



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

**MINUTES  
Friday June 03, 2022  
10:00am – 1:00pm  
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**I. OPENING – President Matthew Thomas, 10:00am**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance – Mike Sawyer**

**B. Attendance**

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

*President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – January 29, 2022 (M) Mike Sawyer (S) Kristie Fletcher (C),  
April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, (M) Mike Sawyer (S) Kerri Gardner (C)**

**E. Correspondence – Jana Graham- Pamela McDonald thank you for the CASTO Life  
Membership.**

**F. Additions / Changes to the Agenda – Matthew Thomas, Additions- New business, #5 (M)  
Mike Sawyer, (S) Jill Bender (C)**

**II. Reports**

**A. Treasurer – Christina Celeste-Russo, Checking \$151,810.73, savings \$30,793.76 total  
\$182,604.49. Shared the current budget vs. actuals for the current fiscal year, with a current  
net operating income of \$41,000.98. Sam's question is under income for the Business  
Forum, shows income of \$27,971.67, re-confirming from the last meeting, if it was the  
money we were obligated for. Christina shared it was the liquidated damages we were  
responsible for 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. (M) Sam Anderson (S) Mike Sawyer (C)**

**B. Membership – Mike Sawyer / Christina Celeste-Russo, Mike shared number of members in  
each Chapter, 1-340, 2-517, 3-254, 4-188, 5-22, 6-156, 7-252, 8-61, 9-16, 10-157, 12-158,  
13-203, 14-120, 15-35, 17-23, 18-45, 19-21, 20-57. Total sustaining members is 156  
members. Renewal notices went out in June, so remind people to sign up by July 1<sup>st</sup>. 2789  
members in total.**

**C. State Officers – Executive Board.**

**D. Special Representatives –**

1. *California Department of Education* – Anna Borges, Anna talked about the Instructor Certification Course, with a new one starting Sunday June 5th. The remainder of the courses for the year are full, as well as January is almost full. A lot of applications are coming in for candidates. Emails have been sent out from the Department about their Blended Transportation Administration program, taking place October 31st-November 4<sup>th</sup>. You can attend virtually or in person, with various guest speakers. Visit our website for more information. Email was also sent out for transporting students with disabilities. A program will be taking place on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be all in person, and more information will be on the website if you are interested in attending. Also please make sure you are utilizing an appropriate entity for any First Aid training. Check the list to make sure they are on the EMSA provider list. Also, emails are also being sent out for the Transportation Programs Consultant eligibility list. We test usually 4 times a year, when it is advertised, to test and get on the eligibility list. We are preparing to hire 5 TPC's, as well as several new positions we will be hiring, 1- SSM1, 5- AGPA's and 2-OT's, we will be also filling our vacant positions. LeAnn Kinnley will be retiring July 1<sup>st</sup>, also Dano Rybar will be retiring on July 9<sup>th</sup>, after 25 years of dedication to the Department of Education, not incorporating his additional 13 years, 38 years total in the transportation industry, we are sad to see him go but very happy for him. We will be filling Mr. Rybar's position in January 2023.
2. *Sustaining Member Representative*- Jason Songer, Started by wishing us all a happy Friday and a successful 2021-2022 school year. Spoke about the EPA Grant, 500 million dollar Federal EPA Grant, opened on May 20<sup>th</sup>, and closes on August 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a Lottery system Grant. Persons eligible are State, Local, Tribal Government entities, or Public School Districts, as well as Contractors. Requirements for the Grant, buses must be 2010 or older, diesel powered school buses, your GBWR must be 10,001 lb. or more, must be operational. It is not an all-electric grant, it is a CNG propane and electric, most money will go to electric though. The Grants are stackable, with state grants. Not sure how much will go to California, but we think around 50 million. As a district, you can apply for up to 25 buses on this Grant. I will put a link in the chat for those of you to hand out if you have any districts who might be interested.
3. *Contractors Representative* – Erin Borda, Contractors, as well as you all looking forward to the Summer Break. The biggest thing for School Bus Contractors, is understanding the Grant's that are available to us, and how we can access them, as it is a little more challenging for us. We are working on several different things pertaining to electric vehicles and how it would work for those who operate in cities, and other big picture things. Other than that, nothing really to report from the contractor's point of view, although a Zum is picking up speed in the industry.
4. *CASBO Representative*- Carlos Chicas, Congratulated Dano on his retirement. Shared plans for their conference in 2023. It will be in Long Beach at the convention center on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup>- Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration will open on October 19<sup>th</sup>, get the word out and register sooner rather than later, we have a number of rooms blocked at various hotels and will last for only 3 weeks. Hotels are The Hyatt, Renaissance, The Westin and Marriott Courtyard, centrally located and within walking distance to the Conference. Reach out to me if you know anyone who wants to present or if you would like to present. Phone number will be left in the chat. We always have great attendance, looking forward to it. Anyone who graduates from the Transportation Leadership Academy will get the CASBO certification. It's a 10 month long course, one weekend a month, and offer one in Southern California as well as Norther California. Check the

CASBO website for registration to the Leadership Academy. There is one beginning in August for Sacramento, registration is open, but it will filling up quickly. Will leave the registration information in the chat.

### **III. Standing Committee Report**

1. *Legislation* – David Neben, Provided a quick update on State of Legislation and budget actions so far this year in Sacramento. Governor’s office and both sides of legislator of the Senate and Assembly have come to an agreement of 1.5 billion dollars of school bus electrification money, it will be available over a 5 year period of 300 million a year. The legislative agreement has a couple modifications, waiting to see how it will play out in budget negotiations over the next couple of weeks, with some of the modifications being not just the use of money for electric school buses, but using the money for low emissions school buses as well, they haven’t quite defined what low emission would be. There have been discussions about limited capacity of electric school buses in range and high temperature weathers, so we will provide an update once we get an agreement from the Senate and Assembly gets negotiated with the Governor’s office. Another update on the legislative side SB878 by Nancy Skinner and Assembly Bill 2933 by Patrick O’Donnell have both made it through to the second house, so if they are approved they will provided additional home to school transportation funding. There is a proposal to include SB878 as part of the budget this year and would add about 1.2 billion dollars to the ongoing home to school transportation component, of school districts, county office of education. No details have been released as of yet, but we will provided an update once it is released.
2. *Roadeo Report* – Doug Smith, We have gone through the Southern State Roadeo trailer, organized and fixed it up, it will be ready for next season. Antonio and I are working on putting together a virtual work shop Special Needs Roadeo. Nothing more to report on Roadeo at this time.
3. *Access & Mobility* – Tony Peregrina, No report
4. *Fundraiser / BINGO* – Dano Rybar, Shared that a couple months ago they made a donation to a local theater group through CASTO BINGO, supporting cats, kittens that are abandoned, and that they go to a place in Oakland California and they are teaching them how to be lovable so then are able to put them into homes. So the small donation we made was for a documentary and it won an award in a film festival in Utah. We attended the red carpet premiere in Rockland and when we walked the red carpet we saw that CASTO BINGO made the wall, as well as the opening of the movie said Thank You CASTO BINGO. Wells Fargo did our audit for BINGO, we are not considered a gambling operation or underground operation and we passed. March and April attendance at Bingo was 2,268 players, and revenue was \$400,047 dollars and prizes we paid out was \$200,088 dollars. Expenses were around the \$80,000 mark, which means the last 2 months CASTO Bingo brought to our association \$81,000 dollars, we are doing well, but we are entering our slow season which last until around November. The extra money in our operating accounts go to paying rent, and all other expenses. Also with the extra money \$12,000 has gone to local schools and community. Operating Bingo requires 13-15 volunteers each session, and I use parents. I go to schools, and parents who volunteer get a \$25.00 an hour donation in their child’s name to the school. We have some parents who have been with us for 9 years. We just added Grass Valley baseball, also the Stadium in Woodland California, have been coming for 3-4years to get a nice stadium for the kids.
5. *CASTOways.org* – Mike Sawyer, reminders can be sent to him with any information regarding your chapter events and news. I can put them on the webpage so events can be seen.

#### **IV. Business and Issues**

##### **A. Old Business**

1. *2022 State Conference-* Nanette Rondeau, Executive Board- Nanette wanted to send out a huge thank you to the presenters for the recent virtual conference. We had positive feedback, and presenters did an excellent job. I sent thank you notes to all the presenters.
2. *Conference Report- Mike Sawyer/Christina Celeste.-* Mike just hopes it's the last virtual conference, but good job to everyone for pulling it off. Christina reported the numbers for the budget vs. actuals. Expenses for the conference was \$19,637.88, income for the conference was \$43,215.00.

##### **B. New Business**

1. *2022-2023 Proposed Budget- Christina Celeste –* Discussed the copy that was sent out for the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, and that few changes were made today and can be discussed if any questions. Main change was made under Roadeos, CASTO BINGO is going to provide money to take care of the Rodeo trailers. Upcoming conference in Burbank, we won't have Bingo, so we will start recording it this way as Bingo/Bowling, so we don't have to keep changing it. We added back a budget for the webpage. Discussed the increasing of our storage unit, added additional funding for tax prep audit. (M) Sam Anderson (S) Amanda Hightman (C).
2. *2022 Mechanic's Workshop and CA Best Tech & Inspection-Tony Lavezzo, Pam McDonald.-* Matrix is filled and all the presenters are set up. Wrapping up final pricing on vendor night, and will get the information to Mike to put on the website, and looking forward to the Workshop.
3. *2022 School Transportation Business Management Forum- Kerri Gardner, Matt Thomas- Kerri,* excited for the upcoming Management Forum being in person. It will be in Anaheim on October 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Currently working on getting speakers, and the schedule.
4. *2023 State Conference- Dano Rybar/Executive Board- Delta by Marriott in Anaheim,* the rooms will \$169.00 a night, need to have at least 60 rooms sold. We were able to get free parking. The conference is February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2023, our hotel rate for conference is \$169.00 a night at the Marriott in Burbank. We will be having our state board meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Burbank and will take a tour of the newly remodeled areas. We will put the link up on the website once everything is finalized for the special rate. All northern California attendees can get a direct flight to Burbank on the airline Alevia.
5. *Rodeo Trailer/Insurance-Dano Rybar/Anna Borges- Anna,* Casto Bingo will cover the cost of insurance for all Chapters for the upcoming year. Casto Bingo will be giving each Chapter \$1000 to fix their Rodeo Trailers. Use the money to get new tires, or what benefits the trailer best. It will be given to Christina, and she will send the money out to each Chapter. The stolen Rodeo trailer from Chapter 4, was found/recovered.

#### **V. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

- A. Chapter News – Chapter Presidents**  
1,2,4,7,10,13,14,15,17, 20

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT 12:12pm (M) Mike Sawyer (S) Cindy Casarez (C)**