

# SHOWDOWN IN SACRAMENTO

(SNEAK PREVIEW TO APRIL ADVOCATE)

## OUSD Leaders Grilled by Senate Committee on Education

**“I have a lack of confidence in you!”**

~ Senator Jack Scott, in a scathing critique of the OUSD's mismanagement.

Sound familiar? Let the record indicate that Sheila Quintana and the Oakland Education Association are not responsible for the highly probable OUSD loss of local control. In fact, on two separate occasions, the OEA officially opposed a state takeover and favored local control. The first took place at the OEA Rep Council on January 13, 2003 (Motion #2), and the second at the OEA Rep Council of February 3, 2003 (Motion #2). At the OEA Rep Council of March 17, 2003, the body declared a lack of confidence in OUSD's leadership.

Actually, some district leaders have voiced preference for a state takeover. In the Tribune on April 10th, OUSD Board Of Education Director, Noel Gallo, was quoted as saying he, along with other board members, would rather work with a state administrator, who may help rid the district of personal politics and unnecessary programs.

The *Advocate* argues that the fate of the OUSD has been and is still determined by law, not the OEA! The OEA has and continues to fight for the preservation of quality education in Oakland Public Schools. We will not permit any attempt to villainize our President as being influential in the state's decisions. Make no mistake that the **E** has never left **OEA**.

**The *Advocate* was in Sacramento on the day of reckoning, so here's the skinny.**

OUSD BOE members Greg Hodge and Viola Gonzales, Superintendent Dennis Chaconas, and Chabot parent, Nora Mitchell, couldn't convince the Senate Committee on Education to let the locals keep control of our troubled house. Asserting that it didn't engage in "...intentional mismanagement [as if unintentional mismanagement were acceptable] or fraud," the administration placed its hopes in OPS's modest academic gains to be the winning argument in retaining local control. But the majority of the Senate Committee wasn't hearing it. Let it be known that the OPS's academic gains are due to the blood, sweat, and tears of teachers, and not solely to the Superintendent's adopted programs.

Senator Jack Scott, Democrat, Pasadena, said that **the first imperative when you step into a job is to know where you are fiscally!**

Senator Dede Alpert, Democrat, San Diego, said she would be **glad to vote for granting OUSD \$100,000,000, but with an administrator. She added OUSD must follow the rule of law, as others must. The law can't be changed just for OUSD.**

Senator Edward Vincent, Democrat, Los Angeles, passionately stated that **anyone who doesn't vote to send an administrator to Oakland should be ashamed!**

SB 39 (Perata) as amended to reflect AB 1200 (No local control), will go to the Senate Appropriations Committee April 21st. From there it should hit the Senate floor by April 24th, where it is expected to get the two-thirds majority needed. By the first week of May, the bill will go to the Assembly. If passed, as expected, it will arrive on Gray Davis' desk no later than May 15th. Once signed, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, takes charge of OUSD.

Track SB 39 online and get info on those weighing in on our fate at [www.sen.ca.gov](http://www.sen.ca.gov)