

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



**MINUTES**  
**Friday November 13, 2020**  
**11:00am – 2:00pm**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**  
**25 Matmor Road, Woodland, CA 95776**  
**916-378-0848**

**I. OPENING** – President Tony Peregrina 11:02am

**A. Pledge of Allegiance** – Matt Thomas

**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., ~~DMV 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, Audience

**D. Minutes of Prior Meetings** – (M) Nanette Rondeau (S) Vickie Wingfield (C)

**E. Correspondence** - None at this time.

**F. Additions / Changes to the Agenda** – Tony Peregrina (M) Pam McDonald (S) Chad (C)  
Motion to add #6 to New Business (M) Tony Peregrina (S) Matt Thomas (C)

**II. Reports**

**A. Treasurer** – Christina Celeste, checking \$147,174.94, savings \$5,792.17 total \$152,967.11. Chrissy Stevenson commented about asking the insurance company to give us a discount this year because we are not having in person events. Christina said we could talk to the insurance company directly; we have already paid this years premium and we should have discussed why the increase in our premium but as it stands the some chapters are still outstanding in paying there portion. (M) Pam McDonald (S) Nanette Rondeau (C)

**B. Membership** – Mike Sawyer – the membership number are actuated; we have 1792 active members (those who have paid) with 94 memberships pending. We are still receiving some payroll deductions from Districts that have not realized that we are no longer receiving them. A lot of checks we are receiving are coming from County Office of Eds, Christina then has to go into the county system to figure out who the checks belong to and then return them to the District directly with the letters from Tony to let them know we not longer accept payroll deductions. Are agency membership are picking up we have 36 agency membership. If you have an agency membership make sure that your employees get added. If you need help reach out to Mike he will set up a ZOOM or Goggle meets to walk you through.

**C. State Officers** – Executive Board

**D. Special Representatives** –

1. *California Department of Education – Anna Borges* – Due to COVID and everything going on we have not been able to have any of our State Certified Instructor Program classes. They will be shut down through December 31 and because their county is moved back up to the most restricted areas, she does not foresee them running the January 2012 class. They are ready to go; they have don't multiple things to facilitate that program. She feels sorry for the people who keep getting pushed back those that were scheduled to attend the program. Which rolls over into evaluating delegated behind the wheel trainer applications, they are restricted from traveling in the state at all. She has been asked if people can come to them and the answer is no because if they do it for one, they must be able to do it for everybody. They are following the instruction of the State Superintendent. She understands the need they are way under a valid 1000 State Certified Instructors in the State of California and that is low we usually run 1200-1300 at the peak. They have created some virtual programs, The Administrators Program, all quest speakers will still be there, a four day Transporting Students with Disabilities Conference, instead of two days it will be four days. Will have experts and guest speakers for that program as well. They are working on the one day training programs for Certified Instructors where they will provide specific education and specific topics because no matter what, no matter when or whatever year it is, Dual Air Brake System, Loading and Unloading, Documentation, there are just certain subject matters that you can take a million classes and you are always thirsting for more knowledge because those things are constantly changing. They have been approached by the Department of Education and asked could they provide a virtual Instructor Coarse, anyone who is an Instructor who has attended the program knows it would be class to impossible some of the class could be done virtual but most would be difficult. Behind the Wheel would be a no go... Documentation, just too many classes that would need to be there for. So, even thought they have been able to come up with some virtual programs the Instructor Program and the Delegate Behind the Wheel Program nothing changes. The extension of the Medical Exams will expire on December 31, 2020. She believes that they will be extended again. Anna did share that once we are beyond COVID restrictions the ability to teach original and renewal classroom virtual will remain in place.
2. *Sustaining Member Representative - Jason Hohalek* – no report
3. *Contractors Representative – Erin Borda* – They are doing the best that they can at this time with the way things are. Her company is running about nine routes at this time four of those nine routes have one child on them. Erin also has been doing researcher on the Electric bus and she recommends two things, Drive the electric bus and put weight on it drive it in the area where it will be on a route to see about the battery charge and on hills. If the bus has too much weight and going up a hill the bus will actually stop. And second Research and talk to your utility companies because there are some areas in which getting proper electric onto your location where the infrastructure is not there yet. They have but the cart before the horse, they are promoting this vehicle, but the utility companies are not there yet in being able to provide enough electricity. The other thing she wants to share is looking at changing contract language in regard to things like pandemics and fires. What contracts are going to look like, accounting for school closures, how to pay for all the PPE. A lot of schools and districts have said you are not providing the service so we are not going to pay for it but is does not account for the rent that still has to be paid or the bus payments or maintenance to be in compliance with CHP, or the training that needs to happen for the Drivers even though nothing is running. So, a lot of contractors are looking at the language of our contracts to account for that going forward and there with be provisions to pay for services even if students are not allowed on campus. It does sound like Contractors will not require schools or

districts to pay 100% of costs, it sounds like it will be a negotiated amount. Also, some language will be added for unexpected cost like PPE or additional training in good faith will negotiate payments to cover those unexpected costs that were not put into contract pricing. Erin want all to be aware that with bids coming up to expect a change in language. There are some smaller contractors in our state that have gone out of business, the bigger contractors at this point are holding their own. The three big contractors First Student, Durham, STA most of the rest of the county is relatively running normal so they seem to be doing ok.

4. *CASBO Representative* – Matt Sanchez – Have not been doing a whole lot, trying to get a schedule together to meet at a monthly or bi-monthly now that we are meeting virtual. Not sure what things will look like in the spring with the conference probably virtual.

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

1. *Legislation* – Nico Chavez – Update on the election that just happen, first I will go to the Legislator, then I will cover the property taxes then transition over to what that means to funding. First, of the 40 seats in the Senate the Democrats were looking to pick up an additional three seats to get to 31, its looking more likely they will only get to 30 Democrat seats. In the Assembly looks like the Democrats will end up with 60 seats, the reason this seat are important is when it comes to funding next year a lot requires an majority vote and then are there any other additional measure taken for taxes or any other revenue generated it will require a super majority and so having 30 seats in the Senate puts us 3 only thee required 27 for a super majority. Having 60 seats puts us well over the 54 seats needed for the super majority vote in the Assembly. One of the big measures that the state was looking at to generates more revenue for school districts was proposition 15 that one has failed. Then one other one to highlight for CASTO or for us given to provide some unity or uniformity between the requirements for transportation providers to students weather it's app based or school bus drivers, proposition 22 did pass so its yet to be seen there could be some ramification as we continue to more that bill through legislator given it relation to app base driving. Given the lack of funding generated from proposition 15 and continue lack of funding at the federal level for the second round of relief, its not looking good we are still on deferrals, there is going to be a state deficit, looking at less fund for school districts throughout the state. There a lot still to be determined on the federal level when it comes to the Senate and the House if Georgia does not pick up Senate seats after there run off election its unclear how long that stalemate is going to last at the Federal level in terms of delivering that funding to California that was spoken on during budget act that was passed in California., we are still just waiting on that funding to come in. Also given that the election just happened CASTO we are looking at legislation for next year, also working on the app based driving uniformity on the requirements for those drivers but really interested in hearing from the chapters and members on different needs and how CASTO and he can help with supporting you in this next legislative session. Question was asked about prop 19, Nico said the prop looked like it passed. Its not going to generate much revenue but some. Tony asked Nico to send a little note on how the props were going to affect us.
2. *Roadeo Report* – Doug Smith – He has been in contract with all but one coordinator. They are all ready to go as soon as we can. He has in his spare time cleaned up the State Roadeo trailer. There are a few things that need some repairs, but he will get with Tony to get those repairs completed.
3. *Reopen California* – Nanette Rondeau – Nanette shared how they have been opened with a Hybrid model for three weeks, they have scheduled their bus routes with about 21 students per 84 passenger buses, some are less, with a total of about 1400

students. They have learned a lot in these last three weeks and the Guidebook to Reopen California has been pretty helpful. With Reopen California we had a successful webinar October 9<sup>th</sup> were five persons from the committee presented. In three months the committee put together this reopening guide and presented a webinar that has received positive feedback. The committee would like to continue offering the training with this live document.

4. *Fundraiser / BINGO* – Dano Rybar - They still have a lease to pay. CASTO had to come up with an idea, so they came up with parking lot BINGO. Players come in their cars and play in the parking lot. If you have a bingo you sound your horn. They do it Friday nights and Sunday Matinee. Dano says they have made more money in 2 ½ months then they had made in a year with indoor bingo because people needed to do something and when they heard they could stay in their quarantine parking stall or their car and still play. Our volunteers do about 20,000 steps a day in the heat, smoke and now cold just to serve our players. So, Anna along with Tony got a hold of our volunteer took them to a restaurant in Roseville Buca Di Beppo to say thank you. Roseville at the time was the only city that would allow 50% restaurant occupancy. Tony Peregrina, Barbara Terry, Anna Borges and Dano Rybar took them to dinner to say thank you, the day after the dinner over half of them called Dano or tracked him down to said that no other organization has ever thanked them the way CASTO has as a nonprofit.
5. *CASTOways.org* – Mike Sawyer – I feel like Greg Straw, asking you all to get something to me to put on the website. Under each chapter the very least that should be there are your chapter officers and contact information as well as the schedule for your chapter meetings. Have any updates or suggestion for the website contact Mike.

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

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

1. *Manager's Forum* – Tony Peregrina / Dan Rybar – Did not have a Managers Forum this past October. Did have some contractual agreements that we did not break and what we have to do going ahead. Double Tree Hotel had wording that said if they could not provide the service, we did not have to pay but if we the organization cancelled; we would be responsible for 50% of the cost. The good news the Hotel was the one to cancel so we pay nothing and we transferred the deposit to 2022.

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

1. *Open Nominations for New Officers* – Pam McDonald – As the Immediate Past President Pam is in charge of the elections for the following year. And so, looking at the Admin Policy Elections 2.1.1 the committee is composed of at least three non-candidates, chaired by the Immediate Past President, Pam has asked three chapter Presidents to assist her and they have said yes, Sam Anderson Chapter 1, Doug Smith Chapter 20 and Nanette Rondeau Chapter 6 is the committee . Nominations are open at this time, beginning today so if you are interested in running for an office or nominating someone contact Pam or a member of the committee. Call or email Pam. Nominations are open and will close in January.
2. *CASTO Awards* – Amanda Hightman – Nominated someone for the four awards Arnita Moon, Fred Sowash, Member of the Year and the Life / Honorary Life / Honorary Member. Deadline to submit the nominations to me are February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Applications are available on the CASTOways website.

3. *Poster Contest* – Amanda Hightman – Theme for the poster always comes from NAPT. Went on the NAPT website this morning and there is still no new Poster Contest Theme. I have contacted Pam and she has contacted her people over at NAPT and they are looking into and they will get back to us. I will keep checking for the theme and will email out information as soon as I get it. We are supposed to get the posters to us by the January meeting. Because everything is virtual this year, we will have you receive the posters and email me a photo of them and present them online to vote. Pam share that she had heard that NAPT has now allowed the American School Bus Council to take over the poster contest. Dano feels it needs to be COVID related about the safety of being on a bus.
4. *2021 State Conference* – Dano Rybar / Tony Peregrina – Managers Forum Sacramento October 20-22, 2021. Conference Delta by Marriott, Garden Grove / Anaheim March 27-29, 2021 (may go Virtual) we are waiting on them to cancel. Managers Forum Anaheim October 19-21, 2022. Conference Sacramento February 11-14, 2022. Managers Forum Sacramento October 18-20, 2023. Conference Burbank February 10-13, 2023. Galt has the deposit for the Roadeo 2021 held over from last years Roadeo. We are so fortunate that we had 2020 conference in February. Thank you to Jason Hohalek who suggested we try our conference in February giving our Vendors a better opportunity to serve us because March gets so busy for them with all the other conferences that are scheduled. Remember all the dates can be found on the CASTOWays website. Remember as a chapter you are responsible to make sure that all your events follow State and County guidelines for the insurance to cover your event. At this point in time all CASTO events are cancelled for 2020.
5. *2021 Chapter Workshops / Roadeos Covid Protocols* – Tony Peregrina - Plan for everything as nothing happened but you also have to plan for COVID 19 protocols. How are you going to facilitate these events? Trying your best to comply with Social Distancing, school district standards, are they going to allow you to use those facilities. Need to start having those conversation now. Continue to plan and we will do everything we can to support you. Remember to follow all State and County recommendations.
6. *ZOOM – the need to purchase our own account* – The need to purchase our own ZOOM account to be able to service our members better also to be able to offer the service to our chapters as well. Mike has contact ZOOM and is waiting for a representative to call with pricing. Also, to get our own YouTube account. Motion made to purchase ZOOM up to \$3,500.00. (M) Pam McDonald (S) Matt Thomas (C)

**V. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**A. Chapter News** – Chapter Presidents

1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 47, 48, 49, 20

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** 1:55pm (M) Jennifer Hanshew (S) Matt Thomas (C)