know, CCBE has a task force working on charter school issues. The task force members identified the following top key issues to address:

A. Charter authorizing/oversight
   - Administrative costs
     • Evaluation of the charter proposal
     • Oversight
   - Timelines for charter approval
   - Allowing changes to petition on appeal or not
   - Dealing with district’s non-renewals
   - Student achievement

B. Charter operations
   - Fiscal transparency
   - Brown Act
   - Suspensions and expulsions
   - Authorizer capacity
   - Capacity of the Charter Board

C. Policy
   - Districts approving charters that locate outside their boundaries
   - Independent study charters
   - Educational outcomes
     • Accreditation of high school charters
     • Criteria to define success
     • Diversity of student body (racial, special education, socioeconomic)
     • Closing the achievement/opportunity gap
     • Mandate to consider student achievement as the most important factor in renewals/revocations

The task force has been hard at work and will present recommendations on these issues at our membership meeting on Sept. 10 in Monterey.

Finally, the 2016 CCBE Annual Conference is shaping up to be excellent. Our conference committee has worked hard to provide you with an outstanding program to help you become the most prepared and best informed board member possible. Appropriately themed “Advocate for Education,” this conference will address some of the most critical issues facing public education and better prepare you to be an effective advocate for schools and students.

Remember that this is the only conference specifically designed for county board members. If you are not already registered, please do so soon.

See you in Monterey!

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CCBE

Outstanding Legislator Awards

Nominate a legislator who supports the work of COEs

The CCBE Legislative Committee is in need of your help to identify candidates for the 2016 CCBE Outstanding Legislator Award. The award is bestowed upon a member of the Senate or Assembly who has been actively involved in legislation or legislative activities supporting the work of county offices of education and their programs. This award is distinguished from a similar award bestowed by CSBA to a member of the Senate or Assembly who has been supportive more generally of local educational agencies. The CCBE highly encourages participation from your board in this nominations process.

How to nominate

At your next board meeting, discuss with your board whether you wish to make a nomination. If you do, complete the nomination form and include a letter explaining why that legislator should be honored. You can visit our website at: http://theccbe.org/Events/OutstandingLegislatorAward.aspx for more details and download the nomination form.

It is important that your nomination include as much specific information as possible, and highlight legislation with a direct, beneficial effect on COEs and their students. A call to the legislator’s office will help you to find this information.

We encourage your board to participate in this program by nominating a Senator or Assembly member. Nominations must be received by Charlyn no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016; nominations received after the deadline will not be considered.

Forms may be submitted one of three ways: By mail: Charlyn Tuter, CCBE, 3251 Beacon Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691; fax: 916-371-3407; or email: ctuter@csba.org. The CCBE appreciates your participation in this important opportunity!