

Board of Directors Meeting Reports

September 2008

Liz McAninch and Charleen Silva Delfino

Plans for the convention are moving along. All speakers are in place; they include:

Friday Luncheon Taylor Mali, Poet and Spoken Word Artist

Friday General Session: Nick Taylor and Kate Evans in conversation

Two authors discuss their writing processes

Saturday General Session Bo Caldwell, author of *The Distant Land of My Father*

Saturday CYRM Luncheon Children's author, Pam Munoz Ryan

Saturday Banquet Dorothy Allison author of *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *Two or Three Things I know for Sure*.

Sunday Brunch Gail Tsukiyama Author of *Street of a Thousand Blossoms* and *Samurai's Garden* and Many more books.

Liz has planned a great Friday Night event. CATE will have its own dinner theater without having to leave the hotel. The evening will include an Italian Dinner buffet and a theater production that is sure to please. Actors from the California Theater Center will perform an evening with John Mortimer (creator of the Rumpole of the Bailey Series. Mortimer's mordant humor sparks the witty dialogue when England's guiltiest murderer bumps up against its most inept barrister.

Strands are being developed that will meet the needs of all teachers. The Graphic Novel and the Steinbeck Strands are well developed and looking more and more engaging and interesting. They combine the expertise of experts and classroom teachers. The other strands will also have interesting and informative presenters and sessions and are now coming together.

Cheryl Hogue Smith is the Program Chair. Her work to get presenters lined up, in appropriate rooms and with the right equipment is necessary but most difficult job.

Carole LeCren is an energetic, creative and knowledgeable person who created the flyer and will do the program as well.

Punky and Anne Fristrom have a wealth of knowledge and many years of experience. Anne keeps us solvent and helps us to make wise financial choices. Punky remembers all the details and makes the most incredible deals. He keeps everyone on task. He know all the parts and how they com together for a smooth whole.

The local committee is dedicated and hard working. They are our hope to make this convention a great success in spite of the many financial problems that teachers, schools and districts face.

Finally, we need the support of the CATE Board. We hope you will volunteer to work the many areas where volunteers are needed—registration, membership, and a presence at the hospitality suite to greet speakers and teacher award winners. We all need to work together to make Convention '09 a great success.

President

Bob Chapman

Gratitude & Confusion:

I want to thank all those who have been congratulatory, and offering advice or service since my term began. I am still on shaky ground, not being quite sure if I am doing what I need to, how it is to be done, or whether I am fully ready for this commitment/office. But here I am, the new CATE president. I hope that I'll be both accessible and effective, providing the Board and our members a kind of leadership that pulls all of us together and gives hope and promise to Language Arts teachers in our state.

My Resignation:

I sent in my resignation for my Member-at-Large, Small Councils position to Michelle Berry back in June/July and I hope we can find someone to fill that position from one of our lesser represented councils.

CATEweb:

Much has been discussed about CATEweb and the contract is up in October. During the Executive Board (phone) conference, it was decided that it is in our best interest to extend the current contract to after the convention. I think we need to discuss this together, pick a date and prepare for a new contract.

Committees:

I have appointed our new BOD members to committees and kept existing members in the committees they have been serving. Any switches need to be cleared with me, so that we keep committees balanced.

Challenges:

I hope that our new Members-at-Large will take on important responsibilities once they have attended a BOD meeting or two. I look forward to their leadership on the Board. I also hope that we take this year to organize in our local areas, programs meant to mentor and serve new teachers, and bring them into the benefits of CATE membership.

E-Mail:

I have received various e-mails since stepping into this role. While all of them are important, some stand out enough to be discussed here.

WestEd/SchoolsMovingUp alerted me to the series of nine free webinars ("presenting the latest research and practice on the instruction of English learners"). Information regarding these webinars can be found at: www.schoolsmovingup.net/onlineevents

Laura Holden e-mailed me to let me know she was named as one of nine educators in the nation as an Ambassador of the Library of Congress. She, ultimately, is our connection to the most powerful resource in the country, and is an English teacher at Manuel Dominguez High School in Compton. She can be reached via e-mail, at llholden22@juno.com.

Two e-mails from NCTE – one from Maureen Rippee (forwarding Linda Walters' e-mail to her) regarding her serving on the 2008-09 Secondary Section Nominating Committee and needing to find potential candidates for both the Secondary Section Steering Committee and the Secondary Section Nominating Committee. She needs a preliminary list of candidates by November 1, 2008. The other e-mail is from Chris Crowe asking for names for the Middle Level Section. Both are asking us to provide names of CATE members who can or will serve on these committees.

Phil Bowles asked me to bring to the BOD his request that we "recognize and affirm" a Gay-Straight Educational Alliance (NCTE terminology) in our organization beyond the LGBT strand at our 2009 convention, including a social session for organization purposes. This is an important issue and I believe we need to discuss this.

Vice President

Charleen Silva Delfino, Vice President

I set up the Board Meetings for the 2008-2009 year:

September 20-21, Santa Clara

December 6-7, Santa Clara

February 18, Santa Clara

The reason that we are having three meetings in Santa Clara is that we were able to get packages that included very good room and food rates.

I set up the Advisory Committee conference call and wrote up the minutes. Anne Fristrom made the arrangements for the call. The September Board Reports are being sent to me and then I will get them posted on the CATE website.

I agreed to help Punky by making arrangements for the receptions and breakfasts at the hotel. I will also make the rooming arrangements for the board, speakers and special guests. The Convention Meals and Decorations Committee chaired by Susan Dillon will make the arrangements for the brunch, lunches and dinners where there will be speakers.

I connect with the Curriculum Study Commission as the liaison between the commission and CATE. The CSC with the help of CCCTE sponsors the Asilomar Conference that will be held September 26-28. Although registrations for the conference have declined this year, 186 regular and 3 retired CATE memberships were established. The registrar Dan Wolter works diligently to make sure all registrants have current memberships.

Past President

Michelle Berry

I am proud to present our new president, Bob Chapman, the traditional symbol of CATE's presidency, and very much look forward to the next few years of his leadership.

Awards

At next February's convention in Santa Clara we will again offer Awards of Merit, Classroom Excellence Awards, and the Distinguished Service Award. Please refer to Policy 10 for specific details of these awards, and remember there is protocol that needs to be followed.

Nomination forms for Classroom Excellence and Award of Merit will be online from this coming week until the Board meeting in December. Fully completed packets for each nominee, and a complete duplicate/photocopied packet for each nomination, must be delivered to the Past President by the start of the Saturday meeting in December.

Each council should nominate someone in the designated grade levels (see below) for 2009. After fulfilling that nomination, the Council is allowed to nominate a candidate for a second category. The levels/categories we anticipate from each council are as follows:

Capitol Middle

Central College

Fresno Elementary

Kern College

Redwood Middle
San Diego Elementary
Southland Secondary
TUCATE Secondary
Upper Secondary

I have so far received three worthy nominations for the Distinguished Service Award, but nominations may come in after this report "goes to press." A committee of past Board members will be convened to select this year's winner; I will then bring the recommended candidate's name to this Board at the December meeting for approval.

Elections will continue in the same manner as last year. I will make a motion to continue our two-year-old tradition of allowing ballots to be cast at the Sunday morning business meeting at convention, to add to the online voting, and ballots included in California English.

The offices we'll be voting on this spring:

1. Secretary (Tracey)
2. Member-at-Large Secondary (Dillon)
3. Member-at-Large Unspecified (Hockensmith)
4. Member-at-Large Small Council (TBA)

NCTE

This is the annual reminder that ALL CATE Board members MUST also be members of NCTE.

CATE continues to be proud of its presence on the national scene; Carol Jago, Maureen Rippee, Jim Burke were all elected to leadership positions in NCTE. Other CATE Board members will be participating as presenters and facilitators at NCTE's convention in San Antonio in November. CATE rocks!

Secretary

Lorraine Tracey

Since the May meeting, the Secretary:

- ordered and had printed business cards for Barbi Lapp, Carrie Danielson, Joan Williams, and Nancy Himel;
- edited and printed and sent minutes from the May Board meeting;
- posted minutes on the website from the May board meeting as well as updated and posted on the website the board directory;
- responded to e-mails from board members.

Membership

September 2008

#	COUNCIL	9/06	2/07	5/07	9/07	12/07	2/08	5/08	9/08	+/-
1	Redwood	32	36	33	37	37	25	25	21	-4
2	Upper	44	19	33	27	25	11	36	35	-1
3	Capitol	132	108	142	135	123	79	91	95	+4
4	Central	524	389	419	444	448	398	435	386	-49
5	Fresno	66	44	155	152	146	31	57	53	-6

6	TUCATE 31	14	28	29	30	17	17	18	+1	
7	Kern	35	23	32	38	37	22	45	47	+2
8	Southland	878	422	605	621	627	409	733	682	-51
9	San Diego	208	152	159	188	184	172	204	151	-53
50	Out-of-state	27	26	28	27	37	26	40	37	-3
55	Libraries 24	24	24	24	25	24	24	23	-1	
99	Comps	7	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	--
	TOTAL	2012	1259	1660	1724	1721	1215	1709	1550	-159

- Membership numbers are down. The membership chair will work with the membership committee to form an action plan to address the decline.
- Electronic membership lists were sent specifically to councils and the president. I also attached them to my online report.
- Brochures are available for recruiting. Consider having functions to welcome new and student teachers to the profession.
- Bad address reports for mailings have been reduced to a couple per month. I will begin to work on email lists now.
- Lifetime memberships have been made available online and will be announced in California English and on catenet. No lifetime memberships have been registered yet.
- Investigating membership gift of usb portable flash drive—found some from newegg.com at \$4.69 apiece—will discuss possible sponsorship, etc. with committee.

Central Council

Liz McAninch, Representative

The Central Council held the 2008-09 planning meeting on August 2. The main items discussed at this first meeting included the Curriculum Study Commission Conference to be held at Asilomar on September 26-28 and CATE 2009. Members discussed themes for the baskets we create and sell to pay for scholarships to send teachers to Asilomar and CATE conferences. We also finalized plans for the reception hosted by CCCTE at Asilomar. Bev Kreps acts as Central Council liaison to the Asilomar staff.

With all the major speakers in place for CATE 2009, the focus has shifted to finding presenters for the strands and other sessions. Ideas circulated about publicizing the conference and various members volunteered to cover schools and colleges in their areas as well as send out letters and flyers to all of the Catholic and private schools in California. The committee also anticipates a meal tasting in October. Liz and Charleen will meet with Punky and members of the Marriott staff on Friday, September 19 to finalize room and meal arrangements with the staff.

A special thanks to all the CATE Board members who read the Achievement Awards in Writing entries this year. The readers selected 98 California students from the class of 2009 to receive recognition from NCTE. California receives more student entries than any other state, so I especially appreciate the effort and extra reading of “yet more student work” by all of you hard-working teachers.

San Diego Council

Ron Lauderbach, Representative

San Diego reports a healthy status. Thanks to the continued efforts Carole LeCren, our publication, Easy Reference, and website are published and up, respectively. Corresponding secretary, Robin Luby, keeps us all informed, receiving information from many and deciding to whom it should be sent.

Treasurer/parliamentarian Punky Fristrom is helping plan our events, in an organized manner. Kristen Gall is putting the finishing touches on our fall Promising Practices seminar, a one day event, featuring speakers Jane Hancock (UCLA) and Patricia Santana (Thank you Kathleen Daley Obrist), a San Diego author and English professor. Don Mayfield has the CATE writing contest well underway, having advertised it and set a date for the awards ceremony. We also, of course, look forward to the gourmet meals Don prepares, when he hosts all of our GSDCTE board meetings. Carrie Danielson is keeping us connected to CATE board, as our local representative. I look forward to seeing all of you next week, in Santa Clara.

Dates that have been set:

GSDCTE Promising Practices—Fall, October 25, 2008, at the Marina Village Conference Center
Spring, April 25, 2009

NCTE Convention—San Antonio, November 20-23; post-sessions 11/23-25

CATE Convention—Santa Clara, CA, February 19-23, 2009 [Writing Project Pre-Convention, Resolutions, CATE Board only on 19th; regular convention events for all run 2/20-23]

Writing Contest Ceremony—March 27, at SDCOE

Lake Arrowhead Retreat—May 1-3, 2009

Awards Banquet—tentatively May 27, 2009 (Kristen's birthday!) (Hopefully USD)

GSDCTE Board Meetings: (all Thursday late afternoons, 4:30 to 7:00 pm, at Don's home!)

September 11

October 16

December 4

February 5, 2009

March 12

April 16

2009-2010 Planning Meeting, Thursday, June 4— in an evening meeting, 5 to 8 pm, at Ron Lauderbach's home

Southland Council

Carment Carillo

The Southland Council of Teachers of English started off with a strong planning meeting on Saturday, August 23. We were fortunate to have recruited and then voted in two new board members to our council: Courtney Lockwood, Secretary; and Brian Jeffrey, Member at Large. We welcome their time, talent, and enthusiasm as they bring new ideas to our board.

Richard Hockensmith established an Englishserv for our SCTE members. The board members, though, is "test driving" a threaded discussion with the text Three Cups of Tea. Our goal is to begin a facilitated threaded discussion on White Oleander with Janet Fitch, as our fall conference will feature her as the keynote speaker.

Nancy Himel is working her magic again this year at our fall conference. The theme "Read A Lot, Write A Lot" will be held on Saturday, October 18 @ the Whittier Radisson Hotel.

The Board developed an annual timeline to keep on task with deadlines, contests, board meetings, and conferences.

Last year we discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring a conference with the Hawaii Council, so in preparation for the 30th anniversary (2011) of our joint conference with them, Bill Younglove and Nancy Himel will be coordinating this future endeavor.

We thank Jake Stanford and Jim Prothero for their volunteer hours to keep our website and newsletter updated timely. Sunspots continues to be a local voice for our membership.

Our board meetings are set for the year: October 17 (pre-conference), December 13, March 8 (NCTE Award reception), June 5 & 6 (annual retreat).

Tulare Council

Carol Surabian, Representative

We have been struggling with getting new members and providing what they want. So, in an effort to offer what we have been told they want, we have instituted an electronic Bulletin Board. Jim Kliegl has agreed to moderate the board and hopefully this will soon spread and make TUCATE/CATE's presence more visible. We are in early days yet, learning how to pose questions on line and visit the site at least a few times per week. Since so many teachers today don't want a face-to-face meeting, or to give up their time for an inservice, we hope this will be a way to supply the teachers in the TUCATE area with help with curriculum, management, rubrics, etc.

Upper Council

Shelly Medford, Representative

Upper hasn't had much activity. I have been approaching people about serving on a local board. I am still waiting on responses from them. Forming a small, local board is my first priority. I am also creating a document to send to all of my registered members detailing the awards that can be given and soliciting responses. Additionally, that document will inform them of the writing contest. Upper continues to work on membership and have approached several people about ideas to promote literacy and increase membership.

Convention Coordinator

Punky Fristrom

I greatly appreciate the help from Charleen Delfino, Carrie Danielson and Nancy Himel to make the coordinator's job easier. Charlene coordinated menus and will handle board housing at the convention. Carrie coordinated the printing of the convention flyer and will coordinate the convention program. Nancy will work with me at the convention on meals, receptions and room set-up.

With help from Carrie and great design work by Carole LeCren, the flyer for CATE 2009 was designed, printed and distributed. Special thanks goes to the convention chairs, Charleen Delfino and Liz McAnich, Registrar Eddie Hase. Program Chair Cheryl Smith and Precon Chair Jayne Marlink for their contributions. The flyer is now posted on CATEweb and online registration is available there.

At the direction of the board, I asked Joan Jensen of Helms Briscoe if they would agree to cut their rebate on room rates to 5% in the future. They did not accept such a cut, so I have ended CATE's relationship with Helms Briscoe except for the contractual requirements through the 2013 convention.

I negotiated an addendum to the 2009 contract with several additions clarifying terms. This completed the discussion begun with Teisha Hase and the hotel.

Following the board's directives, I finished negotiations on 2013 with the Santa Clara Hyatt Regency and the Santa Clara Convention Center and signed the contracts. Numerous clauses were added to the contract.

I sent out requests for proposals for CATE 2014 to 8 convention bureaus and 5 hotels in the Southern California.

Finding a new Convention Coordinator needs to be a priority for 2008-09.

California English

Carol Jago, Editor

Thanks to the tireless work of Jeff Wilson, the September issue of California English included a record number of ads. While educational advertisers are always eager to reach teachers at the beginning of a new school year, Jeff has done an outstanding job of making the CATE journal a venue of choice.

The issue also features prominent coverage of CATE2009 speakers as well as notices of how members can propose sessions for the conference in Santa Clara. Other CATE business included in the issue: CATE Creative Writing contest winners, CATE professional writing contest prompt.

Again with the help of Jeff Wilson, we are working to post past issues of California English on the CATE website. I believe this is a very good idea for promoting CATE, California English, and good teaching.

Please help me spread the word of our call for manuscripts in any print or electronic communications you have with your local council members.

California English

Call for Manuscripts

November 2008: Literacy Coaching (deadline October 1) Once found only on athletic fields, coaches have become a familiar presence in language arts classrooms. When effective, literacy coaching can help teachers become both more knowledgeable and more thoughtful. Coaching practices, however, differ widely from school to school. How has coaching influenced your teaching? What techniques or approaches make the most difference for teachers and students? What resources have helped you benefit from coaching or be a better coach? Do you believe coaching is worth the investment?

February 2009: Case Studies (deadline January 1) Case studies provide in-depth examinations of single instances or events. In educational research, such studies often probe the particular experiences of individual students. This issue of California English invites you to tell the story of a student who delighted, puzzled, confused, or troubled you. This could be a story from the past or one that you are living through. As you write, draw generalizations and make hypotheses about teaching and learning in light of your case study.

Please send all submissions to California English editor, Carol Jago. Articles should be limited to 2,500 words. Please submit manuscripts via email to jago@gseis.ucla.edu.

Legislative Report

Martha Zaragoza Diaz, Legislative Advocate

I. Legislation

The deadline date for the governor to decide on the fate of bills on his desk is September 30, 2008. The governor has until September 30, 2008 to act on bills that are on his desk and upon forwarding a state budget to him, approximately 873 bills will be sent to him by the legislators. Below are significant bills that are currently awaiting decisions by the governor.

Assessment

SB 1251 (Steinberg) API: Graduation Rates (E-08/22/2008 html pdf)

Would include 5 and 6 year graduation rates in the indicators currently reported to the California Department of Education for purposes of calculating a school's API.

SB 1446 (Romero) High School Exit Exam (E-08/31/2008 html pdf)

Would exempt students with disabilities from taking the CAHSEE by extending the sunset date from December 31, 2010 to January 1, 2011.

Curriculum

AB 1885 (Nava) Pupil Instruction (E-08/08/2008 html pdf)

Would specify that eligible pupils who are enrolled in the intensive instruction and services shall not be counted as dropouts of specified data collection requirements.

SB 1097 (Torlakson) School Curriculum: Content Standards (E-08/25/2008 html pdf)

Among other provisions, this bill would require content standards review panels to be appointed for reading/language arts and history/social science. The bill would not be implemented unless an appropriation is specifically provided for the purposes of the bill.

Data

SB 1425 (Steinberg) Pupil Data (E-09/02/2008 html pdf)

Would authorize the California Department of Education, to the extent permissible under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and state law, to conduct pupil management on behalf of LEA's as specified.

SB 1524 (Romero) The CalPAD:Asian and Pacific Islander Pupils (E-08/26/2008 html pdf)

Would require the CalPAD system to have the ability to disaggregate data related to Asian and Pacific Islander pupils as specified.

Instructional Materials

AB 2135 (Mendoza) Instructional Materials (E-08/12/2008 html pdf)

Would require the State Board of Education to revise the reading/language arts framework to include, as a core program, the English Language Development Literacy Program, a basic comprehensive English language literacy program for English learners. The core program would be aligned to both the reading/language arts and English language development standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

AB 2315 (Mullin) Instructional Materials (E-08/21/2008 html pdf)

Would make several changes to the instructional materials adoption process, including, but not limited to, eliminating the duties of the Curriculum Commission.

SB 1607 (Romero) Reading/Language Arts Framework (E-08/26/2008 html pdf)

Would require the State Board of Education to include a chapter in the reading/language arts framework, that provides for language and content instruction focused on English learners, specifically those in the lowest proficiency levels as specified.

Early Childhood Education

AB 2579 (Jones) State Preschool Programs: Reform (E-09/04/2008 html pdf)

Would recast those provisions of the California state preschool program, which would include both part-day and full-day education programs for 3 and 4 year old children.

SB 1629 (Steinberg) State Preschool Programs: Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee (E-08/26/2008 html pdf)

Would establish the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee, which would consist of 13 members. The advisory committee would be required to develop the policy and implementation plan as specified.

Teacher Credentialing

AB 1871 (Coto) BCLAD Credential (E-08/21/2008 html pdf)

Would reauthorize the BCLAD credential as specified.

SB 1104 (Scott) Teacher Credentialing (E-08/08/2008 html pdf)

This bill streamlines requirements for the preliminary designated subjects career technical education teaching credential, and changes the name of the clear

designated subjects adult education credential in order to make it conform to the naming structure of the credentials for career technical education.

SB 1186 (Scott) Teachers (E-08/12/2008 html pdf)

This bill provides exemptions from the state basic skills proficiency test requirement, clarifies requirements for teacher development programs, and makes other technical and conforming changes to statute.

II. Governor to Veto the 2008-2009 State Budget

As you are aware, Legislative leaders struck a compromise budget deal on September 15, 2008; 75 days past the constitutional deadline date of June 15, 2008. The Legislature approved a state budget bill 2:30 this morning (and related budget trailer bills) now on the Governor's desk. The proposed compromise budget received the necessary two-thirds majority vote to pass the Assembly, 61-1, and the Senate 28-12. However, the Legislature failed to include tighter limits on when and how much money could be transferred from the state's "rainy day fund" creating a fund that could "easily be raided".

The Governor held a press conference today, in the late afternoon, announcing he will veto the budget sent to him just hours ago by the Legislature! If lawmakers vote to override the veto, the Governor stated he will veto all the bills awaiting action on his desk. It would take a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to override the veto, and veto overrides are rare in California. The last time it was attempted was in 2003 and it failed. But legislative leaders of both parties said they were prepared to override the Governor this time!

Since the close of the Legislative Budget Conference Committee, various attempts at a compromise have been made, including a variation of the Conference Budget Version voted on in the Assembly, a new "August Revise" put forth by the Governor, a variation of the August Revise voted on in the Senate and a proposal put forth by the Legislative Republicans. No alternative to the Legislative Conference Budget garnered sufficient support necessary for final passage.

Below are the significant provisions that are part of the "final compromise" of the 2008-2009 State Budget. Specific language and the final compromise provisions won't be available until the Budget and its trailer bills are in print.

Key Changes from the Conference Version include, but are not limited, to:

Additional Prop 98 Reductions: Reduces Prop 98 funding by approximately \$800 million below the Conference Version. However, this level of funding is approximately \$1.3 billion more than proposed by

the governor in his May Revision and about \$2.1 billion more than proposed by the Legislative Republicans proposal.

Alternative Revenue Package: Replaces the Conference Revenue package. Significant provisions include: Eliminates the upper income tax increase, the corporate tax increase, the dependant credit reductions and the income tax indexing freeze (reduces revenues by about \$7.1 billion)

Increases income tax withholding (adds about \$1.6 billion)

Make various other revenue accelerations to corporations and the wealthy (adds about \$2.3 billion).

Further Program Reductions: Makes deeper cuts in public transit (\$217 million), delays the Medi-Cal Rate restoration to March 1, 2009 (\$210 million), shifts additional funds from the Redevelopment Agencies (\$350 million), defers the Prop 98 "Settle Up" payment (\$150 million); and reductions to county administration support (\$34 million).

Restoration of Expenditures: Allocates more funding than the Conference Version by restoring approximately \$400 million to the Department of Corrections, \$105 million for local law enforcement programs, \$221 million for Medi-Cal as a result of a lawsuit, \$51 million to backfill the loss of Emergency Response Initiative (ERI) funds, and \$98 million as result of increased fire costs.

No Emergency Response Initiative: Rejects the governor's proposal for an insurance surcharge to generate revenues to fight forest fires, floods, earthquakes and other emergencies.

Budget Reform: Includes budget reform similar to that proposed by the Legislative Analyst Office, by increasing the size of the Budget Stabilization Account and restricting all so-called "April Surprise" revenue.

Additionally, the budget provides expanded statutory mid-year powers to the governor.

Lottery Securitization: Includes the governor's "securitization" proposal that will generate \$5 billion in debt relief in 2009-2010 and more in 2010-2011.

Key Highlights of the "Final Compromise":

Education: Increases school funding by about \$1.3 billion above the May Revision resulting in approximately \$3 billion dollars in cuts below the workload budget level. The chart below was provided illustrating the final compromise funding for Prop 98 compared with other Prop 98 proposals.

- Workload level \$61.1 billion
- Conference Version \$58.9 billion
- Final Compromise \$58.1 billion
- August Revise \$57.8 billion
- Legislative Republican \$56.0 billion

Funds the UC and CSU at the level proposed in the May Revision, which includes a \$100 million increase for each above the January proposal.

Restores full funding for Cal Grants, including \$57 million for competitive Cal Grants that the governor proposed cutting.

Lottery Securitization: Provides for the securitization of State Lottery revenues for debt relief purposes beginning in 2009-10.

Generates an estimated \$5 billion in 2009-10 and \$5 billion in 2010-11, but are not expected to generate revenues or provide any budget relief in 2008-09.

Provides only modest changes to the lottery, such as increasing prize payouts, but proposes no new games or technology.

Protects education, unlike the governor's original proposal, from experiencing any financial loss.

Reserve: Contains a \$1.2 billion reserve in 2008-09 and a modest out year projected shortfall of \$1.5 billion.

Revenues: Includes \$9.3 billion in revenue solutions:

\$1.9 billion from suspending the NOL and limiting other incentive credit for two years

- \$855 million in various Special Fund loans and transfers to the

General Fund

\$1.9 billion from accrual accounting changes.

\$360 million from LLC acceleration

\$360 million from a modified tax amnesty proposal

\$1.6 billion from withholding increases

\$2.3 billion from various accelerations from corporations and wealthy taxpayers.

Reform: Includes budget reform that in part is based upon ideas from the Legislative Analyst Office. A significant provision includes providing additional statutory powers to the governor to make mid-year reductions.

So is this a good budget proposal? Probably not but in light of the fact that the public does not want increased taxes but yet want the same level or more of services and funding of programs they hold dear (such as public education) this proposal may be the best that could be done. The Governor and the Legislature must address budget structural issues before the situation will get better. The budget on the Governor's desk still "borrows" from corporate and personal taxpayers that would have to be paid back later. The budget does little to preclude future deficits, perhaps making it worse next year. So be prepared to have a more horrific budget year next year if the Legislature overrides the Governor's veto on the budget! As previously stated, specific provisions will be disclosed upon availability of the budget bill and its budget trailer bills.

III. State Board of Education

Algebra I Requirement: On July 9, 2008, the State Board of Education voted to implement Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to require all eighth grade students to be assessed in Algebra I within three years. State Superintendent of Public Instruction O'Connell spoke against this requirement. He expressed strong reservations regarding this requirement if additional changes, support, or resources for our public school system were not to be made available.

State Superintendent O'Connell stated that a little less than half of eighth grade students in California currently take General Mathematics. For that roughly half of the eighth grade population, a disturbingly low 23 percent is proficient or advanced on what amounts to seventh grade standards. When the data was disaggregated, disturbing achievement gaps with African Americans at 13 percent proficiency and Hispanics at 16 percent were found.

In spite of overwhelming opposition by educators, and statewide education groups such as CalTog, CTA, ACSA, CSBA and PTA, the State Board proceeded to approve this requirement. As a result, the Association of California School Administrators, California School Boards Association and CSBA's Education Legal Alliance filed a lawsuit on Sept. 4 against the State Board of Education regarding its recent decision to mandate Algebra I for all eighth graders in California.

The lawsuit challenges the manner in which the SBE changed the Algebra I standard. The notice and agenda for the July 9 SBE meeting failed to adequately inform the public that the SBE was contemplating such a fundamental change in state policy. Specifically, this action violated the Bagley-Keene Act (Government Code section 11130.3 (a)). The Act allows a court to set aside an action as null and void if it

finds non-compliance with notice and agenda requirements. The lawsuit also challenges the SBE's authority to change the standard. Stay tune for updates on the lawsuit.

WHAT A CRAZY LEGISLATIVE SESSION!