



middle grades
education council

association of california school administrators



UNADOPTED MINUTES

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Video Conference Meeting

Association of California School Administrators
1575 Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame, CA 94010
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite A-230, Ontario, CA 91764
1029 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(800) 608-2272

I. Welcome and Introductions

- ACSA Mission Statement
- Review and Adopt Agenda
- Approve Prior Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2010

II. Middle Grades Education Council

- Review and Affirm the Purposes of the Council
- Review Council Mission Statement

Reviewed agenda: Agenda approved. Motion by Jeff Harris, second by Andrew Kersten. Prior meeting minutes approved. Motion by Kelly Richers, second by Marge Crawford.

Members present: John White (President, R16), Creig Nicks (Past-President, R13), Jeff Harris (R1), Marge Crawford (R2), Kelley Birch (R4), Gail Yothers (R6), Belen Magers 9R6), Scott Lucas (R7), Bob Price (CLMS, R7), Leslie Crane (R8), Andrew Kersten (R9), Buck Roggeman (R10), Kelly Richers (R11), Arwyn Wild (R12), Sharon Shell (R13), Rhonda Buss (14), Peter Pannell (Guest, Pasadena USD, R15), Greg Vallone (R16), Guy Olguin (R17), Linda Solis (R18), Cindy Freeman (R19)

III. Discussion: School Safety Plans Preston (ACSA)

Context for school safety plans discussion: Recent shooting on a high school campus in Los Angeles. Assembly Member Blumenfield (Dem, Assembly District 40) is seeking ideas for potential legislation if such is needed. What type of resources are we putting into updating the school safety plan? What type of changes/training would we need? Are there any items that should be removed? Assembly Member Blumenfield knows there is training needed, but no funding is available.

Input by Council members:

- Preliminary safety plan is turned in annually approximately November. What happens to the plans after site principals turn them in at the district level?

- *Hostile intruder drills – school resource officer present to help review things that went well and things needing improvement. Need to support funding for the SRO.*
- *Some of the drills require more personnel than what is available for small schools*
- *Streamline process for small schools vs. large schools.*
- *Safety plans may be signed off by local police in some districts.*
- *Invite PD to drills.*
- *Policy without training is a liability. Over-legislated, no new legislation. Perhaps offer models. Models of plans, models of training. There is a wide range of what the plan should look like.*
- *Part of the process is a communication issue. Share with community about the plan, facilities, how concerns will be taken care of. Ex. How will students use the restroom, eat, etc. Give our staff first hand knowledge of incidences and dealing with those incidences.*
- *There is a lot of data that is required in the plan, some of the data isn't directly related to the safety plan.*
- *Liaison to Dept. of Emergency, Social Services was suggested in order to locate support and funding.*
- *On the phone, iTouch, is located all the data regarding students, emergency contacts so there is not a need to take out many items.*
- *Each student brings two bottles of water, a snack so that there is a supply when a lockdown occurs. It is the little things that can prepared ahead of time that can make or break you. Use information call system to let families know what is happening and that all is okay. The biggest problem may be the fear of the unknown. Local emergency agencies come in and take over. Staff and families need to know that when that happens, the agency is in charge. The first priority is making sure the kids are safe.*

**IV. Presentation: Early Warning System O'Cummings
National High School Center (NHSC) www.betterhighschools.org/ews.asp**

Video conference presentation by staff from National High School Center on Early Warning System.

- *CDE update on what work will be coming and its connection to middle grades. There is a new Early Warning System that CDE has located and they want to share information with us. Early Warning System is a systemic way to look at kids we need to intervene with as soon as possible. This system is free. CDE would like them to use California as a test system for this system to be used in middle grades. There are key components in identifying students who would be at risk of failing, retention and dropping out. Now working on logistics. Pilot program will occur first. Waiting for CDE approval. This system fits into our RTI2 plan. Schools will be asked to complete a report, 4 years of prior data, however, the data is nothing more than what we already collect. If you have an interest in being a pilot school send an email to jtroost@cde.ca.gov or Mary Hughes if you want to show an interest, you are not obligating yourself or your high school. CDE would like one high school with two or more schools feeding it as a model. However, they may be able to work with small districts. Sup. Torlakson has stated that an early warning system is a priority for him.*
- *The tools are offered free on the NHSC website along with technical information and system guide. Data can be imported into their system. Data can also be exported to allow back up of data. The tool will highlight the areas where the students are at-risk and it works on a quarterly system. Interventions are listed and allow you to track which interventions you have given a student. The tool also offers reports ranging from individual student, school level. Also by subgroups and custom reports.*
- *The NHSC website has a plethora of information regarding dropouts, EL learners, SpEd. Another resource is at www.betterhighschools.org.*

- IV. Recap: Council Input to SPI Torlakson's Transition Advisory Team Gomes**
- V. Update: California Department of Education (CDE)..... Dowell, Ringer, Robinson**
- Middle School Improvement Office (MSIO) Profile
 - Middle Grades White Paper
 - Taking Center Stage (TCS) II/CalEdHub
 - Middle Grades Legislation
 - Schools to Watch (STW)
 - *Other recap on Councils' input to Superintendent of Public Instruction Torlakson.*
 - *5 new Schools to Watch schools have been named. See more information at <http://www.clms.net/stw/>.*
 - *See Middle Grades Improvement Office (MGIO) profile sheet (see attachment to these Minutes) to see the various projects they are working on: MGIO, TCSII, CalEdHub, CA Middle Grades Partnership Network (CMGPN), Middle Grades Student Planning And Career Technical Education, CA Schools to Watch, CA Middle Grades Alliance (CMGA), Secondary Information Exchange (SiX), White Paper (Graduating College and Career Ready...), Middle Grades Research Projects.*
- VI. Update: California League of Schools (CLS)Murphy, Price
California Middle Grades Alliance (CMGA)**
- Presenter Applications for February 25-27, 2011 Annual CLMS Conference – North (Sacramento) (www.leagueofschools.org/events/north.htm)
- Other Updates from CLMS:*
- *The Conference will focus on student achievement. Honoring new Schools-to-Watch and other awards for support of middle level.*
 - *Also, there is the CLS safety conference in Tahoe April 10-11.*
 - *Don't forget to apply for the CA Schools-to-Watch program. We are encouraged to apply. Assists us in putting middle school out there on a national level.*
 - *CLMS received a grant to use schools to watch to assist underperforming schools.*
 - *Council President John White strongly suggested that people attend the CLMS conference and see Rick Wormeli.*
 - *ACSA Middle Level Leaders Academy is ready to go. Cancelled last year due to enrollment. Need at least 15 participants. We will let Southern CA take the lead on offering the Academy and then look into offering one for Northern CA. Suggested that there is a breakout session at CLMS to promote/preview the Academy.*
- VII. Discussion: 2011-12 Council Meeting DatesAll**
- VIII. Discussion: 2011-12 Middle Level Leaders Academy Freeman**
- IX. Discussion: Middle Grades Strand at 2011 Leadership SummitAll**
- Working Lunch, 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**
- X. ACSA Updates:Magers, Griffith, Mack**
- ACSA Board
 - State Board of Education
 - ACSA ESEA Task Force Draft
 - State Budget/Legislation
- Sherry Griffith (ACSA Legislative Advocate) report:*
- *Council was helpful in relaying comments regarding dropout rates included in the API. The question was: what do we do about the numbers of dropouts after 8th*

grade? Should the high schools have to take that dropout rate? The best place for this dropout rate is at the district, since students are enrolled in multiple schools. The compromise to have the rate at the district was accepted. CDE will then have to recalculate. There will be a middle grades dropout rate for students who dropout during 7/8 th grade. These are students who can't be found and who haven't entered high school somewhere. Out of state transfers would not be counted. The question was raised as to how accurate is the tracking system? CalPADS confidence? The current process is in place. Funding for the further development of CalPADS has been held up by the Governor.

- Seven new State Board of Education members appointed by the Governor - 11 members total. There are active administrators on the Board. There are people with 30+ years of experience. There is also a CTA member representing teachers.
- ESEA reforms: Trying to redefine the roles and control between federal, state and local. There are four papers on the website dealing with effective teachers/administrators, best practices website on CDE. Also, waiver policies. ACSA believes that there should be more support for administrators, especially with the state removing administrators as a solution to failing schools.
- Next Council meeting Sherry may discuss implementation of the common core standards. Mary will send out a link to the two websites. An alert will be sent out to the Council members on draft legislation, common core, dropouts. ESEA assessment and accountability from Sherry. We need to spend more time on the new math updates.

Adonai Mack (ACSA Legislative Advocate) report:

- State budget - Governor is funding education with a flat budget, assuming Prop 98 level. Includes the assumption of the extension of the revenues. Prop 98 will be reduced by 2 billion dollars if the ballot measure doesn't pass. Governor's goal is to have the entire budget done by March. Deferral of \$2.1 billion, total amount of deferrals to \$9-10 billion. Approx. 35% of our budget. AB3632. Prop 36 money to pay for those services. Governor wants to move services to people back to local level. County offices will have to handle students that would normally be going to the state wide program. Also give redevelopment money back to local government and school districts, additional money outside of Prop 98. This is a complex issue. Categorical flexibility has been extended for two years. Revenues from the extended revenue ballot measures would be used for education and public safety. Education Coalition is working on talking points and polling to prepare for the push to pass the revenue extension measures. In a recent poll, 54% of voters said they would support the extension if the money went to public education.
- ACSA Legislative Action Day (LAD) becomes very important, gives cohesiveness to reports to the delegates. Hit them over and over again with a combined effort. ACSA Website has information on LAD. Education Coalition report is highly important, reviews the Budget for the past few years and how it has effected education. Mary will send out the link (see attachment to these Minutes).

XI. Preview: Council President-Elect Election (Spring 2011) Nicks

XII. Activity: Council Member Profiles All

ACSA community is like a Facebook for ACSA. Can see questions from members where other members can share experiences and suggestions. A blog can be posted on your profile to share articles and other sites. Under featured groups there is a Middle Grades Education group. You can also customize your My Page.

XIII. Presentation/Activity: ACSA On-line Community Huynh

XIV. Announcements/Other Business All

Next year's proposed meeting dates:

- Oct. 13 2011(Th) – Webinar (no travel)
- Nov. 2, 2011 (Wed) – In-person (day before Leadership Summit, Sacramento)
- Feb. 2, 2012 (Th) – Video conference (Burlingame, Ontario, Sacramento ACSA offices)
- April 19, 2012 (Th) – In-person (Sacramento ACSA office)

XV. Next Council Meeting:

- Thursday, April 7, 2011 (Sacramento ACSA Office)

XVI. Adjourn

NOTE: Liaison Reports will be posted on Council Web page as available

- *Business Services Council* Nicks
- *California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC)*..... Nicks
- *California League of Middle Schools (CLMS)*.....Price
- *California Middle Grades Alliance (CMGA)* Nicks
- *California Middle Grades Partnership Network (CMGPN)* Harris, Solis
- *Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability Council*..... Freeman
- *Elementary Education Council* Crane
- *Human Resources Council*..... Buss
- *Legislative Policy Committee*..... Birch
- *National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)* White
- *RTI/Student Services & Special Education Council* Kersten
- *Secondary Education Council* Crawford
- *Council Web Site Sub-Committee* Roggeman, Price

Please visit the ACSA Middle Grades Education Council home page at

www.acsa.org/middlegrades