

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, November 17, 2014

1. **WELCOME**

Candy Plahy called the meeting to order.

2. **ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING NOTES** (October 13, 2014)

The meeting notes were approved as submitted.

3. **GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

Bernardo Yorba students were asked to share the name of a family member or friend who is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. Librarian, Doreen McCann, then wrote the 125 veterans' names that were submitted on stars and attached them to a banner. The banner was displayed in front of the school in honor of Veteran's Day. All the practice and marching in the parking lot is paying big dividends for the Marching Matadors. At the Otay Ranch Band Review November 8, the band won the Band Sweepstakes award while the colorguard and Drum Major, Myka Cornia, took second place awards. Ice cream was served November 4 to 477 students (74 percent of the student body) by the PTA to acknowledge their perfect attendance in October. Two more perfect attendance rewards will be provided later this year.

Brookhaven students submitted nearly 100 Reflections entries this year. A Play-Seussical is scheduled for February 19 and 20 at El Dorado High School. The student council organized a canned food drive.

El Camino received the American Red Cross Platinum Award which recognizes support of the Community Volunteer Blood program. A canned food drive is currently underway and students are collecting non-perishable items, water, and juice through November 20. All donations will be given to Saint Vincent de Paul St. Joseph in Placentia. Science and math instructors recently led 46 students on a very successful field trip to the Griffith Observatory. They were able to explore three floors, the roof, the grounds, and view the *Center of the Universe* movie in the Samuel Oschin planetarium. Students enjoyed a perfect night for viewing the moon and a large crater through the Zeiss Telescope. All students that participated are anxious to go back for another visit.

El Dorado held their Second Annual Veterans Day ceremony last Tuesday with nearly 300 in attendance. During Red Ribbon Week in October, Joan Brewer, a MADD guest speaker, participated in the weeklong drug and alcohol awareness activities. The band and colorguard performed to perfection at the District's Band Pageant November 5. November 16 is the Cheer and Song Showcase, November 24 is the National Honor Society Induction, and at the end of next week the theater department is performing *The Triangle Factory Fire Project* at the District's Performing Arts Center.

Fairmont raised nearly \$800 for the Heavenly Hats Foundation during Crazy Hat Day, November 14. November 17 students are looking forward to learning which school play will be performed this year. Play dates are February 12-15. Also November 17 students will be recognized for trimester awards. Students in Grades 1-6 can earn 1 of 4 awards per class. Beginning November 24 students will start collecting toys for needy PYLUSD families.

Glenview's Red Ribbon Week was a huge success. Part of the week's festivities included a kindergarten Halloween parade and, for the first time in several years, Grades 1-6 were excited

to dress in costumes as well. November 7 was the first awards assembly and students were happy and proud of the recognition of their work and daily school attendance. Many parents and family members were in attendance to support students' efforts and are looking forward to the next awards assembly. November 8 was a work day and with the help of family, friends, neighbors, and members of Eastside Christian Community Church, several work projects were completed. New carpet has been installed in hallways as a continuation of Glenview's renovation work. A new spirit program is underway, *Glenview Bulldog*, and every Friday students can wear their Bulldog attire. There is a competition between primary and upper grade classes to get the most students in spirit wear. The winners get to have the Glenview Bulldog mascot in their classrooms for the week. Students are excited about the upcoming annual Jog-A-Thon November 21 and everyone has been asked to support the canned food drive November 14-20. Items will be donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.

Golden is quite happy with the final tally of \$71,057.41 raised at the annual Jog-A-Thon this year. PTA membership is at 821 members which is amazing for a student enrollment of 803. Red Ribbon Week, *Do Good Not Drugs*, was a huge success and included a canned food drive which brought in 1,569 cans of food. The food items were divided between a food bank and a church in Fullerton. GATE teachers are coordinating a Science Olympiad and everyone is eagerly looking forward to this event.

Kraemer's band participated November 5 in the District's Band Pageant and had a superb performance. Staff was thanked for their continuing support of this outstanding program. The band will also perform at Disneyland November 22. The annual Jog-A-Thon November 21 will raise funds for field trips and the school library.

Mabel Paine is happy to report that their principal has returned following a back injury. A blanket drive was held last week and approximately 40 blankets were collected for the District's McKinney Vento families. For one of the smaller schools, Mabel Paine was extremely pleased to have raised \$28,500 for student programs during the annual Jog-A-Thon. Sixty-five students each raised \$225 which entitled them to the opening day screening of Big Hero 6. All students were entered into the Big Jog-A-Thon raffle. The more they earned for the Jog-A-Thon the more tickets they had for the raffle. Each classroom chose a college to show their college-bound spirit. Students wear their college's t-shirt and college cheers will be introduced to parents at an awards assembly next week. The PTA has purchased a cart for the 12 Chromebooks they bought and have plans to purchase more Chromebooks in the future.

Melrose parents will have an opportunity to meet with the principal November 21 at a Coffee with the Principal event. The annual Birthday Club Book Fair is November 17-20 and books received from the Birthday Club will provide every child a book for their birthday. Eighty families will receive food in a backpack this week as part of the Nutrition/Backpack program. Lot318 will host their eighth annual Thanksgiving Day Feast and many families will be attending. Lot318 also offers tutoring for students at their Homework Club at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 3 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Parkview had 18 students and 12 adults participate in a three-hour tour of the Museum of Tolerance's Holocaust Exhibit on their recent field trip. In December the Boosters will host a Christmas brunch for the teachers and everyone is looking forward to good fellowship, food, and fun times.

Rio Vista elected a new student council for the school year. November 8 over 70 community volunteers were on campus as part of the Eastside Christian Serve Day. Volunteers power washed buildings, planted new sod, tilled and spread new seed, and deep cleaned the student lunch area. On the first day back from the Veterans Holiday break, classrooms watched a 2-minute movie of the beautification that took place. December 8-14 students will participate in *Hour of Code* during Computer Science Education Week. More than 45 million people of all

ages have learned an *Hour of Code*, a one-hour introductory course, is designed to demystify computer science and show that anybody can learn the basics. They hope to reach 100 million students by the end of 2014. Thirty-five parents participated in a 10-week course provided by Parent to Parent. Parent to Parent utilizes the COPE curriculum, an evidence-based curriculum for children exhibiting unmanageable behaviors. The strategies introduced to parents have been proven to help with strengthening relationships and communication with their children. Teachers are actively seeking to leverage funds for special projects through Donors Choose. The kindergarten team has received several items, including a second iPad for Mrs. Beresford's class. The Student Technology Club provides students in Grades 1-5 an opportunity to meet with one teacher per grade level to explore and engage in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). This summer several apps that target the building of STEM knowledge and skill were acquired. The PTA is sponsoring a See's candy fundraiser this month.

Rose Drive reported on a recent article in the Yorba Linda Star regarding the use of technology and Chromebooks. The article featured fifth-grade teacher, Mike Fredstrom, explaining how Chromebooks allow students to complete the statewide Smarter Balanced Assessment Center test online and how they have changed the teaching dynamics in the classroom. The school received a cart of 40 Google-brand laptops last month and teachers typically reserve the entire cart for classroom instruction. Everyone is looking forward to the Fall Festival this Friday. Games and activities are planned and food trucks will be also be available.

Travis Ranch had a busy October that included Red Ribbon Week, an anti-bullying assembly for middle school students, Spirit Wear distribution, provided \$11,000 in grants to teachers and staff, the elementary school Jog-A-Thon, as well as the school's annual literary parade. Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) program currently has over 100 dads, grandfathers or other male guardians helping with the program. The middle school band enjoyed participating with District high schools in various capacities this fall. The WE Club was able to gather over 900 cans of food during their WE Scare Hunger event on Halloween. Members of the club went door to door on Halloween asking for canned food items instead of candy to help those at the Second Harvest Food bank. The Grand Greeter program is now underway. Students' grandparents have been asked to volunteer a few hours in the morning to help pass out visitor badges, instruct visitors where to sign in, and help deliver items dropped off by parents for students. It is a wonderful program and helps set a pleasant tone for all who enter Travis Ranch. The WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders participated in a leadership conference last week at the Anaheim Convention Center.

Tuffree has finalized the formation of a Science Olympiad student team. A larger student group will meet as a club to promote the creative thinking necessary to build projects and materials for the competition team. Students and staff are excited about the extensive student interest and the tremendous active learning opportunity this experience will bring. The Academic Pentathlon Team is currently being finalized. Again a large group of students will participate to build towards readiness for team competitions. A very high level of interest has been demonstrated from students who are eager to join this "mental track meet" experience to sharpen their higher order thinking skills. The Visual Arts program recently received a R.E.A.CH. Foundation grant, *Painting Across the Boundaries*. This is a visual arts project where students use 21st Century Skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity to create one-of-a-kind paintings for the PYLUSD community to enjoy. By crossing the boundaries of school sites, visual arts students at Tuffree Middle School and first grade students at Golden Elementary School will have an opportunity to partner on an art project specifically designed for the Performing Arts Center (PAC). The marching band and support staff were complimented on the time and effort put into their amazing performances.

Valadez's middle school technology team competed at the California State University of Fullerton's annual *Pumpkin Chunkin* contest November 1. Students built a trebuchet that threw pumpkins at targets 300 feet away. It was a great day for the 4,000 spectators that showed up

and a fun day for the team as the machine they called "Monster Chunk" performed well. Although no targets were hit this year, the final throw flew more than 400 feet. Valadez was the only middle school that participated against high schools and colleges. This past Saturday was a speech debate competition and the students did an amazing job. It is hoped that this event will continue to grow. December 4 is a PTA sponsored parent workshop, December 11 is the Winter Concert and December 16 is the band concert. Valadez also participated in the Read for the Record campaign and students enjoyed reading Bunny Cakes to students at Melrose Elementary School. The event's goal is to bring attention to the importance of childhood literacy.

Valencia Tigers won the Empire League in football, tennis, golf, and men's cross country. Six of the seven fall sports had teams advance to CIF playoffs. The football team won the first playoff game. VHS will again participate in the *Hour of Code* global initiative. Students will be introduced, encouraged, and be given opportunities to participate in various coding activities during the week of December 8-14. The OC Register's OC Varsity Arts section continues to highlight VHS's strong performing arts with Shane Reichel named the Artist of the Week. The Tiger Regiment continues to have a great season winning First Place 5A Band, First Place Colorguard, and First Place Drumline at the Chino High School Field Show. The Tiger Regiment is now ranked second overall in the Southern California 5A Division. The Tiger Regiment won Sweepstakes in Percussion and First Place Band at the Ramona High School Field Tournament last Saturday. SCSBOA championships are November 22 at Ramona High School. The Tiger Regiment will perform at Disneyland November 24. The Tiger University college application workshops continue to be held throughout November on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in the College and Career Center. Counselors are available to assist students in successfully navigating the application process.

Van Buren's Book Fair is December 8-12. A Family Night is planned for December 10 and the Community Luncheon is December 12. The Jog-A-Thon raised \$24,000 for school programs and events. The Reflections contest had over 600 pieces of artwork completed. Eighteen winners have advanced to the District level. PTA membership has seen a 2.5 percent increase over last year to 320 members. Congratulations, Roadrunners.

Woodsboro held their first round of the Grade 6 spelling bee. Several students participated and it was quite challenging for them. A Science Night is planned for November 18 and there will be many stations with different experiments including a robotics program and Newton's Science Night. December 15-19 will be the first Holiday Market and will provide a chance for students to shop for family and friends. The school play this year is *Alice in Wonderland* and over 100 students have signed up to participate. January 6-9 the sixth graders will participate in Outdoor Education camp. January 21 is Dads and Donuts Day and February 18 is Moms and Muffins Day. March 2 is the Dr. Seuss reading event.

Yorba Linda HS congratulates senior Eric Wambold, who auditioned and was selected for the Herald Trumpets for the Tournament of Roses Parade. Eric is one of five trumpet players that will precede the Queen's float in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena. YLHS also congratulates its fall sports league champions. YLHS is in the Century League, which is a new league for the school this year. The men's water polo, women's tennis, men's cross-country, and women's golf teams won their first Century League championship and are moving on to CIF. The men's and women's cross-country teams also finished first at the OC Championships and six of the runners finished on the all-county team. Both teams finished in the top 10 in CIF Division 3 and the women's team is ranked in the top 10 in the state. YLHS started a mock trial program this year. The team competed for the first time last Thursday and won. During Homecoming week, a canned food drive collected 9,745 cans of food. The PTSA presented *Career Day* this past month in which students were able to attend three sessions to learn about a variety of careers. Over 50 community members were presenters including first responders, judges, doctors, and several local businesses such as Disney, Pizza Hut, and

Chick-Fil-A. At the Academic Showcase Night last week, an estimated 300 students and parents attended presentations and learned about YLHS and its programs. The theater group is presenting *The Diviners* which will finish its run this week with shows November 20-22 at 7 p.m. and a 2 p.m. matinee on November 22. The Mustang Band and Guard will perform in the Disneyland parade December 5.

Yorba Linda MS collected canned and nonperishable food items November 10-21 to donate to a local food bank. This is an annual event and is a good time of the year to be thankful for all we have and to help others. November 14 is the beginning of Unity Program Week and will be kicked off with a school-wide motivational assembly. This will set the stage for two days of UNITY activities that will help seventh grade students learn and demonstrate the importance of mutual respect and campus unity. Seventh graders will have the opportunity to participate in the UNITY program workshops led by Ms. Holt and Mr. McLachlan (trainer from Ovation Company). The workshops are a series of activities that focus on learning to work together as a team, getting to know other seventh grade students, and respecting others. Students work together to make YLMS a better place, share with their peers the principles that help them be successful in life, and cheer each other on. The ASB recognizes 34 individuals as outstanding students each month. Teachers nominate a student that has been an excellent role model in academic achievement, citizenship, or effort in his/her classroom. These 34 Bobcats will receive a folder, a letter to their parents, and an In-N-Out food certificate. The Honor Society and ASB will again sponsor a toy collection drive for local needy children. This is always a great holiday charity. December 4 is the Magic Show assembly for students who sold 3 or more magazine orders during the magazine drive. The student vs. staff bowl will take place December 10 during lunch. December 8 is the music department's all school music assembly and December 16 is the multi-media show, *Be the One*, that offers a unique assembly experience. The blending of popular music, feature-film clips, human interest stories, and insightful narratives create the perfect balance of high energy and educational significance. Dress up Day is December 16 and students are encouraged to wear red/green/white winter-themed clothing or blue/white.

PTA Council reported that they are collecting baskets for the Founders Day fundraiser in February. PTA Council worked hard supporting all units to ensure that their taxes are up to date for the tax filing deadline and everyone is in compliance. PTA Council had 5 members attend an Advocacy Roundtable in Fountain Valley this past Friday to hear a bipartisan discussion and debate on public education policies in California.

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation thanked those who attended the October 15 Meet and Greet. It was well attended and Daniel Pietenpol was thanked for doing a wonderful job as MC.

Middle and High School Visual Art teachers were offered \$500 grants for supplies. Eleven requests were received and approved.

R.E.A.C.H. participated in the YL Women's Club Craft Faire this past Saturday and Sunday. *Kids in Need* is a nonprofit foundation that works with local retailers to donate clearance and over stocked items to foundations that support kids in need. The R.E.A.C.H. Foundation's booth offered, for specific donation amounts, new Easter baskets, plastic eggs, spring decorations, Wilton Cake accessories, picture frames, and much more. Five hundred and forty dollars was raised to be used for *Kids in Need* within our Title One schools.

The third annual ShamRock n' Run is March 15 and will once again be held at the Yorba Regional Park. Plans are still being developed but so far new items for the next event are a Kids Zone, Pancake Breakfast Option for 5K runners, and an opportunity to sponsor student runners with a \$5 Direct Donation. The \$5 Direct Donation can be done at online registration and is already included in the regular registration. The donation may be donated to a specific

school, a specific sponsorship, or not at all and the R.E.A.CH. Foundation will keep the \$5 for various projects.

The 20th Annual Spelling Bee is April 18. The first, second, and third place winners in schools that currently have spelling bees will move up to this competition. Students who would like to participate in schools that do not have spelling bees may take a written/timed test to be evaluated for participation. This is not a Scripps sponsored bee, however, it will not impact students that may move up to a Department of Education or the Scripps Bees.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Domene expressed his appreciation to members of the Eastside Christian Church for work they did at nine of our school campuses. The work varied from site to site but generally included washing windows, power washing sidewalks, power washing buildings, raking and cleaning out planters, steam power washing lunch areas, trimming hedges, and mulching planters. In addition, on Monday morning teachers had baskets waiting for them that included various classroom supplies provided by Eastside Christian Church.

Dr. Domene reported on the tragic loss of Placentia Police Officer, Lt. Ken Alexander. Lt. Alexander was instrumental in helping to establish District safety measures and protocols, served as a DARE officer in our District, and was also a long-standing member of our community. The School Board will adjourn in his memory at the November 18 School Board meeting.

Dr. Domene praised the performances of our middle and high schools bands, colorguards, dance teams, and identification units at the District's Band Pageant November 5. The students performed college-level material and did an amazing job.

October 29 the District held a Pathway to the Future College Faire at El Dorado High School. The event was designed for students in Grades 8-12 to learn a bit more about what it takes to get into college. The comprehensive high schools held two High School Showcase Nights on November 6 and 13 that were very well attended and provided parents and students with an overview of the academic programs and academies that are available at all four comprehensive high schools.

Dr. Domene congratulated Carrie Buck and Karin Freeman on their successful re-election to the School Board.

Dr. Domene provided a brief update on the Parent University classes. Effective Parenting Strategies is this evening, Internet Safety is November 20, and Reading Strategies for Children December 10. Spring semester classes are currently being planned.

Dr. Domene encouraged everyone to check the PYLUSD app or the calendar on the District's website for upcoming events.

5. HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC SHOWCASE

Cary Johnson reported that the change from a CTE (Career Technology Education) Academy Night to a High School Academic Showcase night was very successful and popular with parents. Presentations were provided on two evenings instead of one and featured two high schools per night. The four comprehensive high schools were able to showcase all their academic programs in addition to the arts. ASB students were present and did an amazing job of helping parents navigate presentations and answer questions. Each session was approximately 50 minutes and included a question/answer session at the end in addition to mini-workshops to provide parents with the information they were seeking. Judi Carmona added that

she was grateful the community has an opportunity to learn about the amazing programs available at all four of our comprehensive high schools.

6. SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFERS 2015-2016

Candy Plahy distributed the updated 2015-2016 Parent and Student Guide to School Choice Transfers brochure. Mrs. Plahy explained that a Choice transfer is an opportunity the District provides to parents and students who wish to attend a school in our District other than the school of residency. The first application window is January 12-30, 2015, and Mrs. Plahy added that transfers are not considered on a first-come, first-served basis. All transfers are based solely on space availability at the requested schools. Once a Choice transfer application is approved, it becomes permanent. The transfer is in effect through middle school, however, parents have a one-time opportunity for their student to return to the middle school of residence, upon completion of elementary school. Choice transfer students must reapply upon entering high school. The spaces available at any given school varies year by year.

7. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS

Cary Johnson provided an overview of four of the District's alternative education programs explaining that the alternative is in the delivery aspect and not the product.

- **La Entrada** – is an independent study WASC accredited high school and offers UC approved courses enabling graduates to be eligible for the CSU/UC system. Every four weeks students complete a one semester five-credit course. Students have the option of taking textbook-based courses, online courses, or a combination of both. Student programs are personalized and designed to meet the goals, interests, and learning style of each individual student.
- **El Camino** – is an accredited model continuation high school and provides a setting for credit deficient students to receive a high school diploma on time or an opportunity to return to their home school in time for graduation. El Camino offers small classroom settings, no homework, and flexible schedules for students that include daily credits and am/pm classes.
- **Parkview** – is a K-12 school and offers courses that are home-based independent study. Parents provide instruction based on curriculum content provided by the District. Students are able to take advantage of a wide variety of personalized learning opportunities including field trips, workshops, performing arts, sports, and music at District schools.
- **Home/Hospital** – is provided for students expected to be unable to attend school for a month or more. Credentialed teachers provide 5 hours of instruction per week with curriculum and assignments provided by the school. The student's classroom teacher provides grades on work submitted.

8. FOOD SERVICES

Suzanne Morales showed a PowerPoint presentation to help illustrate nutrition services provided by the Food Services Department. Expanding fresh and nutritious meal offerings that adhere to or exceed current state and federal regulations is one of the District's initiatives in the District's *PYLUUSD Advantage*. The purpose of this initiative is to foster a culture that promotes emotional health, safety, and well-being of students. To that end, the District is looking to add a chef to existing staff to improve menus and to offer more nutritious foods that kids enjoy. Hiring a chef will also help build greater food pairings, do more scratch cooking, and bring in more

seasonal foods. The District is also piloting a customized salad program where salads can be ordered online ahead of time. At the middle school level students are also enjoying “bowl entrees” with rice and all grains are whole grain. Mrs. Morales reported that while school meal purchases had initially dropped last year, there is a significant increase in the number of students choosing to purchase a lunch at school this year. Thirty-two schools offer lunch, twenty-two schools offer breakfast, and six schools have an after-school snack program. During the summer, PYLUSD served 13,000 more meals than the previous summer due to the new Seamless Summer Feeding Program where students are provided meals whether they attend summer school or not. Mrs. Morales reported that the Food Services Department has to remain self-sufficient and cover all expenses associated with the department including salaries and benefits, the cost of the food, training, equipment purchases, equipment repair costs, vehicle expenses, and all administrative costs. Mrs. Morales asked that any questions or suggestions related to the school nutrition program be emailed to Connie Parker (cparker@pylUSD.org).

9. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 12, 2015