

ACCBE Board reps orientation zoom link

Meeting date: September 15, 2025, 12:00 pm

Notes

Organizational Foundation & Structure

- **ACCBE mission and vision formalized** as a newly independent organization serving California county board members after separation from CSBA
 - Mission focuses on **empowering county board members as confident student advocates** with comprehensive support systems (24:43)
 - Vision positions ACCBE as **leading voice for 58 California county boards** improving student and community outcomes statewide (24:46)
 - **Four strategic pillars established:** advocacy/amplification of unique county board issues, strategic partnerships with allied organizations, individual and collective capacity building, and forward-looking innovative solutions rather than status quo protection (26:12)
 - **Impressive 8-month track record** includes recruiting 35 county boards, launching comprehensive webinar series, establishing governance training programs, and creating structured advocacy committee with legislative engagement (27:48)

Board Representative Program Implementation

- **Comprehensive liaison system launched** connecting ACCBE directly to all member county boards through designated representatives
 - **Primary communication responsibility** requires monthly reporting to county boards during board comment periods, forwarding training materials, and providing bidirectional feedback on organizational initiatives (31:59)
 - **Optional engagement opportunities** include attending monthly open board meetings, participating in three active committees (advocacy, program planning, membership), contributing specialized skills, and joining annual reflection sessions (33:26)
 - **Two-way value proposition emphasized** where representatives gain access to subject matter experts, policy makers, statewide resources, and leadership development while strengthening ACCBE through local connections and expertise sharing (35:09)
 - **Volunteer-led, staff-supported model** requires active engagement from county board members to achieve organizational potential and effectiveness (37:59)

Comprehensive Training & Development Calendar

- **Six major events scheduled** over next two months addressing critical county board governance and operational needs
 - **Board Calendar Training** (Monday) covering effective governance calendars, self-evaluation tools, and strategic retreat planning (40:08)
 - **Court and Community Schools Deep Dive** three-part series starting October 9th including state stakeholder overview, four exemplary county office presentations, November student/advocate panels, and 2026 advocacy strategy development (40:08)
 - **County Student Board Representative Networking** (October 4th) featuring student panels, separate facilitated discussions for students and adult allies, and recruitment support for counties considering student board positions (40:08)
 - **Brown Act Training** (November) providing essential legal compliance education through expert legal facilitator (41:01)
- **Partnership events highlighted** including RAPSAs conference for alternative education practitioners and potential Small School Districts Association conference collaboration featuring county board member programming strand (43:25)
- **Training priority assessment conducted** with board representatives providing input on Building Trustee Excellence (governance-focused) and Special Topics (content-focused) programming for 2026 calendar development (46:19)

Communication & Engagement Strategy

- **Four-week newsletter cycle established** providing consistent, valuable content to all county board members statewide
 - **Week 1: Building Trustee Excellence** newsletters building on monthly governance training sessions with practical tools and tips for board effectiveness (51:56)
 - **Week 2: Organizational Updates** covering ACCBE accomplishments, membership growth, partnership developments, and upcoming training opportunities (51:56)
 - **Week 3: Advocacy Reports** compiled by leadership team addressing legislative activities, policy developments, and advocacy opportunities (51:56)
 - **Week 4: Future of Education** spotlighting innovative practices, emerging trends, and forward-thinking educational initiatives (51:56)
- **Technical communication challenges identified** with IT firewalls blocking ACCBE emails requiring board representatives to verify receipt and resolve delivery issues with county IT departments (58:25)

- **Website enhancement initiative** requesting student activity photos and county highlights from board representatives to create engaging, representative web presence showcasing diverse county work (53:21)

Volunteer Engagement & Committee Structure

- **Three active committees** providing multiple pathways for meaningful board member involvement
 - **Advocacy Committee** focusing on legislative education, policy development, bill tracking, and member engagement with Assembly and Senate representatives without requiring prior expertise (54:40)
 - **Program Planning Committee** designing webinars, training content, subject matter expert recruitment, and partnership programming based on member needs and input (54:40)
 - **Membership Committee** driving organizational growth toward 58-county goal through outreach, recruitment strategies, and retention activities (54:40)
- **Specialized volunteer opportunities** including resource library development requiring 1-2 volunteers for material vetting and organization, skills-based contributions matching individual expertise, and leadership development pathways (56:16)
- **In-person conference planning** emphasized as critical for relationship building, personal connections, and community development beyond virtual programming limitations (56:16)

Strategic Partnership & Relationship Building

- **CSBA relationship reconciliation** identified as critical organizational priority requiring diplomatic engagement
 - **Historical context acknowledged** regarding organizational separation and ongoing tensions among some long-serving county board members versus newer members without legacy conflicts (01:09:21)
 - **Strategic collaboration opportunities** particularly around Masters in Governance program with only 5 statewide participants currently indicating need for county board member recruitment and engagement (01:13:13)
 - **Mediated outreach planned** through Annette Yee's established relationship with CSBA President Betty Lusk to facilitate productive partnership discussions and mutual support rather than competition (01:17:50)
 - **Student-focused collaboration philosophy** emphasizing that adult organizational issues should not impede collective advocacy for improved student outcomes across all California public schools (01:14:16)

Board Representative Feedback & Program Refinement

- **Interactive platform suggestions** for peer-to-peer communication while maintaining **Brown Act compliance** limiting participation to maximum three members per county board to avoid quorum issues (01:00:48)
- **Best practice sharing** including formal agenda item creation for regular ACCBE reports ensuring consistent board communication and organizational visibility (01:06:34)
- **Training effectiveness validation** with representatives expressing appreciation for concise one-hour format, comprehensive information delivery, and practical application opportunities for immediate board implementation (01:02:49)
- **Legislative update requests** for enhanced advocacy reporting including Assembly and Senate bill tracking pertinent to county board goals and mission alignment (01:05:31)

Action items

Bina Lefkovitz

- Send PowerPoint presentation to all board representatives (01:07:01)
- Follow up with Aqeela regarding juvenile justice expertise and phone consultation (01:16:18)
- Coordinate with Annette Yee to schedule meeting with CSBA President Betty Lusk (01:17:50)

Board Representatives (All)

- Verify all board members are receiving ACCBE weekly newsletters and resolve IT firewall issues (58:25)
- Provide monthly ACCBE updates to county boards during board comment periods (31:59)
- Submit photos of student activities for website enhancement (53:21)
- Respond to training priorities survey via chat or follow-up communication (46:19)

Deborah K Maus, CAE

- Save meeting chat with training priorities feedback (01:17:59)
- Research Zoom account poll functionality limitations (01:20:20)
- Send training priorities list to board representatives for additional feedback (46:19)

Annette Yee Steck

- Contact CSBA President Betty Lusk to arrange partnership discussion meeting (01:17:50)
- Facilitate three-way conversation between ACCBE leadership and CSBA (01:17:50)

David Patterson

- Continue advocacy committee development and recruitment (54:40)
- Coordinate with resource library volunteers for material organization (56:16)

Sergey Terebkov

- Join advocacy committee as interested volunteer participant (01:04:46)