

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council  
Monday, February 25, 2013

Meeting Notes

1. **WELCOME**

Beth Berndt, SCAC Facilitator, called the meeting to order.

2. **MEETING NOTES (January 28, 2013)**

The revised meeting notes were approved as submitted.

3. **GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

**Bernardo Yorba's** jazz band performed at Disney's California Adventure this past weekend. On March 2 and March 16 the jazz band will participate in Jazz Festival competitions at Cerritos College and Sunny Hills High School respectively.

**Fairmont** students enjoyed participating in the Battle of the Books. They are proud of all their participants and the third place winners.

**Glenknoll** is excited about their upcoming *Read Across America Week*, "Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat", February 25-March 1. Weeklong activities include a Dr. Seuss hat or crazy hat day, a wild, crazy or mismatched sock day, a bring a stuffed animal to school day, a bring a plastic water bottle to recycle and save the environment day, and a school-wide pajama day to celebrate Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss. Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming Battle of the Books on March 21 and a new Garden Club.

**Golden** held a very successful Jog-A-Thon this year earning \$64,000. Most of the proceeds will help cover the cost of equipment and wiring for the new computer lab. New computers have been ordered. Thirteen teams competed in the Grades 4-6 Battle of the Books division and one of the teams won second place. In the Grades 6-8 division, three teams of sixth graders formed a team with two students from Travis Ranch and won first place. Auditions for the school's very first musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, will be March 12 and 13. The musical will be held the end of May.

**Kraemer's** Internet Safety workshop hosted by the Orange County Sheriff's Department is March 4, from 7 to 8 p.m. Separate workshops will be available for parents and students. Open House is March 19 from 5-8 p.m. Refreshments will be available and the jazz band and orchestra will both perform. The Spring Book Fair is March 18-22. Kraemer will compete at the Regional Science Olympiad March 1. This is an all-day event followed by an awards ceremony in the evening. There will be a Movie Night on March 8. Student winners of a video contest hosted by the Video Production class will be shown that night beginning at 6 p.m. and the movie *Wreck-It Ralph* will follow. Students who composed the winning video in selected categories will receive special prizes and be recognized that evening.

**Lakeview's** PTA Reflections winners enjoyed an ice cream social this past Friday. On February 28 the second grade will present Hero reports. March 1 is Dr. Seuss' Read Across America theme day. Principal Katherine Dailey will read a Dr. Seuss story and all students will participate in a school-wide read-a-thon. Everyone has been asked to wear stripes, polka-dots, and/or red and white.

**Parkview's** Open House is March 21 from 5-7 p.m. and includes activities followed by dinner. A performing arts fundraiser will be held at Tri-City Park on March 28 with parents and staff competing against students at a game of Capture the Flag. Field trips planned are a musical theater showing of *Oklahoma* at La Habra High School and a guided tour of the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino.

**Travis Ranch** reported that their WATCH D.O.G.S. pilot program is a huge success. Over 300 attended the father/child pizza event to jump start the program and 70 participants offered to help for the remainder of this year. The Internet Safety workshop had close to 100 parents and students attend to learn about online predators and practices with social media. The play, *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* was a great success with the involvement of many talented students. In March everyone is looking forward to the Middle School Jog-A-Thon and a Blood Drive. The school is proud of their Reflections participants and winners including Erin Lee and Troy Mills who have moved on to the state level.

**Tuffree** is proud of their students who participated in the Reflections contest and congratulated Troy Goudzwaard for receiving the number one Top Literacy award. The color guard took first place in the middle school competition held at Marina High School. The Orange County Register has ranked Tuffree third among middle schools in the county. Everyone feels this recognition validates the hard work teachers do to match the needs of students. Art classes are now making Chinese shadow puppets that will be used to tell fairy tales to students in Brookhaven's Preppy K program. Funding for this project was provided by the Capes Grant. The Knitting Club has made 110 caps for cancer patients so far this year.

**Valadez** will hold their Second Annual Soccer Tournament on March 23. This is their largest fundraiser of the year.

**Wagner** will celebrate Founders' Day on February 27 and present Honorary Service Awards. The sixth grade band, orchestra, and strings will provide musical performances. The BOGO (Buy One Get One) Book Fair is March 4-8 and the very popular Family Skate Night will be March 21.

**Yorba Linda High School** – congratulated their Women's Water Polo team on their CIF Championship Saturday. The Division 5 Wrestling Team is YLHS's first CIF Southern Section Championship. The Women's Varsity Soccer team plays CIF tomorrow. The Academic Decathlon competed last week in the Orange County contest: congratulations to Eric Chang, who placed fifth in mathematics, John Qian who placed second in music and mathematics and fourth in science and, Edward Tang for placing second in music. Karisa You, a junior, was crowned Miss Teen Yorba Linda in addition to receiving Best Talent Scholarship and Best Interview. Karisa's sister, Deborah, a freshman, received Best Platform scholarship and Miss Congeniality Finalist scholarship. The YLHS Theatre presents "*Guys and Dolls*" March 14-16 and 21-23 in the Forum Theatre. This year YLHS has two National Merit Finalists (Rhea Padalkar and Tyler Stevens) and seven Commended Scholars (Steven Cheng, Michelle Horn, Ryan Ice, William Kim, Ryan Leeds, Kevin Pham and Miguel Sheker). Sixteen students have signed a letter of intent to various colleges. Congratulations to Matthew Kimn on his selection to the California State Honor Band.

**Chapman's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest's** awards ceremony is Friday, March 8, 11 a.m., at Chapman University. This year the PYLUSD has three participants up for consideration: two in the art and poetry divisions from Yorba Linda Middle School and one in the prose division from Travis Ranch Middle School. The Holocaust Art and Writing Contest will begin with a survivor's testimony. An opportunity to learn about all of the entries is provided and it is amazing to discover what students can produce. The first place prize recipient in each category, the recipient's parent/guardian, and the recipient's teacher are invited to participate in an expense-paid study trip June 23-27, to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites in Washington, D.C. Additional information is available on Chapman University's website.

**PYLUC of PTAs/PTSAs** – Daniel Pietenpol, PTA Council President, reported on the success of the Founder's Day dinner on February 6. Over 200 teachers, administrators and PTA volunteers met to celebrate the 116<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of PTA. This was an especially important night as PYLUC is celebrating its golden anniversary this year. Over \$2,500 was collected for scholarships bringing the total that PYLUC will be able to donate to \$4,000. Scholarships will be presented to graduating seniors who display a commitment to community service. Appreciation was expressed to those who contributed to the success of the evening. A thank you was also expressed to Superintendent Domene for his attendance as well as Board Members Carrie Buck and Judi Carmona.

The Reflections Showcase and awards presentation at the ESC was well attended with over 200 participants and their parents. Judi Carmona and Carol Downey were thanked for their attendance that evening. Three of the participants in the showcase will advance to the state's PTA competition.

**REACH Foundation** - Chrystie Adams reported that the ShamRock n' Run, as of this morning, has 580 runners registered which surpassed the goal of 500. Currently 800 to 1,000 are expected to run in the 5K and/or 2K. Elementary schools are competing for the Participation Legacy Trophy. The top schools to date are Fairmont with 50, Golden with 41 and Rose Drive with 35. The School Donation Program has already generated \$1,830 that will go directly to the schools. This is a separate donation from what the REACH Foundation will donate. The REACH Foundation has 20 booths in the Business Expo including Fun Services, Girl Scout Troop 36, Home Depot Kids Workshop, and Total Women Fitness. The 5K runners will be treated with post run refreshments from Yorba Linda Water District, Avalon Bagels, Chick Fil A, Green2Go, and Kimmies, and a huge breakfast spread from the local Sprouts. The stage will be filled with student entertainment and The Thistle Irish Dancers. The experience of going out to our communities to ask for donations or support of our schools has been a happy realization that everyone wants to help. Not one business said no to helping to support our schools. REACH actually "pounded the pavement" and cold-called businesses in Yorba Linda and Placentia and were embraced by all. REACH would like to give a big thank you to the middle and high school ASB Directors, especially El Dorado's, Eron Campuzano, for going above and beyond to accommodate the Placentia Packet Pick Up at his school

#### **4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Domene shared that he will be participating in R.A.D.D. (Reading and Achieve with Dr. Domene) at the Placentia Library reading to children kindergarten through sixth grade.

Dr. Domene had on display a facsimile of the theater seating that will be installed in the Performing Arts Center. An opportunity will be provided to the community to sponsor a seat with proceeds going to the REACH Foundation to be used for the district's arts program.

Dr. Domene shared that he attended the CIF Wrestling Championship and enjoyed the opportunity to see Yorba Linda and Valencia high schools compete in the final.

Dr. Domene addressed recent publications regarding the district's issuance of Capital Appreciation Bonds (CABs). The article isolated the issuance of CABs and did not consider the entire bond portfolio as a whole in the articles. Using CABs made it possible to receive bond funds in a short amount of time and provided the district the opportunity to take advantage of low construction costs, low interest rates, and to capture State Matching Funds. Dr. Domene showed a PowerPoint to illustrate the construction and modernization of facilities that have been accomplished. These projects would not have been possible without the community's support and the bonds. Dr. Domene clarified that district funds were never used to promote bonds and that bond funds may not be used for teacher and administration salaries or to fund school programs such as music or class size reduction. Dr. Domene distributed a copy of information currently on the district's website regarding the use of long-dated Capital Appreciation Bonds by California school districts. Also distributed was a copy of a letter from Dr. Domene to staff explaining the district's bond portfolio that has allowed the district to provide a world-class educational program for students. There is currently a Q/A regarding Capital Appreciation Bonds on the district's website for additional information.

#### **5. RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION**

Mrs. Plahy showed a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of the Rtl program. She reported how Rtl has been designed to address the needs of all students. Teachers monitor student progress using DIBELS Next and then ensure students receive direct instruction for 30-90 minutes based on their instructional level. Robert Kent shared how each teacher providing instruction during Rtl time is fully credentialed and has not only been trained to implement district intervention but receives

ongoing support from a district "Reading Coach". The results show that 92 percent of students receiving interventions made progress toward their goal.

## **6. BUDGET UPDATE**

Mrs. Christakos showed a PowerPoint and provided a brief overview of the Governor's January budget proposal. The proposal includes, for the first time in a long time, an increase in per-pupil funding of 1.65 percent (approximately \$2.2 million to PYLUSD) for the 2013-14 school year. Although a step in the right direction, this amount does not even cover the cost budgeted for step and column increases and health and welfare increases. The Governor's proposal also includes a new funding model LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula). At this time this funding formula is simply a proposal but would provide additional funding to districts with a population of high numbers of free and reduced rates and/or high English learners. It is difficult to determine how much our district will actually receive for the 2013-14 school year. Discussion followed on the various funding models that are currently being considered by staff. (Included with the minutes is a LA Times article regarding Proposition 30.)

## **7. PREPPY K**

Mrs. Plahy distributed a flyer regarding the Preppy K Parent Information Night to be held February 27 from 6-7 p.m. in the district's Board Room. The Preppy K program is for students turning 5 between September 2 and December 2. The Preppy K sites include Brookhaven, Bryant Ranch, Fairmont, Mabel Paine, Melrose, Rio Vista, Topaz, Travis Ranch, Tynes and Van Buren. This program has been extremely well received by the community and provides an excellent transition for younger students to the kindergarten program the following year.

## **8. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

Appreciation was expressed to the district for the Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) program which helps children learn mathematics by building connections between their natural problem-solving strategies and new concepts and skills.

Appreciation was expressed to the district for its support of music education. At the recent California All State Music Education Conference in Fresno top student musicians from middle and high schools provided amazing musical programs. A SCAC member encouraged everyone to support the music program and to visit the website [www.standup4music.org](http://www.standup4music.org).

It was asked if Common Core State Standards could be added to a future agenda.

Esperanza High School's new SCAC representative, Donald Toy, was introduced.

### Voters weren't told about plan to redistribute education money

Gov. Jerry Brown wants to use Prop. 30 tax revenues to help poorer students. It's a laudable goal but shouldn't come at the expense of more prosperous school districts.

George Skelton

Capitol Journal

6:14 PM PST, February 27, 2013

SACRAMENTO — A revenue redistribution scheme probably was not what Californians had in mind when they passed Gov. Jerry Brown's tax increase to salvage public schools.

But as it turns out, the tax hike, Prop. 30, was essential to help pay for the governor's plan to redistribute state education money — sending more to mostly inner-city schools at the expense of suburban districts.

Brown's proposal wouldn't work without Prop. 30. But voters weren't told about that during the election campaign.

The governor wasn't quoting Aristotle, as he did later after Prop. 30 passed comfortably in November.

"Our future depends on ... disproportionately funding those schools that have disproportionate challenges," Brown told reporters in January while unveiling a new budget proposal that contained his redistribution plan for school money.

"Aristotle said treating unequals equally is not justice."

And two weeks later during his State of the State address, Brown put it this way: "A child in a family making \$20,000 a year or speaking a language different from English or living in a foster home requires more help. Equal treatment for children in unequal situations is not justice."

Brown certainly has a good point: Poor children and kids who struggle with English deserve extra help. And that usually means more money.

But it shouldn't come at the expense of more advantaged children — middle- and upper-class kids — who also must fulfill their potential if California is to be competitive economically in the 21st century. Most of their schools were hit hard during the recession, many losing counselors, librarians, art and music while class sizes grew.

What's needed is a larger pie — along with some vital reforms that aren't even being discussed — not a redistribution of the current pie, which amounts to practically the lowest per-pupil funding in the nation.

But none of that was part of the Prop. 30 debate.

That tax increase, first and foremost, was aimed at avoiding \$5.4 billion in additional whacks at K-12 schools and community colleges, plus \$500 million in cuts at the public universities. And Prop. 30 did do that.

But there wasn't any talk about dramatically changing the way the state distributes school aid. Voters didn't hear about robbing Peter in the suburbs to pay Paul in the city.

The promise was to "restore funding for our schools." And voters were assured that "Sacramento politicians can't touch the money."

Well, maybe the governor. And, of course, the legislators.

Brown wants the Legislature to rewrite the school funding law so that spending on poor children — those eligible for subsidized lunches — and English learners grows much faster than for other students.

But the extra money for the disadvantaged students would come out of the state's total education pot, leaving less for the rest.

It's all highly complicated, both the funding and the language of education.

But basically, under Brown's plan, the poor kids and English strugglers would get at least an extra 35% in funding. Some would get 70% more if their district had a heavy concentration of disadvantaged students.

"I think parents who voted for Prop. 30 were expecting money to be restored equitably with everyone brought up to the same level," complains Assembly Education Committee Chairwoman Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo), a former school board member in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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"People in my community didn't expect one district to get \$2 or \$3 and another \$8. Prop. 30 was great. It meant we weren't going to have to make more cuts. But it didn't restore schools to their pre-recession levels. And people definitely were not voting to have an inequitable distribution of the funds."

On the other side of the Capitol, in the Senate, Education Committee Chairwoman Carol Liu (D-La Cañada Flintridge) is more positive about Brown's plan, but still not sold.

"I'm going to try to get there with him," the former teacher says. "But no guarantees."

"At least the governor put something on the table that is pretty serious," she continues. "It's provocative. This will take some time to discuss."

The Brown administration last week released a long spreadsheet specifying how much money each district would receive under the governor's plan. But it didn't include side-by-side data showing what districts would get under the current formula.

"We should have all the details, not just the numbers they want to provide," asserts Buchanan, who adds that she'll insist on the comparisons before her committee votes.

Brown officials contend that no district would be a loser because none would receive less money than currently. They say it with a straight face. But even the governor — by quoting Aristotle — admits that some schools would be much bigger winners than others.

That's shown in the spreadsheet. Los Angeles and Baldwin Park unified districts would be big winners; Arcadia and Burbank unified, not so much.

Two nonpartisan research outfits — the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Public Policy Institute of California — released reports last week tentatively embracing Brown's plan with qualifications. They urged some tweaking.

The governor has a nice-sounding name for his plan: "Local Control Funding Formula." He can affix that tag because Sacramento would eliminate spending strings attached to most so-called categorical programs, such as career tech and summer school.

Brown insisted on voters signing off on his tax increase. That was an abdication of power. To be consistent, he also should have allowed voters to decide exactly how the tax money was to be spent.

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