

The Bottom Line

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 15, 2013

What is The Bottom Line???

In an effort to get important legislation information out to CSNA members, the Public Policy & Legislation Committee (PPL) will be sending out The Bottom Line Newsletter after every committee meeting. We hope that this information will be helpful to you all and break down a bit of the mystery surrounding policy & legislation.

Your PPL Committee Members

Here are your PPL Committee Members for 2013-14 Term:

Chair	Rene Yamashiro
Co-Chair	Jennifer LeBarre
Far North	Denise Ohm
Motherlode	Valerie McDonald
NorCal	Sandee Larsen
Central	Laura Bullene-Jacobo
SoCal	Harold Sullins
Industry	Ken Barsanti & Steve Spears

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State Update

The 411 from Capitol Advisors Group

Our advocate, Capitol Advisors Group (CAG), keeps an eye on all the State legislation making the way through the halls in Sacramento. Here are the top pieces of legislation we are keeping an eye on and our official stance.

AB 626- Skinner

This is essentially a clean-up bill to align State regulations with Federal regulations. We were a bit nervous about this at first, but Assembly member Skinner listened to our concerns and made many amendments. The bill has been signed by the Governor and will be in effect January 1, 2014.

Position: Support

AB 302-Canella

This bill came about in response to the *Food Fight* report which detailed inappropriate use of cafeteria funds throughout the State. This bill calls for additional oversight and audits of Cafeteria Funds budgets/expenses. This bill was held in committee.

Position: Watch

2013-14 Budget

New Formula for Funding Education: This is better known now as LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula). Lee Angela & Jennifer having been spending a lot of time working with folks on addressing the impact of LCFF on Provision II & Provision III schools.

These schools are particularly affected by LCFF because in order for school districts to receive the additional funding for free/reduced students, a status must be shown for every student in Cal PADS (State's student enrollment system). In the past, students at Provision II and Provision III schools were all shown as free. Due to concerns about equity in funding distribution, it was determined that

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Member at Large	Tish Litchfield & Ralph Peschek
President	Lynette Rock
President –elect	Agnes Lally
Vice President	Dena England
Industry Rep.	Allen Scott
CDE Rep	Carol Chase
CAG	Kevin Gordon & Lee Angela Reid
Executive Director	Janine Nichols
Leg. Advisor	Barry Sackin

The Committee will meet

- November 12th – conference call
- December 10th – face to face in Natomas
- January 14th – conference call
- February 11th – conference call
- March 25th – face to face in Natomas

Chapter Presidents are welcome to attend.

All conference calls can be joined using the CSNA line:

1-800-977-8002

Participant code 916154#

Federal Update

Federal Shutdown?!?!?!?

I am sure you have heard by now that NOTHING is going on in Washington DC because of the Federal Shutdown. What does this mean for the meal programs?

Short Term: USDA has communicated that there is carryover funding from 2012-13 that can be used for reimbursements. The exact amount varies.

Any commodity purchases already made will be processed.

The CDE received Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Grant funds for October & November.

Long Term: If the shutdown goes beyond October, several districts may experience cash flow problems. While there are still several unknowns, since NSLP

and CACFP are entitlement programs that have generally stayed out of the entitlement debate, the program would be fully funded once a budget is passed. This would mean retroactive reimbursement for those that aren't paid with carryover funds.

Future commodity purchases will not be made until budget is passed.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program is NOT an entitlement so funding beyond November may be affected.

Here is a great Q & A put out by the USDA on the FRAC webpage:

<http://frac.org/usda-ensures-meal-programs-during-government-shutdown/>

Leah Schmidt, SNA President has even chimed in:

<http://www.nytimes.com/news/fiscal-crisis/2013/10/11/schools-fear-shutdowns-threat-to-lunch-programs/>

Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act

Reauthorization is right around the corner. SNA asked all States for their priorities for Reauthorization. Thanks to SoCal for putting out a great survey monkey to get your feedback. Here are California's top priorities for Reauthorization:

1. The need for permanent elimination of the maximums on grains and meat/meat alternates
2. Repeal the restrictive sodium standards
3. Repeal the mandate of offering more fruit or vegetable at breakfast
4. Eliminate the Paid Meal Equity requirement
5. Streamline and consolidate requirements when programs are reviewed, NSLP, SBP, CACFP, SFSP

SNA LAC Priorities

Along with the Reauthorization Priorities, the survey monkey also asked what the priorities would be the SNA's LAC. Here is what you said:

1. Regional indexing of the eligibility scale
2. Funding for facility modernization to meet the requirements of HHFKA
3. Meal time management
4. Eliminate the requirement for districts to receive approval from CDE to purchase equipment over \$5000

2013-14 Budget cont.

that this practice had to be ended. Since Provision II & Provision III schools have not collected meal applications for several years, most students at these schools would be considered paid for LCFF purposes. BIG PROBLEM!!!

Some progress has been made. In particular the extended date for reporting free/reduced in CalPADS to March 15th for Provision II Schools/School Districts vs. February 15th.

Now more organizations are getting involved with this conversation. Lee Angela let us know that, "Kevin and I continue to work with our colleagues from the statewide groups on the best way to move forward on the Provision school issue. There was a lot of correspondence back and forth this week as well as a good meeting of the group on Wednesday. Plans aren't set completely, but it looks like we will be meeting with the equity and social justice groups — Californians Together, Public Advocates, ACLU as well as with labor – CTA, CSEA, and CFT to make them aware of the situation and draw their attention to the likelihood (and danger) of underreporting. Following those meetings, we expect to meet with the Governor's education advisor and State Board of Ed staff. As the Governor's intent was to better assist English learners and children of poverty, I believe they will want to work with us to make sure that any accounting mechanism put in place to implement his plan doesn't create an adverse effect."

Rest assured we are doing everything we can to resolve this issue for 2013-14 school year and beyond!

State LAC

Please mark your calendars for State LAC, January 26-28, 2014 in Sacramento, CA. Legislation is an important aspect of our job and State LAC is the perfect place to learn about the process, new bill, and get your feet wet!

Ted Lempert from Children Now

(<http://www.childrennow.org/index.php/>) will be our keynote speaker at Monday's lunch. Our friend Nancy Skinner will be hosting Monday evening's reception at the Capitol.

We will be trying something new this year, a one day registration for the office visit days. This is a perfect way for you to participate without taking a lot of time out of the office or large price tag.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CSNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PALM SPRINGS, CA

NOVEMBER 14-17, 2013

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE

SACRAMENTO, CA (SPECIFIC LOCATION TBD)

JANUARY 26-28, 2014

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON DC

MARCH 2-5, 2014