



County School Facilities Consortium (CSFC)

Minutes of the Membership Meeting at the 37th C.A.S.H. Annual Conference

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Sacramento Convention Center, Room 303

Executive Committee Members Participating/Absent (*): Lindsay Currier, Chair, *Riverside COE*; Jema Estrella, Vice-Chair, *Los Angeles COE*; Jeff Becker, *Fresno COE*; Kathy Daniels, *El Dorado COE*; Sherrie Gruber, *Kern Co. Supt. of Schools*; Joshua Jorn, *Monterey COE*; Steve Turner, *Mendocino COE*

Meeting Attendees:

Samer Alzubaidi, *San Bernardino City USD*; Mary Baker, *Kern Co. Supt. of Schools*; Nancy Chaires Espinoza, *California School Boards Association*; Tom Froehlich, *Orange Co. Dept. of Ed*; Deborah Harris, *Los Angeles COE*; John Ivey, *Designed Building Systems*; Danielle Lim, *School Facility Consultants*; Pat McCaughey, *Orange Co. Dept. of Ed*; Brett Mitchell, *San Juan USD*; Andy Nelson, *San Bernardino Co. Supt. of Schools*; Dave Reck, *San Bernardino Co. Supt. of Schools*; Joe Schoneman, *Merced COE*; Mike Schroeder, *Solano COE*; John Silvestrini, *Sonoma COE*; Jim Simone, *Butte COE*; Rebekah Smith, *San Bernardino Co. Supt. of Schools*; Bill Stillwell, *Meeleis Modular*; Gerald Yarbrough, *Los Angeles COE*;

Guests: Liz Jain, *U.C. Berkeley Center for Cities + Schools*; Juan Mireles, *California Department of Education*; Fred Yeager, *California Department of Education*; Jeff Vincent, *U.C. Berkeley Center for Cities + Schools*

Staff: Rebekah Cearley; Jessica Contreras

Welcome and Introductions

CSFC Chair Lindsay Currier convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and introduced the CSFC Executive Committee. Attendees went around the room and introduced themselves. Lindsay announced that the agenda would be re-ordered to accommodate guest speaker schedules.

CSFC Big Picture: 2015 Accomplishments and 2016 Priority Initiatives

Lindsay began by reviewing CSFC's past accomplishments from 2015, including providing the CSFC point of view on important facility issues such as during meetings with the California Department of Education (CDE) regarding Title 5 siting regulations and working with the Division of the State Architect (DSA) on drought regulation size exemptions to accommodate special education buildings. She also gave a brief overview of significant legislation from 2015. She also introduced the new Facility Subcommittee of County Offices (FSCO) Chair, Kathy Daniels (CSFC Executive Committee member, El Dorado COE).

Next, Lindsay outlined CSFC's priorities for 2016, as defined at the 2015 Annual Summit. In 2016, CSFC will continue to focus on state funding and program adequacy, representing COEs on legislative and regulatory issues beyond the School Facility Program (SFP), pursue opportunities to optimize special education integration, outreach with State officials and legislators, and foster strategic partnerships with other organizations.

Special Education Integration Efforts

CSFC C.A.S.H. Conference Workshop Debrief

Lindsay provided the group with an overview of the CSFC workshop (“Special Education in the Classroom: Designing for and Serving all Students”), held on Monday, February 22. Over 60 people attended the workshop, which was hosted in a meeting room featuring a NextGen classroom set-up. The workshop addressed issues such as the difference between ADA and universal design, designing to accommodate a range of abilities and to serve all students, generating conversations with district counterparts, and the idea that universal design is about access to curriculum, not just facilities. The workshop was moderated by Lindsay and the guest panel of speakers included Jeff Becker (Fresno COE), Ann Vessey (Riverside COE) and Roger Clarke (Ruhnau Ruhanu Clarke). Jeff noted that this topic will be an important one for CSFC moving forward.

Special Education Universal Design Recommendations

Fred Yeager addressed the group and provided a draft set of recommendations developed by the California Department of Education regarding universal design. The draft recommendations were developed in coordination with special education experts. Fred highlighted the specific difficulties that COEs face and noted that the draft recommendations are meant to be informational and are not regulatory. Rebekah indicated that CSFC would like to review the draft recommendations further and provide feedback to CDE. CSFC members agreed that their long-term goal would be at least one classroom on every campus that would be able to accommodate many ability levels; they discussed this idea with Fred and concluded that this can only happen in incremental steps, including further discussions with CDE to update Title 5 regulations.

State School Bond Efforts: Impacts on COEs

The C.A.S.H. Bond and Alternative Efforts

CSFC Legislative Advocate Rebekah Cearley reported that efforts to put a bond alternative on the June ballot to replace the Californians for Quality Schools (CQS)/C.A.S.H. bond were ultimately unsuccessful. The C.A.S.H. bond will be the only statewide school bond on the ballot in 2016. Rebekah also discussed the Governor’s perspective, which has remained unchanged – he is focused on reducing debt and does not support bond financing for school facilities. Rebekah discussed the language that was being floated around for the unsuccessful June alternative, which would have created a new program outside of the existing SFP and given authority to COEs to issue local bonds, a plan that CSFC does not agree with. Rebekah warned that these issues will continue to be part of future policy discussions.

Jeff reminded everyone of the ways they can support the bond effort, which include passing a board resolution in support of the bond and/or submitting a Superintendent Letter of support. He also encouraged individual donations; there are expected to be a high number of initiatives on the ballot in November and it is important to be able to inform voters about the C.A.S.H. bond so that it stands out in the crowd.

Counties and Future Facility Funding Models

Liz Jain began the discussion by reporting on a preliminary study at the district level looking at funding resources available for school facilities. The Center for Cities + Schools has been analyzing need as a recurring expense and is working to determine a basic standard of ongoing facilities need. In their research they have found persistent underfunding with local resources, showing the importance of continued state aid. Liz mentioned the challenge of trying to define need and define available resources; she also mentioned that since their study has focused on only districts so far, it is important that COEs begin to benchmark their needs.

Jeff Vincent presented a handout entitled “Going it Alone: Can California’s K-12 School Districts Adequately + Equitably Fund School Facilities?” The document can be found on the U.C. Berkeley Center for Cities + Schools website. Jeff took questions and comments from the group. Rebekah noted that CSFC would like to stay engaged with the research that the Center for Cities + Schools is working on.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next CSFC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 23 and will focus on reviewing new legislation for 2016 and will include a discussion of budgeting for facilities costs.

Minutes taken by: Jessica Contreras