

Volume 52, Issue 9
June 2007

Palo Alto Council of PTAs
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On the Calendar

All PTA Unit President, Council, and School Board meetings are at 25 Churchill unless otherwise noted.

Jun 1, 11:30am, **PTA Council Honorary Service Awards Luncheon**

June 2, 8:30 am, **6th District Leadership Training**

June 5, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

June 6, 9:00am, **Incoming/Outgoing PTA Council Exec Board Meeting**

June 14, **School Ends, Summer Vacation**

June 19, 7:00 pm, **School Board Study Session, Work Plan**, 25 Churchill

June 26, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**,

August 28, **School Starts**

PAUSD School Board meetings are broadcast on Cable Channel 28 and streamed live at www.communitymediacenter.net/watch/schedules/index.html

New on the PTAC Website!

Parent Education Resources
<http://www.paloaltopta.org/parented>

Offering book titles, links, and past presentations.

Have a book title or link to suggest?
Send to

Carolyn Williams
carolyn@vtmedia.com

The Councilor

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs

Good Bye 2006-2007, Welcome 2007-2008

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support! It has been a pleasure to be Palo Alto PTA Council President for the past two years and work with so many great people!

A Special Thank You to all of the 2006-2007 PTA Council Executive Board members, PTA Unit Presidents and other PTA Leaders for giving so much of your time and talents for the benefit of our students and families!

You should be proud of all you have done!

- Almost \$2M was raised and spent on 2006-2007 PTA activities to benefit our schools
- Hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours were contributed by parents and community members
- Many, many great programs were delivered... Parent Ed, Outreach, Advocacy, Philanthropy, Community Connections, Communications, Hospitality ...the list goes on and on...

...And "Thank You" everyone who has volunteered to be in a PTA leadership position for 2007-2008. We all look forward to a strong and vibrant year!

Best Regards,
Melissa Baten Caswell, Palo Alto PTA Council President, 2005-2007

PALO ALTO PTA COUNCIL Outgoing Board 2006-2007

Executive Board

President	Melissa Baten Caswell
Executive VP	Dan Dykwel
Secretary	Julie Williams
Treasurer	George Pierce
Auditor,	Pat Worthington
Communications	Barbara Spreng
Education	Claude Ezran
Parent Education	Carolyn Williams
Legislation	Erwin Morton
Legislation	Lauren Janov
Health & Welfare	Raquel Burgos
Historian	Shona Mukherji

Appointed Board

Arts	Roxane Mehta
Councilor Editor	Mona Siegel
Directory Editor	Erina Dubois
eNews Coordinator	Erwin Morton
Environmental Action	Bret Anderson
Family Involvement	Marvina White
Family Involvement	Florence Srinivasan
Family Involvement	Veronica Melero
Fundraising Liaison	Julie Williams
Immediate Past Pres.	Barbara Spreng
Kiosk Editor	Darice Koo
Membership	Edita Donnelly
New Teacher Luncheon	Cherie Sopkin
Parent Network	Lisa Ratner
Parliamentarian	Preeva Tramiel
School Board Observer	Martin Stone
School Matters Column:	Joanie King
Special Education	Anna Thayer
Special Education	Stacey Ashlund
Staff /VolAppreciation	Susan McCarty
Staff /VolAppreciation	Isabelle Cole
Traffic Safety	Richard Swent
Webmaster	Mona Siegel
Wardrobe	Theresa Peterson

PAUSD Passes the Baton

Kevin Skelly, associate superintendent of the Poway Unified School District in San Diego County, has been selected to be the new superintendent of the Palo Alto Unified School District.

He will replace Dr. Mary Frances Callan, who will retire at the end of this school year; after five years of service to the district.

Skelly is scheduled to begin as the new Palo Alto superintendent on July 1. He says he is looking forward to the challenge of taking the Palo Alto district to the next level.

He brings with him a strong reputation and solid resume. Skelly was principal of Saratoga High School from 1993 to 2004, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with hon-

ors in Economics from Harvard University in 1983 and his Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Management from the University of California at Berkeley in 1993.

Thank you to Dr. Callan for her hard work on behalf of our district and a warm welcome to Dr. Skelly!

The Councilor

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs is published monthly.

Melissa Baten Caswell

PTA Council President

Mona Siegel

Councilor Editor

Dr. Mary Frances Callan

PAUSD Superintendent

The mention of any business or service in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement by either the Palo Alto Council of PTAs or the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Incoming Board 2007-2008

Executive Board

President	Dan Dykwel
Executive VP	OPEN
VP Leadership	Terry Godfrey (+ Mona Siegel)
Secretary	Colleen Nielsen (+Sheryl Klein)
Treasurer	George Pierce
Auditor	Pat Worthington
Communications	Melissa Baten Caswell
Community Outreach	Marvina White
Education	Erwin Morton
Parent Education	Carrie Manley (+ Wendy Kandasamy)
Legislation	Martin Stone
Health & Welfare	Maggi Smeal (+ Jennifer Schneider)
Youth Advocacy	OPEN
Historian	Shona Mukherji (+ Nancy Smith)

Appointed Roles

Arts/Reflections	Roxane Mehta
Comp School Safety	OPEN
Councilor Editor	Darice Koo
Directory Editor	Clara Chang
eNews Coordinator	Erwin Morton
Environmental Action	Bret Anderson
Family Involvement	Florence Srinivasan
Fundraising Liaison	Sarah Carpenter
Human Relations	OPEN
Immediate Past Pres.	Melissa Baten Caswell
Kiosk Editor	Karen Karpen
Membership	Edita Donnelly
New Teacher Luncheon	Cherie Sopkin
Parent Network	OPEN
Parliamentarian	OPEN
School Board Observer	John Markevitch
School Matters Column:	Joanie King
Special Education	Anna Thayer + Stacey Ashlund
Staff and Volunteer Appreciation	OPEN
Traffic Safety	Penny Ellson
Wardrobe	OPEN
Webmaster	OPEN

PTA Proposes 5 New Advocacy Positions

Each year delegates to the California State PTA Convention take action on resolutions that have been submitted by unit, council, district PTA or the California State PTA Board of Managers. Resolutions adopted by convention delegates serve as a basis for action in unit, council, district PTA and the California State PTA.

This year's resolutions included the following:

Summary of Resolution A: Public School Governance Authority

That the California State PTA reaffirm and recommit themselves to the separation of municipal government from local school district governance and to the constitutionally established independence of locally elected boards of education, directly accountable to the voter, taxpayers, communities, parents, and students of their district.

Summary of Resolution B: Financing Public Schools

That the California State PTA:

- work to educate public policy makers, PTA members, community members, and the media about the shared responsibility in the continuing need for the necessary resources and funding for California's public school programs and facilities;
- support the ongoing efforts to explore new models of public school funding to ensure a quality education for every student;
- continue to make financing our public schools, both programs and facilities, a top priority in order to ensure a quality education for every student.

Summary of Resolution C: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Underfunding

That the California State PTA:

- advocate for the maximum authorized allotment from the federal government of 40% of mandated IDEA program costs;
- educate their membership about the funding shortfall of IDEA mandates and its encroachment on the school districts' general education budgets.

Summary of Resolution D: Comprehensive Waste Reduction in Schools

That the California State PTA:

- support implementation of effective waste reduction programs at their schools;
- recommend schools monitor, document and report the savings;
- urge school districts to direct these savings back to the schools to support program sustainability;
- recommend that schools promote their waste reduction strategies and successes in their school;
- foster student/teacher-driven participation in recycling;
- nurture the growth of school garden programs that include composting as critical part ;
- advise school district to buy recycled paper productions whenever possible;
- promote integration of waste reduction/garden composting education into the school curriculum;
- assist teachers, parents and districts staff to become aware of successful California school waste; reduction programs in order to help them implement their own site-specific programs;
- affirm PTAs in recognizing and rewarding those who make a significant contribution to their school waste reduction programs, and acknowledge outstanding programs at the State PTA level.

Summary of Resolution E: Indoor Air Quality in Schools

That the California State PTA:

- inform students community about the importance of healthy IAQ and its relationship to student and staff health, academic achievement and absenteeism;
- work with local school boards to promote good IAQ when building or renovating facilities or using portable classrooms by following guidelines that provide for healthy IAQ, including techniques such as reducing the use of toxic construction materials;
- work with local school boards to adopt policies and practices that promote healthy IAQ, including but not limited to the use of IAQ management plans, proper maintenance techniques such as adherence to heating, ventilation and air conditioning system standards, protocols to reduce pesticide use, and the use of low-toxic classroom materials and cleaning supplies.

This article provides a summary of Resolutions A, B, C, D & E. For the full text of each Resolution and background summaries go to: <http://www.capta.org>.