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Executive Director's Column

Welcome to CCAP's rebooted newsletter! Much has happened over the past few months, and this October/November issue discusses some of the key issues, policies, and programs that are in motion now.

I guess one of those new developments is me. I was honored to [join CCAP](#) as executive director in August, and am excited to work with you to build upon the start Victor Torres gave us on CCAP's efforts to support charter school authorizing as a means of furthering equity for all California students. For those of you I've already met, thank you for your welcome and patience as I get up to speed, and I look forward to meeting, and working with, more of you this year.

Over the summer, CCAP started two key initiatives: Charter Authorizing 2.0: Advancing Equity and Access Through Quality Authorizing, known



Executive Director Tom Hutton
joined CCAP in August 2020

as CA2.0, and a partnership with California's Small School Districts' Association (SSDA).

You can read about those projects, and our ongoing work in the Tri-State Alliance with our counterparts in Florida and Colorado, on pages 3-4.

Our Mission...

To advance quality public education for all students by providing charter school authorizing the support, resources, and collective voice necessary to foster high-performing, fiscally sound, autonomous, and accountable charter schools.

Board Member Spotlight: Dr. Lucretia Peebles



CCAP Board Member
Lucretia Peebles

*“Toolkits...
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Lucretia Peebles may be retiring from her day job as charter school coordinator for San Jose’s East Side Union High School District, but, as member of CCAP’s Board of Director, she is continuing her pursuit of equity and social justice through high-quality charter school authorizing.

Peebles is excited about CCAP’s new initiative, Charter Authorizing 2.0 (CA2.0), which is developing new tools, resources, and professional development for authorizers to advance access and equity in charter schools. “I like the idea that we’re making toolkits for charter authorizers,” said Peebles, because they “will provide useful information at your fingertips.”

That’s especially important for many district authorizers who face challenges of capacity, time and resources when it comes to overseeing and monitoring charter schools. “In districts, the people working with charter schools it’s really just a tag-on to their other responsibilities,” she explained.

Peebles knows firsthand about the challenges of both authorizing and managing charter schools. While an assistant professor of education at the University of Denver, she was a founding board member of one of the state’s earliest charter schools; conducted research on charter schools; and helped create and taught in the Leadership Institute for Charter Schools, a collaboration between the University’s colleges of education and business. She helped launch another charter school in Los Angeles while an associate professor at Loyola Marymount University.

Prior to joining East Side Union School District, Peebles served as director of charter schools for the Santa Clara County Office of Education, where she initiated regular meetings for all the county authorized charter schools as a venue for leaders to ask questions, share information and get support.

“Sometimes, what you need is just a person who is out there who you can call with a problem and ask what they’re doing about this,” she said.

Project Updates

CA2.0: Advancing Equity and Access Through Quality Authorizing

CCAP and our partner WestEd are well into the first phase of [Charter Authorizing 2.0: Advancing Equity and Access Through Quality Authorizing](#), what we call “CA2.0.” We have now held three Action Team meetings and are making significant progress towards creating a charter school petition review toolkit. Working collaboratively, the Action Team participants—district and county authorizing professionals from throughout California—are developing a comprehensive set of actionable tools and resources that meet the varied needs of California authorizers, with a special focus on expanding access and enhancing learning for English learners and underserved students.

The Action Team’s first undertaking is the charter petition review process. CCAP and WestEd have reviewed existing resources in California and in other states. The new charter petition process under development uses the most recent [CARNet petition evaluation matrix](#), from May 2020, as its foundation.

We encourage all authorizers to participate in this process and share your expertise. Information from all Action Team meetings is posted on the [CCAP website](#), including background information, meeting materials and recordings of the proceedings. As working drafts of the charter petition review process are developed, these will also be posted. Additionally, we will be sending working drafts directly to all California authorizers seeking your feedback. For more information, please contact CCAP Executive Director Tom Hutton at tom.hutton@calauthorizers.org.

Small School Districts’ Association and California Charter Authorizing Professionals Partnership to Advance Quality Authorizing in Public Education



California’s [Small School Districts’ Association](#) (SSDA) and CCAP [announced](#) a new partnership over the summer to meet the unique authorizing and oversight needs of these districts.

Nearly 60 percent of California’s charter schools are authorized by small school districts, defined as those with no more than 2,500 students. Small authorizers generally have fewer staff members, resources and time to dedicate to charter authorizing and monitoring.

SSDA member districts automatically receive a free introductory membership to CCAP for the 2020-2021 school year, including priority access to all CCAP training and consultation time to answer specific questions related to charter petition review, oversight, and renewal.

This dedicated support and the toolkit being developed through the project is especially crucial this year, said SSDA Executive Director Tim Taylor, because superintendents are busier than ever working to ensure that students receive quality virtual education due to Covid-19 and the California wildfires.

“To tell you the truth, I can barely get ahold of a superintendent between seven in the morning and seven at night,” said Taylor. Despite that, he said, “the responsibility for authorization is not going away. Pandemic or not, you can’t just shove that to the side. Getting resources and technical assistance from CCAP is imperative to do a good job.” *(Cont. on next page)*

Project Updates *(continued)*

Tri-State Alliance

CCAP, the Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA) and the Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers (FACSA) have begun their third year of collaborating to improve district-led charter authorizing through the [Tri-State Alliance](#), a project funded by a National Charter School Dissemination Grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Program.

The project is making “excellent progress” toward completing the first sets of model materials, including the application package and application rubric, annual report template, site visit rubric, and pre-opening checklist for new schools, said Alex Medler, CACSA Executive Director and National Coordinator of the Tri-State Alliance.

The Tri-State Alliance has been holding regular calls with authorizers along with a series of webinars to assist charter authorizers in responding to Covid-19, which can be accessed on CACSA’s [YouTube channel](#). The Tri-State Alliance will also be running several sessions at the virtual NACSA conference. For more information see [Upcoming Events](#) on page five of this newsletter.

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 820: The Education Budget Cleanup Trailer Bill

Charter schools—along with traditional public schools—received some COVID-19 financial and regulatory reprieves in [Senate Bill 820 \(Chapter 110/2020\)](#), the education budget cleanup trailer bill, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 18, 2020.

In an [article](#) and during a [webinar](#), Brianna García, a CCAP Board Member and Director of Management Consulting Services for School Services of California Inc., outlined the key changes between the [2020–21 Adopted State Budget](#), enacted in June, and the trailer bill.

Funding

The State Budget set average daily attendance (ADA) for funding purposes for the 2020–21 school year at 2019–20 ADA rates regardless of whether a school experienced an increase or decrease in enrollment. Under SB 820, however, all schools, including classroom-based charter schools, can receive additional funding for student growth, but only if they projected growth in the prior year.

SB 820 also allows charter schools that enrolled more students than they can support due to fiscal capacity to hold a public random lottery to disenroll newly enrolled students.

Regulatory Changes

Charter schools will need to complete School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the 2020–21 school year as the Local Control and Accountability Plan, which could typically be used in lieu of the SPSA, will not be completed. SB 820 requires that the stakeholder process used for the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan also be used for the adoption of the SPSA.

Upcoming Events

NACSA Annual Conference Goes Virtual

NACSA's annual conference runs through October 29th. CCAP and its partners are featured experts on the panels listed below. To view NACSA's entire schedule [click here](#).

Can Authorizers "Own" Equity Work?

- Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, 12:45–2:00 p.m.

Shotgun Marriages: Authorizers and Schools Thrown into Distance Learning

- Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Reimagining the Federal Role in the CS Movement

- Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020, 12:45–2:00 p.m.

Charter Authorizing 2.0

By now, you have probably heard from WestEd, our partner in creating authorizer toolkits, asking you to participate in a new phase of this work. WestEd would like to convene smaller groups of authorizers who are interested in diving deeper into two subjects. Each group will meet twice on the following dates:

Serving English Learners:

- Monday, Nov. 9, 2020, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Education Program/Measurable Pupil Outcomes:

- Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Charter School Renewals Webinars

CCAP will hold two online workshops on the topic of charter school renewals during the 2020-21 school year, one for authorizing staff members and the other for authorizing board members:

Renewals for Authorizing Staff

- Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m.–noon

Renewals for Authorizing Boards

- Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, 10:00 a.m.–noon