PRESIDENT’S CORNER
Welcome Back!

Welcome back everyone. I hope your summertime was productive and filled with fun and good memories.

I would like to introduce Eleanor Torres, our newest member of the Ventura County School Boards Association. Eleanor hails from the Rio School District and she fills the very important position of treasurer. VCSBA is extremely pleased Eleanor is volunteering her time and expertise to keep the treasury of VCSBA solid and secure.

VCSBA gives a heartfelt thanks to outgoing treasurer, Steve Blum, of the Ventura County Community College District. Steve decided not to run for reelection in his district and he will be missed by his colleagues and constituents. Best wishes to Steve as he takes on new endeavors!

The VCSBA has planned some exciting presentations for the 2018-19 school year: Since it’s election season, we will be hosting the School Board Candidate Academy on Saturday, September 29 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Ventura County Office of Education. Although the academy is designed for new candidates running for school board office, information will be presented that is pertinent to all of us, no matter how long we’ve been in office. So, we encourage you all to attend.

Also, mark your calendar for Saturday, January 5, when we will present School Board Trustee Training, covering governance and the open meetings act. This session will relay information about important subjects that we all need to stay in the loop. The training will run from 8:30 to noon at the Ventura County Office of Education. Our presenters are yet to be announced.

Our first dinner meeting will be Monday, October 8, and the topic is Special Education Update: Funding and Current Regulations. Newly retired Mary Samples, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA will be our presenter and we couldn’t be happier that she will be back with us that night.

Also coming up are dinner meeting topics covering Investment in Early Education on Monday, March 4 and Social/Emotional Learning on Monday, April 29.

We are very pleased that VCSBA is able to keep you informed on current issues in education and we look forward to an engaging and productive school year.

Christina Urias, President, VCSBA
Santa Paula Unified School District
Upcoming Summit to Strengthen Ties Between Education and Business

Ventura County is fortunate to be home to a wide array of programs that prepare students to meet the workforce needs of local companies. There is no shortage of opportunities for apprenticeships, internships, career-related education and student/business networking. But for too many local businesses, it’s an embarrassment of riches that remains difficult to access. Awareness of what’s available is lower than it needs to be, and navigating the offerings of the various agencies that provide services is a complex task that keeps too many companies on the sidelines.

That’s why I’m pleased to announce a major new effort to break down these obstacles and build a system that lets educators better serve our business community. This November 26th, the first-ever Ventura County Education Summit will be held in Camarillo. At the Summit members of the business community will have direct access to local education leaders from preschool to K-12 to the university level. The Presidents of Cal Lutheran and CSU Channel Islands and the Chancellor of the Ventura County Community College district will join me in taking feedback and answering questions from attendees. The Summit will also feature speakers who will shine a light on the latest local offerings in career and technical education and workforce development.

One thing the Summit is not intended to be is a room full of educators talking to each other.

The goal is to engage business people and local elected leaders in a conversation that will result in tangible improvement. As the elected representatives of your districts, you’re a key part of the discussion and we strongly encourage you to attend.

The primary sponsor of the Summit is the Ventura County P-20 Council. Since its inception in 2006, the P-20 Council has brought together leaders in the education, government, business and nonprofit communities to enhance educational opportunity and promote workforce development in our region. The P-20 Core Council includes representation from many of the area’s most vital institutions, including Naval Base Ventura County, First 5 Ventura County, the County of Ventura and the United Way of Ventura County among others. You can view the complete list at vcp20.org/core-council-members.

We’re also very excited that several local chambers of commerce have signed on as co-sponsors of the Summit. We’d like to thank the Camarillo, Greater Conejo Valley, Oxnard and Moorpark, Santa Paula and Ventura Chambers of Commerce for their support of the Summit and its mission.

The Summit will take place the morning of Monday, November 26 at the Ventura County Office of Education’s Conference and Administrative Services Center in Camarillo. It’s the day after the Thanksgiving weekend, so be sure to mark your calendars. There is no charge to attend and a continental breakfast will be included. Seating is limited, so we invite you to reserve your spot now at vcp20.org/summit. Your participation will help make this first-of-its kind event a success and I look forward to seeing you there.

Stan Mantooth
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools
Ventura County P-20 Council Chair
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
What’s New in Sacramento

California ESSA Plan Approved
Following two years of negotiations between the State Board of Education and the U.S. Department of Education, California’s plan for compliance with the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act was approved, paving the way for receipt of $2.4 billion in Federal funds.

The main complication in the discussions was California’s focus on School District accountability and ESSA’s focus on school-level accountability. This difference in focus created difficulties for California’s identification of the lowest-performing 5% of low-income schools.

The resolution was beginning in the 2018-19 school-year, California will identify schools for additional targeted support and improvement based on two consecutive years of underperformance by student groups in the school based on the California Dashboard. Many more details are yet to be worked out, but at least continued federal funding is secured.

Charter School Changes
(AB 276, 406, 1871)
Three bills supported by CSBA that would make Charter Schools more “public” are currently working their way through the California legislature. These bills will ban secret meetings and the existence of for-profit charter schools and require Charter Schools to provide poor children with lunch.

AB 276 is currently on the floor of the Senate. It would require Charter schools and entities managing Charters to be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act or the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

AB 406 would prohibit a petitioner that submits a charter petition for the establishment of a charter school or a charter school that submits a charter renewal or material revision application from operating as a for-profit corporation, a for-profit educational management organization, or a for-profit charter management organization.

AB 1871 would require a classroom-based charter school to provide each needy pupil, as defined, with one nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal during each school day.

SAT/ACT in place of SBAC 11th grade
(AB 1951)
This bill would allow School District Governing Boards to approve the utilization of the SAT or ACT college entrance exams or any other nationally recognized high school
assessment in lieu of the SBAC for 11th grade students’ assessment of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. It is currently on the Senate floor.

Expanding Dual Language Programs (AB 2514)
This bill, on the Senate floor, would provide ten one-time grants of up to $300,000 per grant to start or expand preschool, transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, with dual language immersion programs, developmental bilingual programs for English learners, or early learning dual language learners programs.

State Constitutional Amendments
These State Constitutional Amendments would allow partisan political efforts in school board races and reduce the threshold for passing parcel taxes.

SCA 11: Partisan Board races
The California Constitution requires that all judicial, school, county, and city offices be nonpartisan. The California Constitution prohibits a political party or party central committee from nominating a candidate for nonpartisan office, and prohibits including the party preference of a candidate for nonpartisan office on the ballot for the nonpartisan office.

This measure would allow school, county, and city offices, except the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to be partisan offices. This bill is currently in the Policy Committee and CSBA has taken a neutral position.

SCA 22: Parcel Taxes 55%
The California Constitution generally conditions the imposition of a special tax by a city, county, or special district, including a school district, upon the approval of 2/3 of the voters of the city, county, or special district voting on that tax. This measure would alternatively condition the imposition, extension, or increase of a parcel tax, as defined, by a school district upon the approval of 55% of its voters voting on the proposition, if the proposition meets specified requirements. It is currently in the Fiscal committee and CSBA is a co-sponsor.

Dr. Charles Weis, V.P. Legislation, VCSBA
Hueneme School District

VCSBA ONLINE
Access newsletters and meeting materials on the VCSBA web page at:

vcoe.org/vcsba