A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the California School Boards Association, Incorporated, was held on Saturday, March 20-21, 2010. This summary provides a brief overview of the meeting.

President’s Report

President Frank Pugh reported that since the Board of Directors last meeting, the Executive Committee members, along with other board members from across the nation, had attended the National School Boards Association’s (NSBA’s) Leadership Conference and Federal Relations Network. In addition, President Pugh reported that CSBA’s Federal Issues Council trip to Washington D.C. had just been completed. There was much conversation at the meetings surrounding Race to the Top and the Administration’s recent release of its plan to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). One of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to share the perspective of school board members with reporters from NPR, *The Washington Post* and *Ed Week*. President Pugh also provided an overview of his tour of schools in Kings County where he addressed the Kings County Trustees at their annual dinner.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Scott P. Plotkin provided the Board with an extensive report on the Association’s recent Federal Issues advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. He reported that the trip yielded many opportunities to make connections with numerous individuals, including members of the media. In addition, Scott reported that CSBA has received a grant to work with Families in Schools.

Membership Report

Staff reported that total membership will likely decline from the previous year due to state budget cuts and the national fiscal crisis. Currently 963 districts, ROPs and COEs have renewed their membership, reflecting an increase of twelve districts since the January Board meeting.

CSBA Board of Directors Strategic Directions and Priorities

The Directors reviewed, discussed, and endorsed *CSBA’s Board of Directors Strategic Directions and Priorities* and the related plans from staff. Two of the Board’s most important responsibilities are to set direction by establishing the vision, mission and goals for the Association and to annually review progress towards meeting them.

CSBA’s Position on ESEA Reauthorization

The Directors and staff discussed CSBA’s position towards the Obama Administration’s “Blueprint for Reform” to frame its reauthorization push for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, currently known as No Child Left Behind. With a sustained emphasis on the approaches of Race to the Top and other administration programs, the document advocates a focus on improving teacher and principal effectiveness; providing accountability data to families and educators; implementing college- and career-ready academic standards and assessments; and turning around the country’s lowest-achieving schools.
through “intensive support and effective interventions.” The Board discussed CSBA’s policy positions on
the four pillars of ESEA — Standards and Assessment, Accountability, Data, and Teacher Effectiveness.
At the May meeting, the Directors will be asked to adopt the advocacy strategy for these four major areas.

State Budget Update

The Board and staff discussed CSBA’s serious concerns about the proposed state budget and the
devastating impact it continues to have for K-12 education. Staff reported that a letter had been sent to
U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan asking him to review carefully any waiver request or
certification by the Governor that California is complying with the maintenance of effort (MOE)
requirement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, due to the Governor’s proposal to reduce
funding for K-12 education in California in 2010-11 by $2.4 billion—approximately $400 per student.

In addition, the Board discussed the Legislative Analyst report on the Governor’s budget proposal for
Proposition 98 and K-12 Education in which he notes that the Governor proposes to “depart” from the
budget deal struck last July, and that this departure significantly reduces the Proposition 98 minimum
funding level in 2009-10, 2010-11 and beyond. The Governor’s K-12 budget also includes many
recommendations for changes in policy, including restricting district spending on non-instructional services
(including general administration), relaxing rules on contracting out, and consolidating county-based
services, all of which are directly related to his proposal to reduce general purpose funding. More
information may be obtained at

Pending Ballot Measures Update

The Directors discussed the proposed spending measure on parcel taxes. Californians for Improved School
Funding is proposing an initiative to amend the California Constitution so that special taxes for local school
districts, commonly known as parcel taxes, can be approved by a 55 percent vote of the qualified electors.
This initiative, known as the Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act, would let communities raise
operating funds for their local schools with a 55 percent “yes” vote, provided the accountability and
disclosure requirements included in the initiative are met. The proponents are currently in the signature
gathering phase and have until May 28 to qualify. The Delegate Assembly will be asked to take a position
when it meets in May. In addition, the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010 has
been placed on the November ballot by legislation. This Act calls for a general obligation bond, instead of
a revenue bond, which is backed by the full faith and credit of the state of California; debt service on such
bonds has first call on state revenues making it less likely to place a school facilities bond on the November
ballot by legislation. The constitutional convention initiatives have been withdrawn from circulation for
lack of funding and for similar reasons; California Forward is also considering withdrawing The Local
Voter Control and Government Accountability Act from circulation.

School Funding Litigation and Communications Update

The Board went into closed session for an update on status of the school funding lawsuit as well as the
communication plan that has been established.
**2010-2011 CSBA Policy Platform**

At the May Delegate Assembly, Delegates will meet in breakout sessions to review the amendments that have been submitted to the Policy Platform. Meeting in small groups ensures maximum cross-regional discussion and thorough review of the Platform. To date, a handful of amendments have been received; these amendments will be reviewed by the Policy Platform Committee when they meet in mid-April. Delegates may go to CSBA’s Web site: [http://connect.csba.org/PolicyPlatform/](http://connect.csba.org/PolicyPlatform/) to submit an amendment.

**May Delegate Assembly Meeting and Legislative Action Conference**

The Board and staff reviewed the preliminary agenda for the upcoming Delegate Assembly meeting and the Legislative Action Conference. The Legislative Conference will focus on the state budget. The Conference will be held on Sunday, May 23 and Monday, May 24, immediately following the Delegate Assembly meeting. Legislative Analyst Mac Taylor has been confirmed for the Monday morning breakfast; staff is in the process of confirming additional speakers. Delegates may register for both the Delegate Assembly and the Legislative Action Conference at [http://connect.csba.org/isgweb/Events/CalendarEventsListView.aspx](http://connect.csba.org/isgweb/Events/CalendarEventsListView.aspx).

**Math Policy Work Group Final Recommendations**

The final recommendations of the Math Policy Work Group (of which CSBA was a member) were provided to the Board with staff highlighting the most critical elements contained in the recommendations and how they may be used by policymakers. Overall, the recommendations include improvements to California’s policy system (i.e., statutes, regulations, rules) and the implementation actions needed to make the policies successful (e.g., structures, systems, resources) for mathematics education so that it better promotes success in Algebra I as a minimum expectation for all students before they graduate from high school. Throughout the meetings, CSBA held that the focus should include math instruction at all grade levels, which ultimately became part of the work group’s recommendations.

**Good Measures for Good Governance**

Staff provided an update on CSBA’s work with the NSBA to help schools boards use data consistently and effectively in making policies focused on improving student outcomes, in particular, high school graduation, college-going, and college persistency rates. CSBA was selected by NSBA and the Gates Foundation as one of the three state school boards associations to participate in a project, “Good Measures for Good School Governance.” To date, three modules have been developed: 1) data policy, purpose and format; 2) teacher quality; and 3) post-high school success. CSBA has been field testing the training modules, materials and tutorial. Additional surveys about data, trainings in three more districts, and presentations at the Annual Education Conference are to be completed before the end of the year.

**Career Technical Education**

Dr. Patrick Ainsworth, Assistant Superintendent and Director of the Secondary, Career, and Adult Learning Division provided the Board with an overview on the status of Career Technical Education in California, including funding sources and how the recent budget cuts have impacted CTE programs. The Board engaged in a conversation with Dr. Ainsworth about the need offer more CTE programs as well as to integrate CTE and the academic core so that they mutually reinforce one another.