



Spring 2010
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National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members

A Council of the National School Boards Association

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National Hispanic Caucus Chair's Message

Greetings from the NSBA Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members. Your board of directors has been busy preparing for this NSBA Annual Conference here in Chicago. We have included in this newsletter a listing of all the Caucus events, and we have many informative sessions for you.

Please join us at our Hispanic Luncheon to hear national bestseller author, Luis Alberto Urrea, and to honor our recipient of the "Abrazo Award," an individual who has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving educational

opportunities for Hispanic children. I will also be introducing our new Chair, Kevin Carbo from Mesquite, Texas. We hope your conference schedule will include our break out session, business and general session meetings and of course the Joint Caucus Reception. Election of NHC officers and directors will take place during the business meeting.

Policies and resolutions committee update

I want to acknowledge NSBA Director and 2010 Policy and Resolutions Chair John D.



Cynthia Matus Morriss

Tuttle and committee members for their comprehensive and complex work at the P & R Committee Meeting in Washington, D.C., in January.

The Caucus submitted resolutions as they relate to the educational and competitive value of learning multiple languages, childhood nutrition, and educational opportunities, including the DREAM Act. All resolutions submitted were approved by the committee.

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Caucus Greetings From NSBA President Sonny Savoie

It gives me great pleasure to greet you one more time as your NSBA President. We focus on so much as educational leaders, but don't always get the opportunity to examine our own leadership qualities and stretch ourselves in that realm. I've talked with so many people over this past year and have been fascinated with observing your leadership

at work. Apparently, I'm not the only one who finds this interesting—Brian Tracy has spent 25 years working with more than 1,000 organizations studying the qualities of leadership.

According to Tracy, there is a direct relationship between success—whether personal or professional—and leadership abilities. We often think lead-



Sonny Savoie

ership is a natural ability, but the good news for us is that these abilities can be learned. As I enjoy these last moments as your leader at NSBA, I wanted to share his seven keys to successful leadership with you.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The resolutions will be presented for adoption to the Delegate Assembly on Friday, April 9.

Celebrating educational opportunities for students of all cultures

The Caucus once again provided sponsorship support for the 2010 Celebrating Educational Opportunities for Students of all Cultures, the four states, Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas conference. Formerly known as the Celebrating Educational Opportunities for Hispanic Students, this conference has expanded its diversity focus to showcase the many outstanding programs throughout the border regions that have shown positive results in student achievement.

This year's conference was held in Phoenix on March 26-28. Participants engaged in courageous conversations addressing the educational needs of all children, heard about ways to create pathways to success for students and staff, and learned from leadership teams' proven best practices for setting direction and policy for schools.

Participation at these events raise the visibility of the Caucus in its outreach to fellow school board members and other education leaders who help further our mission of promoting and advancing equal education opportunities for Hispanic children.

Mil gracias

As I come to a close of my two year term as Chair I want to thank the NHC board members for their perseverance, commitment, and passion for their work to improve educational opportunities for Hispanic children. This is a continuous major undertaking, and it takes partnerships and collaboration with many other interested folks and organizations, such as the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), and with our anticipated work with the Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE).

I also want to pay a tribute to the NSBA Board of Directors and NSBA staff for their support of the Caucus and our endeavors. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve on a board with the highest level of concern and diligence for American's children.

The Caucus appreciates and thanks Caucus staff Kanisha Williams-Jones and Myra Maxwell for their assistance with the retreat, meetings, scholarships, newsletters, and constant support shown to the board members and me.

Thank you, our members, for your trust, support, and commitment to the Caucus. Please know that your participation and input at meetings and events is vital to the existence of the Caucus.

Abrazos,

Cynthia Matus Morriss



Harry Delgado (NJ); Liz Sanchez (AZ); Mike DeLaO (AZ); Cynthia Matus Morriss (AZ); Kevin Carbo, Sr. (TX); Earl Rickman (NSBA President-Elect); Margie Tapia (NM); Sylvester Vasquez, Jr. (TX)

NELI Institute on School Governance Recap

I had the pleasure of attending the National Institute on School Governance: The Relevancy of Local Leadership, in Phoenix on March 5-7. This was hosted by NALEO Education Leadership Initiative. It was a great conference with excellent speakers and networking with school board members from across the country.

I especially enjoyed the session titled "Matching Board Vision with Student Need: The Role of Board Leadership." A recent report from the Council of Great City Schools suggests that a coherent vision for instruction of English Language Learners can come from the superintendent's office and, often times, the school board.

In Denver Public Schools, board leadership was largely the driver for a series of reforms, as presented by Arturo Jimenez, School Board Vice President. San Francisco Unified School District's Deputy Superintendent of Instruction,

Innovation, and Social Justice, Richard Carranza shared that a new superintendent provided the impetus for a revised strategy in his district.

I was truly impressed with some of the social issues that the San Francisco Unified School District addressed. We all understand that closing the achievement gap is difficult, especially when you don't have total buy-in from your administration and teachers. The San Francisco School District, led by Superintendent Carlos Garcia, had the courage to make it mandatory for all teachers to be Cross Cultural, Language, and Academic Development certified. He insisted that teachers understand that Latino students have special needs like language and cultural issues that should be addressed in order to ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to learn and succeed. He worked very well with his patrons and union

representatives to make sure that everyone was on the same page. As he said, "You get your certification or you get off the bus."

The result was that the district will relieve 32 teachers of their duty for not participating. We know that was a very bold move, but if we truly believe that we have to give our kids all the opportunities available to them, we also know that they need not only qualified teachers but also dedicated administrators and school board members. This was a great networking event, and I would like to thank all the attendees and State Farm Insurance Companies for sponsoring it.

Adios,

David Castillo

Oklahoma City Public School Board member, District 6, and NHC member

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NSBA'S PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1. Clarity

Great leaders are clear about what they want and they have clear goals (goals must be specific, measurable, and time-bound). Goals should be written so clearly that a child can understand and recognize if you have met your goals or not. This speaks to the vision and mission and standards we establish for our schools.

2. Competence

The future belongs to people who are good at what they do. Become excellent at your work and continue to get better. If you do not commit to excellence in your field, you end up being mediocre (by default). Let's set the bar for our students by thinking about the future needs of our workforce and what needs to happen in schools to ensure that our students are prepared to compete anywhere.

3. Constraints

These are things that tell us how quickly you get to where you are and where you want to go. Why aren't you already at your goal? Why aren't you already great? What is holding you back? There's that 80/20 Rule: 80 percent of

what is holding you back is internal (your lack of ability, your lack of discipline, etc.); 20 percent is external (outside factors). So, start by looking inside yourself and determine what is holding you back. We can ask the same of our schools, and examine what it will take for us to get where we want to be.

4. Creativity

According to Tracy, we all have a natural genius inside of us, but you have to use it regularly and this will allow you to become smarter, brighter, and quicker, and give you the ability to overcome those constraints.

5. Continuous learning

We need to become lifelong learners and expect that of our students. If you are not getting better, you are getting worse. If you are not continuously learning and growing, your skills will fade.

6. Concentration

This is the key to great success. How do you concentrate? Pick the most important thing and focus on it. What can you and ONLY you do? What one task is more

important than any other? If you could only complete ONE task, what would it be? Do we take time to concentrate on those things that could impact student achievement?

7. Commitment

Leaders are totally committed to what they are doing. Leaders put their whole heart into their work. There are two secrets to commitment: 1) Give your full commitment and attention to the work at hand, and 2) Always do more than expected. Always go the extra mile.

One last secret: Every leader started as a follower. A great leader even knows when to let someone else take the reins. Work at identifying leadership in others.

I challenge you to apply these keys to your life and see how they can take you and your district to the next level. Good luck to each one of you in the pursuit of excellence through your board leadership. Go forward and build great learning communities.

Sonny

'Educational Crisis Facing Young Men of Color' College Board Report Summary

In its recent report, *The Educational Crisis Facing Young Men of Color*, the College Board gathered the insights and firsthand experiences of more than 60 scholars, practitioners, and activists from the African American, Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islanders and Native American communities. They were based on a series of four one-day seminars called Dialogue Days, in which scholars, advocates, and representatives from each community participated in a meaningful discussion to address the education needs of minority males.

Minority male students continue to face overwhelming barriers in educational attainment, noted the report. It highlighted some of the undeniable challenges among minority students, including a lack of role models, search for respect outside of education, loss of cultural memory, poverty challenges, language barriers, community pressures, and a sense of a failing education system.

"The United States is facing an educational challenge of great significance, with the crisis most acute for minority male students," said College Board President Gaston Caperton at a Capitol Hill briefing on the release of the report. "The report offers a step in the direction of raising the visibility of a pressing problem in American society. If the United States is to achieve President Barack Obama's goals, then we will have to do a much more effective job in educating those populations with which we have traditionally failed."

Based on the report's findings, a number of recommendations were made to erase the disparities in educational attainment and to demonstrate new ways of reaching the increasingly diverse U.S. student population. The report called on policymakers at the federal, state and local levels, as well as foundation and community leaders, to heighten public awareness and explore policy options to improve the plight of young minority men.

Congressman Michael Honda (D-Calif.) said, "An educator for over 30 years, I know the vital role a high school and college degree serves in impacting the socioeconomic future of a young student. We must remember that education is not only essential for surviving a tough economic climate where unemployment correlates directly with a lack of education, but it is also essential for empowering and mainstreaming minority groups who continue to struggle to break free from decades of marginalization. As chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am deeply troubled by the fact that many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders—over half of all Cambodian, Laotian, and Hmong, for example—lack even a high school degree. This is inexcusable, especially for a country like ours that prides itself on providing opportunity for all. We must fix this, which is why the College Board's efforts to raise awareness on the educational crisis facing young men of color are so necessary and timely."

Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.) said, "In response to the growing educa-

tional disparities facing minority males, the College Board, in collaboration with the Tri-Caucus, has conducted a probing and unflinching examination of the underlying issues and has developed a solid and practical response to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, those disparities. This report could not be timelier or more relevant to the future of our educational system."

Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) said, "Minorities are disproportionately represented in schools with high dropout rates, and we must work to turn those schools around. All middle school and high school students should have the support they need to graduate, and they should be prepared for college regardless of their circumstances. Any policy that fails students in these respects is a policy that fails the country."

The report identified the need for a more coordinated effort of K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and state higher education entities to forge partnerships to help males of color get ready, get in, and get through college. A number of "model" education programs, for replication and expansion, were also identified. These successful programs have multiple commonalities, including more empowered student voices, partnerships at all levels from parent to community action, mentoring programs, male role models, and wraparound services.

Access to the full report may be found at <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/educational-crisis-facing-young-men-of-color.pdf>.

Achieving a Full Count of Latino School-Age Children

Children have long been undercounted during past Censuses. It is estimated that 750,000 children were undercounted in 2000. This undercount led to a \$4.1 billion loss of funding in 30 states and Washington, D.C.

Most of these undercounted students are children of color. In a recent blog entry, Bill O'Hare of the Annie E. Casey Foundation stated that the number of Hispanic children under 4 increased by 41 percent from 2000 to 2008. It is critical that school board members take an active role in helping to promote a full count of

children in our districts and communities.

We would live with the results of an undercount of school-age children for the next decade. Census data are used to distribute billions of dollars of federal funding to education. Some examples include: \$732 million in Title 1 grants; \$916 million to Special Education programs; \$480 million to Head Start; and \$247 million to improve teacher quality among others. For every 100 people not counted, a community may lose up to \$1.2 million over a 10-year period.

It is imperative we take action now! The NALEO Educational Fund is working

on a special initiative to ensure a full count of school-age children. They have developed turnkey materials to provide information, conduct outreach, and other resources for school board members to use in promoting a full count in our communities. To receive more information on this initiative, please contact Elizabeth Franco at (713) 228-6400 or via e-mail at efranco@naleo.org. You can also click here for more information: www.yaeshora.info.

Thanks to NHC Immediate Past Chair Fernando M. Treviño for requesting this information from NALEO.

Membership Committee Greetings

My name is Mike DeLaO. I serve as Membership Committee Chair of the National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members (NHC). It is open to anyone interested in meeting and addressing the educational needs of Hispanic students.

The mission statement of the NHC is to promote the goals and vision of the National School Board Association and to provide leadership and a foundation to school board members for student educational opportunities through collaboration with key stakeholders to foster excellence and equity in public education.

This is accomplished by becoming a member of NHC. What do members gain access to? Networking opportunities, member-to-member mentoring, exclusive online directories, listservs, newsletters, educational resources, professional development, and NSBA's Advocacy efforts, among other benefits.

The Caucus has five membership categories: Regular (voting rights), Associate (non-voting rights), Honorary (non-voting rights), Corporate (non-voting rights), and Full Board memberships, which is for school board members only (voting rights).

Members of the Caucus represent many of the largest and most populated urban school districts, together with some of the most expansive and rural school districts in the nation. They are called upon to work to promote equal educational opportunities for Hispanic children, monitor the development and academic achievement of Hispanic children, and address the concerns, challenges, and opportunities faced by school board members working with these issues throughout the country.

I would like to cordially invite you or any of your board members to join the NHC to help us further our mission! Please share this newsletter with your fellow board members. For more information, please feel free to check out our website at www.nsba.org/caucuses or contact me directly at mike.delao@eac.edu. The voices of our children must be heard and they must be heard through us.

NSBA Annual Conference National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 9

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
National Hispanic Caucus Board of Directors' Meeting
Astoria Room, Hilton Chicago

Saturday, April 10

8:30 am to 9:45am
National Hispanic Caucus Presents: The Seal of Biliteracy Program
Room W474A
3:30 pm to 5 pm
National Hispanic Caucus General Session –
Speaker: Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Assistant Secretary,
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department
of Education
Room W474A
9 pm midnight
Joint Caucuses Reception – Grand Ballroom, Hilton Chicago
Sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc.

Sunday, April 11

2:45 pm to 4:30 pm
National Hispanic Caucus Business Meeting
Room W471AB
3:15 pm to 4:30 pm
National Caucus of the American Indian/Alaska Native Presents:
Good Governance for Teacher Effectiveness
Room W184ABC
4:30 p.m. to 5 pm
National Hispanic Caucus Board of Directors' Meeting
Room W471AB

Monday, April 12

Noon to 1:30 pm
National Hispanic Caucus Luncheon:
Luis Alberto Urrea
Continental BC, Hilton Chicago
Sponsored by McGraw Hill Education

*Pre-registration is required for all mealtime events.
All luncheons are priced at \$50 per ticket*



ABOVE: Mr. and Mrs. Tony Gonzalez

ABOVE RIGHT: Actor Hill Harper and Liz Sanchez at NSBA Annual 2009

RIGHT: Dion Sandoval at NSBA Leadership Conference



ABOVE TOP Guillermo López, Fernando Treviño, Margie Tapia, Kevin Carbo, Cynthia Matus Morriss, Arturo Vargas-Executive Director of NALGO, Liz Sanchez, Lillian Tafoya, Carmen Piñeyro, Mike DeLaO

ABOVE MIDDLE: Arizona Delegation with Anne Bryant - Ellen White, Debbie King, Anne Bryant, Dee Navarro, Cynthia Matus Moriss, Liz Sanchez, Panfilo Contreras

ABOVE BOTTOM: Dean Pickett, COSA Chair; Cynthia Matus Morriss, NSBA President Sonny Savoie, Anne Bryant

ABOVE TOP: Cindy Matus Morriss, Gerri Guzman, School Board Member, City of Montebello, California; Mary Herrera, Secretary of State, New Mexico Karen Bass, former Speaker of the California State Assembly; Don Francisco Trijillo, II, Deputy Secretary of State, New Mexico; Maria Calix, Committee Member, the LA County School Districts Organization, Lennox, Ca.

ABOVE BOTTOM LEFT: Cynthia Matus Morriss; Harry Delgado; Carmen Piñeyro

ABOVE BOTTOM RIGHT: Cynthia Matus Morriss and NSBA President-Elect Earl Rickman



National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members

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 Merrifield, VA 22116-8007
 703.838.6716
 fax 703.548.5516
www.nsba.org/caucuses
Hispanic_Caucus@nsba.org

Membership Form

Instructions: Please print all information requested and mail or fax application to NHC headquarters at the NSBA Caucus Liaison Office listed above.

Personal Information

Preferred Mailing Address: School District/Business Residence Mail to Both Date _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Residence Address: _____
 Street _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Residence Phone: () _____ Residence Fax: () _____

School District/Business Name _____

School District/
 Business Address: _____
 Street _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

School District/
 Business Phone: () _____ School District/
 Business Fax: () _____

E-mail Address _____

Annual Dues Options

Dues for new or renewing membership may be applied towards the current Caucus fiscal year or the Caucus fiscal year beginning on July 1.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership
(entitled to vote)
\$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership
(not entitled to vote)
\$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Membership
(open to any business, not entitled to vote)
\$1000.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Board of Three
(entitled to vote)
\$175.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Board of Five
(entitled to vote)
\$300.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Board of Seven
(entitled to vote)
\$375.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Board of Nine
(entitled to vote)
\$525.00 |

Method of Payment

- Check Enclosed (made payable in U.S. funds to NHC)
 Invoice my School District/Business (applications cannot be processed until due payment is received)
 Purchase Order # _____
 Credit Card We gladly accept: VISA MasterCard American Express

Cardholder Name (please print) _____ Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Cardholder Phone Number _____

The fiscal year of the NHC is July 1 to June 30.



The mission of the **National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members (NHC)** is to promote the goals and vision of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and to provide leadership and a foundation to school board members for student educational opportunities through collaboration with key stakeholders to foster excellence and equity in public education. The Hispanic Caucus continues to be involved in legislative initiatives ranging from literacy rates to standardized tests, and education leadership issues from professional development to effective governance.

Most noteworthy is the NSBA National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members' Statement of Goals, which guides the organization's programmatic agenda:

- ◆ Promote and advance equal education opportunities for Hispanic children by Caucus members becoming actively engaged in national dialogue on education problems, issues and concerns in conjunction with the National School Boards Association and other national organizations committed to the continued growth and development of minority children.
- ◆ Promote state and national legislation to improve educational opportunities and programs for the Hispanic students in the public schools.
- ◆ Provide education and information to members and/or interested parties on unique challenges and opportunities faced by school board members throughout the country.
- ◆ Provide leadership by encouraging the most desirable and effective communication between school board members, their local school board, communities, national and state board associations relating to Hispanic students.
- ◆ Study the development, academic achievement of the Hispanic youth within public schools.

The National Hispanic Caucus is open to anyone interested in meeting and addressing the educational needs of Hispanic students and committed to creating a new paradigm to enhance both their educational experiences and academic accomplishments.

Members of the Caucus represent many of the largest and most populated urban school districts, together with some of the most expansive and rural school districts in the nation. They are called upon to work to promote equal educational opportunities for Hispanic students—monitor the developmental and academic achievement of Hispanic children—and address the concerns, unique challenges and opportunities faced by school board members working with these issues throughout the country.

We hope you will consider joining today!