



**California Association of School Transportation Officials
State Board Meeting**

MINUTES

Saturday January 29, 2022

10:00am – 1:00pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting – Live on YouTube

I. OPENING – President Matthew Thomas, 10:02am

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Dano Rybar

B. Attendance

Matt shared sad news that Glenn Perry passed away Sunday 1/16/2022, Glenn served the school transportation industry as a School Bus Driver, Dispatcher, Driver Instructor, Supervisor and Director at Victor Valley Union High School District, Redlands Unified, Oceanside Unified, Oro Grande School District, Coachella Valley Unified School District. Glenn was active in CASTO Chapters 1, 2 and 20 and served in different capacities in the local chapters. Further sadness his wife passed away in the same week, they both passed away from complications of COVID. Matt asked for a moment of silence.

1. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20

*President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President,
Professional Associate Rep., Contractor Rep., Sustaining Member Rep.,
CASTOway's Editor, CASBO Rep., CDE Rep., Legislative Rep.*

2. *Verification of Eligibility – Mike Sawyer*

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20

C. Introductions and Welcome -State Board, Executive Board

D. Minutes of Prior Meetings – (M) Mike Sawyer (S) Chad Barksdale (C)

E. Correspondence – Amanda Hightman, None at this time.

F. Additions / Changes to the Agenda – Matthew Thomas, No Changes. (M) (S) (C)

II. Reports

A. Treasurer – Christina Celeste-Russo, checking \$137,393.33 savings \$30,793.04 total \$168,186.37. Chrissy Stevenson spoke on behalf of Chapter 7 and asked about the different in the tax prep audit from the actual to the budget?, and the State Board expense travel when we were told that everything had to be virtual this year? The tax prep audit question, originally, we budget \$500.00, in past years the Treasurer was always in charge of filing the taxes on their own, and I have asked if we could budget some funds so that I could go an CPA to file taxes on behave of CASTO. That's why we had budgeted a little extra for tax prep audit however shortly after we had created the budget for this year, we received paperwork from the IRS indicating that there were penalties fees from many years prior all the way back to 2004, penalties fees were being assessed so she took it to the CPA and the CPA is assisting CASTO with abatement letters to try and fight the penalties fees. The fees are still at the moment outstanding but the additional amount you see there is for the work of

- the CPA. To address the travel expenses, yes all in person events were cancelled prior to the board cancelling all travel we have purchased air flights for events we thought we would be attending so when you purchase it charges to the credit card and we have to document it as an expense and even when you cancel most times the airline only gives you a credit to use in the future does not refund your card. Sam's question is under income for the Business Forum for attendance its shows income of \$27,971.00 and then on the expenses it shows as an expense for lodging. So, when CASTO had to cancel the Business Management Forum there were liquidated damages that we were required to pay, and I know you were not present for last month meeting, but CASTO BINGO was able to provide the money to cover those expenses. That's why you will see it as an expense but then you will see it back as income for the same amount. Sam then asked about the conference expense of \$14,500.00 and Christina explained that expense is for the renewal of the Hopin platform to do the conference virtually. (M) Sam Anderson (S) Tony Peregrina (C)
- B. **Membership** – Mike Sawyer / Christina Celeste-Russo, Mike said the thing that will increase our membership is for people to report their agencies and their employees under their agency.
- C. **State Officers** – Executive Board
- D. **Special Representatives** –
1. *California Department of Education* – Anna Borges, Anna congratulated Mr. Justin Binion for his new position as Director of Transportation at Napa Valley Unified School District. I'll state with the easy stuff, we have an Instructor class currently in session and our March class is full. And the June class is half full with a lot of applications in the process, so if you are looking to send someone to the program to be certified as an Instructor you should do that soon then later. On to the next piece, FMCSA Under the Hood Waiver, they put this out to assist the Transportation Industry with under the hood inspection you have until March 31, 2022. The waiver is effective January 3 to March 31, 2022, It would be a shame for a Driver if it was available for us to apply for the waiver to then be restricted to Intra State only that means you can not cross the state lines and that would remain on the CDL, remember we have a special certificate, when we test with Highway Patrol we are testing for that Special Certificate. For anybody say Tahoe Truckee or Del Norte, anyone by the Mexico border, Arizona border for all those competitions that you have back and forth over the border as well as the Nevada Drivers take the waiver, they cannot bring their students over into California. This is a major concern for our Industry and our State we do not feel that is warranted for any Driver to want to have that waiver. Because its not saving you any time, it does not make a Driver any faster for you. Also, California Highway Patrol the testing agency is not offering the waiver. If the CHP did offer the waiver, they would have to keep the statistic and send them to DMV who then would have to send them to FMCSA who then would monitor the Drivers who have the waiver, and the waiver is only good until March 31, 2022.
- DMV is no longer producing or selling California Vehicle Code books, that means it all electronic, that's a problem, not only for law enforcement who carry those around but also of our Instructors who are instructing in a classroom behind the wheel when you want to look something up. One of the best things about this is we have gone to Thomson Reuters and we ordered the California Vehicle book form them. That is the best place we have found to buy it some folks have gone on to other sites and ordered it and once they received it have found that it was missing section or information was incorrect. We have found that this is the best avenue to purchase the VC book. Anna was contacted to take a preliminary look at the language in SB878, she is encouraged by this bill although there are a few concerns with in that we have the FTA,

Federal Transit Authority, that is mention in there multiply times and some of the language is a little questionable that needs to be rearranged. Entry Level Driver Training, it's a piece of MAP21. What are they trying to do? Anyone who holds a Commercial Drivers License is mandate some training because they have had nothing since first inception of the commercial license program which came in the early 80's to mid-80's. This is trying to have a reduction in fatalities, a reduction in accidents. Well in our State we have all this mandate curriculum that exceeds the minimum of entry level driver training. We have been talking about this since 2019, we have summed it up, it is being implement February 7, 2022, no more delays. We sent all our curriculum to FMCSA back in December, the Instructors Manual for the Classroom portion, the Behind the Wheel Guide, the Brake Handbook, the 82.7 and the Reference Guide, so were showing this is all our curriculum. On a zoom meeting with FMCSA administrator, attorneys and the senior administrator staff they said we know your curriculum meets the standard, is there anything you are missing and we said yes, that would be the federal definition of "whistle blower" and she said to them that she is not sure why we need the definition of whistle blower for a school bus driver but that what the federal standards are, it's a easy fix for us to incorporate that into our manual which is then mandated curriculum. We already do a minimum of 20 hours of classroom which supersedes theirs, minimum 20 hours of behind the wheel training not only does it supersedes theirs, but it superseded the Vehicle Code. So, they gave us their blessings and we said were good. The Instructor Bulletin 22-67 and thank you CASTO for sending it out to all their members. This information is effective February 7, 2022, Instructors will begin teaching the new curriculum and documenting the information. All Instructors need to register on the FMCSA website. Instructor needs to register Individually. DMV has a form DL1236 that needs to be filled out to provide DMV proof that you have received ELDT requirements. So, the DL1236 is not anywhere on DMV's website, so Anna called them to ask where's the form and when is it required to be turned in? Still don't have an answer. The form DL1236 is for original applicants only and is picked up at the Field Offices.

2. *Sustaining Member Representative* – Jason Songer Sr., Lets talk Grants, Mojave Desert HMD Carl Moyer Grant, 13 million dollars is available to those in the High Desert. Deadline is March 31, 2022. This is a crush program, so they are looking for bus 2007 and older. Next grant is the HVIP 2020 overview for CARB with over 270 million dollars in funding available. It's estimated to open the end of March 2022 deadline is first come first served. If the program is oversubscribed, they will do a random choose, like a lottery. It's not a crush program so you can keep your bus for other grants, but it also will not fund the entire cost of the bus. The maximum per voucher for a type B bus is \$216,000.00. The second part of this grant is the Rural School Bus HVIP Program, and it is a replacement program. Last but not least, let's talk about the supply chain issues, supply chain issues not just School Bus related but any vendor at your district. There are supply chain issue through out our country, if you're dealing with previous grants and are having a hard time meeting your deadlines check with your manufacture don't wait until the last minute.
3. *Contractors Representative* – Erin Borda, No Report
4. *CASBO Representative* –Carlos Chicas, No Report.

III. Standing Committee Report

1. *Legislation* – David Neben, David shared a slide show, Budget and Legislative update. Overall, we are looking at a very strong State budget for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 fiscal years. Total revenues are up more than 21 billion dollars over that two-year period and the State is looking at about 29-billion-dollar surplus in revenues. We are also anticipating at a combined 30 billion dollars in total State reserves and debt repayments

through the end of next fiscal year. We have come a long way since the beginning of the pandemic back in March 2020. Total K-12 funding has reach just under 120 billion dollars from all sources 2022-2023 that includes Local, State Funding, Federal Funding and Special Funds. This is the highest we have ever seen in History of California. We are seeing a dedicated appropriation to School Transportation for the Budget. The 2022-2023 does include 1.5 billion dollars in one time funding for School Transportation, it is expected to be available over a three-year period beginning in 2022-2023 and grants to schools and school districts will be right around \$500,000.00 per grant. There is a priority toward schools serving higher concentrations of low-income students, foster youth, English learners as well as small school districts and those schools in rural areas. The funds are intended to be use for the purpose of purchasing Electric School Buses, charging stations as well as other local school transportation needs. Have not seen the trailer bill language for the budget yet, this is a fluid process, and we will not know the details until the budget is approved the end of June the beginning of July. In terms of Legislation, we are very happy about SB878 by Senator Nancy Skinner relating to School Transportation. For the first time it does establish a Home to School Transportation funding formula. The funding will be based on a formula that deals total route miles between transportation facilities, students house or pick up location and the school, as well as the opposite order at the end of the day. The dollars per route mile have not yet been set we do anticipate there will be more details on this as the bill evolves throughout the legislation process. There is also additional funding for after school activities on a high dollar per route mile bases and this includes things like band, athletes, afterschool programs, field trips, basically anything outside of school where your transporting students to and from there location back to school, back to home then back to the transportation facility. It is likely to be double referred to the transportation committee as well as the Senate Education Committee. It will give us ample opportunity to get more details from both the author Nancy Skinner as well as the sponsor California School Employees Association. One thing to note the author Nancy Skinner is the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee so she is part of the Senate leadership committees. Along with the funding side of this bill there are a couple of policies changes not listed on here, the details are not completely but they include all students will be provide or at least offered free home to school transportation, it does extend passed what is required in the Federal IDEA and McKinney-Vento Acts. There are some caveats to that depending on how far the student lives from their local neighborhood school. Generally anything over ½ mile for students in grades K-6 or 7 and 1 mile for students in grades 7 or 8-12. Also, as part of the Budget slide the Governor is requiring a work group be formed to look further into the total process from state to finish of getting bus drivers certified trained and actually behind the wheel driving a bus on their routes. This work group will be comprised of members from CHP, DMV, California Department of Education, The State Board of Education as well as other stakeholder folks who are on the ground, in the offices, in the school buses and those who have first-hand experience of driving a school bus.

2. *Roadeo Report* – Doug Smith, Doug has been in contact with NSTA regard the International Roadeo, they are still trying to have it in Niagara Falls, N.Y. They are looking to ask to do a Past Champion’s Roadeo there is a meeting scheduled in February to discuss. Antonio and he had a fun time doing the Roadeo Workshop and they are looking into doing another one. Planning a Special Need workshop in the near future.
3. *Access & Mobility* – Tony Peregrina, we have sold about 40 books this year and looking forward to continuing to provide you the book as a great resource. We have plenty of books available.

4. *Fundraiser / BINGO* – Dano Rybar, CASTO BINGO still operates two session per week, every Wednesday night and Sunday matinee in the City of Citrus Heights. Attendance averages about 170 – 200 people per session. This month of January CASTO BINGO was recognized as the best BINGO session in Sacramento County, we got front page newspaper. We operate with about 16 parent volunteers because of COVID we do get in a pickle every now and then, it just where we are at. Glad we are financially successful and were able to provide the organization with about \$90,000.00 last month.
5. *CASTOways.org* – Mike Sawyer, reminders to sent him any information regarding your chapter events and news.

IV. Business and Issues

A. Old Business

1. *Poster Contest “Be cool – follow the rules”* - Amanda Hightman, we have received seven posters from Prescilla Alvarado’s Special Needs Class from Orange Glen High School in Escondido. They are from Chapter 3’s area. Our Theme was “Be cool – follow the rules”. A roll call vote was taken and poster #1 was the winner.
2. *2022 – 2023 Closing of Nominations* -Tony Peregrina, Nominations for the 2022-2023 year are closed with Matthew Thomas nominated for State President, Michael Sawyer nominated for State 1st Vice President, Kerri Gardner nominated for State 2nd Vice President, Jana Graham nominated for State Secretary, Christina Celeste-Russo nominated for State Treasurer, Karen Knight nominated for State Professional Association Representative., Anna Borges motioned all position are running unopposed, positions be filled by acclamation.
3. *2022 State Conference* – Matt Thomas / Executive Board. State conference is moved to April 30, 2022. The conference will be virtual on the Hopin Platform.

B. New Business

1. *Changes to “Agency Member Benefits” and “Sustaining Member” pages in the Officer’s Handbook* – Matt Thomas, Kerri placed on the screen the changes need to update the bylaws. Agency Member Benefits (M) Sam Anderson (S) Jill Bender (C), Sustaining Member (M) Sam Anderson (S) Doug Smith (C).
2. *Mechanic and Supervisor Workshop / California Best Tech & Inspector Competition* – Tony Levazzo / Matt Thomas, no report at this time.

V. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- ##### **A. Chapter News** – Chapter Presidents 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20

VI. ADJOURNMENT 12:26pm (M) Jill Bender (S) Chad Barksdale (C)