

**California Council for the Social Studies
Government Relations Committee Meeting
August 20, 2011**

MEETING NOTES

In attendance: Michelle Herczog (Chair), Fred Jones (CCSS Leg Analyst), Avi Black (CCSS President and Govt. Relations Liaison), Kathy Koester, Jim Hill, Ruth Luevanos, Sandra Burdick, Ben Chaika. Meeting briefly attended by guest, Jeanne Knapp.

- I. Michelle opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.
- II. Avi began with the suggestion that our conversation should focus on how to bring the membership into what we are doing
- III. Michelle noted that not much has changed legislatively in the past three or four weeks in California because the state legislature has been in recess.
- IV. National Level Issues Discussed
 - FY11 Support for Social Studies Education
 - Everything is off the table for the time being due to federal attention given to raising the debt ceiling and balancing the federal budget.
 - ESEA Reauthorization
 - NCLB's requirements remain until ESEA is reauthorized with new provisions.
 - National Council for the Social Studies Leg Updates
 - Katrina MacDonald, legislative advocate for the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools has been recently hired to be the new advocate for National Council for the Social Studies.
 - Oct. 10 is the deadline for submitting NCSS resolutions for the NCSS House of Delegates.
 - NCSS Board of Directors meeting with Katrina MacDonald on August 28 in Washington DC will reveal new information regarding ESEA Reauthorization and the FY 11 budget.
 - Michelle, a member of the NCSS Board of Directors will share information with CCSS Government Relations Committee and CCSS BOD to inform decision to submit NCSS Resolutions. Note: CCSS Board can take make an emergency vote even though they won't be officially meeting beforehand.
- V. State Level Issues Discussed
 - Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts
 - Standards include very clear connections w/ HSS and integrating content in ELA
 - Ideas explored:
 - Create a page on CCSS website that has links to county offices of resources that explain links between HSS and the new ELA Common Core standards.
 - Advocacy toolkit to assist CCSS members in promoting integration of HSS to meet Common Core State Standards for ELA and Mathematics.
 - SB 48 (Leno): FAIR (Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful) Education Act, adds the LGBT community to the existing list of under-represented cultural and ethnic groups already listed in the state's inclusionary education requirements.
 - Signed into law.
 - California 3 Rs published a document written by Peg Hill that provides guidelines to assist schools with implementation of the bill.
 - SB 300 (Hancock): California History-Social Science Framework

- Allows for draft HSS Framework to move forward in the update/adoption process by collecting public feedback to be followed by revisions by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and submission to the State Board of Education for approval. This revised process eliminates the role of the Curriculum Commission.
 - SB 300 is currently in the suspense file right now. May come out next week.
 - Potential follow-up /unanswered question: difficult to know the status of the HSS Framework update process until various bills are passed or not passed to determine its fate.
- SB 402 (Correa) and AB 250 (Brownley): Partnership for 21st Century Skills, including critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity/innovation skills to be intentionally integrated in the frameworks of all subject areas. AB 250 also calls for the integration of these skills in professional development, assessment and instructional materials.
 - SB 547 (Steinberg): Would create an entirely new accountability index to measure the performance of K-12 schools by including other measures to develop a more comprehensive “Education Quality Index.” This measure would require the SPI and SBE to develop measureable criteria to include in the EQI (set to roll-out in 2014-15) to incorporate test scores, but also graduation rates, college prep indicators, career preparation indicators, and student engagement indicators. If passed this may provide an opportunity for CCSS to define student engagement indicators in the context of civic engagement. This Senate measure is now in the Assembly awaiting action.

VI. Ben asked to follow up on March meetings discussion of testing and on AB1033 (Feuer’s Bill to create a content standards review commission).

- The current STAR system is scheduled to expire in 2014.
 - Much of the discussion in Sacramento is focused on Common Core State Standards adoption, implementation and assessment.
 - It is important to ensure that HSS testing continues at its current level.
 - Ideally, this might be an opportunity to get HSS better represented
 - Follow-up: Find more information.
- AB 1033 is not moving forward at this time.

VII. Discussed CCSS Legislative Award and the importance of maintaining the integrity of the award by selecting individuals who have demonstrated outstanding public policy support for social studies education. Suggestion made to rename the award to expand the pool of nominees beyond legislators to consider other officials, educational leaders or policy makers who demonstrate support for policy change. Committee submitted a motion to the CCSS BOD to change the name of the award to the “CCSS Civic Action Award.”

VIII. Reviewed goals of Government Relations Committee from August 2010

IX. Developed goals and list of tasks for 2011-12 to include:

1. Identify, communicate and provide CCSS legislative updates with liaisons for each partner organization (e.g. Leg Action Task Force, CCHE, CRF, CCE, CGA, CCEC).
2. Share information with partner organizations, membership and other potential members and partners about CCSS advocacy efforts.
 - Post info on Govt. Relations web page
 - Send info through email distribution lists of partner organizations, Govt. Relations Comm., and CCSS membership

- Publish updates in Sunburst and podcasts.
 - Generate discussion of legislative issues on CCSS Facebook page.
3. Identify and build coalitions with other potential partners to garner support for specific initiatives (e.g. ACSA)
 4. SB 547 Implementation - If passed, Govt. Relations Comm. will offer to assist SPI/SBE in implementing SB 547 by suggesting social studies/civic education practices to define “pupil engagement index”.
 5. Develop an Advocacy Toolkit to encourage, assist and empower CCSS members to actively promote time and resources for social studies with specific references to current topics (e.g. Common Core State Standards for ELA and Mathematics, P21, SB48.
 6. Rename the CCSS “Governmental Service Award” to “CCSS Civic Action Award” (contingent on CCSS BOD approval).
 7. Consider potential recipients for Leg Award/Civic Action Award for CCSS Conference.
 8. Explore the action to be taken by the CDE regarding assessment for History-Social Science CDE when ETS contract expires in 2014.
 9. Organize and conduct the 3rd annual CCSS Leg. Action Task Force to be held during 2012 CCSS Conference.