

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, January 12, 2009

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Mrs. Castrey called the meeting to order and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. MEETING MINUTES

There were no corrections to the December 8, 2008, meeting minutes.

3. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

- **Bernardo Yorba Middle School** is one of 19 middle schools in Orange County eligible to apply for the California Distinguished School award. A team of teachers and administrators worked on the application which was due December 19. Bernardo Yorba staff, students and parents are now awaiting word to see if they have met the criteria to receive the Distinguished School status.
- **Brookhaven Elementary** implemented a "Green Sheet" program in September to replace the weekly Thursday Folder envelopes. Every Thursday students receive one piece of paper ("the Green Sheet") containing various information and a list of flyers that have been added to the school's website for viewing. Additionally, e-mails are sent to families reminding them to check the website for information. The responses from parents have been very positive and Brookhaven's website traffic has increased. This new program is saving paper and money for Brookhaven!
- **Esperanza High School's** Lady Aztec Soccer Team (John King) is to be congratulated for being ranked #1 in the Nation by California High School Sports. Mr. Eric Padget added that he was able to attend a final tournament game that went to a shootout in overtime.

The Counseling Department hosted the fourth Aztec University parent information night, titled "Completing the FAFSA." Kathleen Clark, Director of Financial Aid at Chapman University Law School, presented the line-by-line workshop for completing and submitting applications. The event was attended by over 225 parents and students.

Esperanza students and staff adopted eleven classes at Pio Pico Elementary School in Santa Ana for the holiday. Gifts were delivered to every student in the adopted classes.

The Esperanza community gave \$22,257 worth of gift cards to families who are out of their homes due to the fires in November.

US News and World Report printed America's best high schools issue and reported there are approximately 21,000 public high schools. The top schools were placed into gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention categories.

Esperanza is one of 109 Orange County High Schools to receive a “silver award.” This report can be found on the website – www.usnews.com/educations.

National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) this year recognized 5,000 students from a pool of over 200,000 students who took the 2007 PSAT. The following students have been selected as NHRP Scholars or Honorable Mentions: **George Elwood-Miranda, Aaron Miller, Ariel Ruiz, and Lenard Vasquez.**

API rankings statewide place EHS 106th including schools with magnet programs, 89th among schools without magnet programs. Esperanza High School outscored 36 entire counties! In addition, 563 students took the Advance Placement exams, with a passing rate of 86%.

More than 1.4 million juniors in nearly 21,000 U.S. schools entered the 2008 National Merit Program. Although many students are honored, only 16,000 are named semifinalists. About 8,000 of the outstanding finalists will be chosen as Merit Scholarship winners. Esperanza’s 2008-2009 semifinalists are: **Andrew Chung, Sara Hester and William Richards.**

- **George Key’s** representative was very happy to report that an architectural firm sent draftsmen to the school to take measurements for the school’s long-awaited overhang!

The Yorba Linda Sunrise Rotary put on a luncheon for all the students before winter break. Santa came with gifts and the Rotarians gave the school \$600 for the Storyteller program with Ms. Lin Baesler.

- **Mabel Paine Elementary** was pleased to announce that Mrs. Sellers, Mrs. DiTolla, and Mrs. Nolan won Rotary teacher grants of \$250 each. One teacher was able to provide tricycles for students, another was able to purchase instructional math supplies for the classroom and the third used funds for postage to mail items, collected by the student council, to troops in Iraq. Mrs. Long received \$800 from Target which will be used for a field trip to the Museum of Tolerance.
- **Sierra Vista Elementary** held a jog-a-thon in October with over 100 volunteers. The largest number of volunteers to ever participate. Sponsorships and pledges totaled nearly \$20,000 and donations of supplies, prizes and water totaled over \$5,000.

Sierra Vista Elementary has Stagelight Family Productions producing their very first musical “The Wizard of Oz” with over 160 students participating. There will be two complete casts. Performances will be February 13, 14, and 15. If you would like more information you may call Sierra Vista.

- **Travis Ranch Middle School** is continuing the middle school pilot of Response to Intervention curriculum and just completed the second online benchmark using the Voyager program.

The Professional Learning Communities have really taken off as teachers are having regular conversations about student success and what to do when

students are struggling. Some grade-level teams have discussed asset building and mentoring individual at-risk students.

- **Woodsboro Elementary** will host a Family Night Book Fair on May 14. Robin Preiss Glasser, the number one bestselling children's illustrator of "Tea for Ruby" written with Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, will be there. Book order forms will be available soon. Kelly Floback may be contacted at (714) 779-8855.

The Woodsboro family was also sad to report that one of their students, Timmaree Hicks, lost her battle with cancer on December 21st.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Smith reported that the Boundary Advisory committee has completed its report. The committee did an excellent job of preparing a complete analysis of each scenario using data prepared by Davis Demographics and information from the public comment forms. The School Board will meet January 20 for a Study Session at which time they will gather information from staff and review the Boundary Advisory's report. Dr. Smith will submit a recommendation for the high schools' boundaries to the Board of Education. This recommendation will be discussed at the February 10 School Board meeting. In response to a question regarding Choice transfers, Dr. Smith said all the information regarding transfers will be available on the district's website and at the Child Welfare and Attendance office.

Dr. Smith invited SCAC members to attend the Education Forum regarding the "State of the School District" which will be followed by a question and answer session. The Education Forum is scheduled for February 5, 2009, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Yorba Linda City Council Chambers at 4845 Casa Loma Avenue in Yorba Linda.

- 5. FACILITIES UPDATE** Mr. Bailey provided information regarding current construction projects. Among the construction projects currently underway are the painting of Melrose Elementary, classrooms and computer pods modernization at Tuffree Middle School, Tynes Elementary modernization, Woodsboro Elementary modernization, and the Yorba Linda High School construction. Forty design projects across the district are currently underway with installation of technology infrastructure a high priority this summer.

6. STATE FISCAL CRISIS

Dr. Smith introduced Mr. Bob Klempen, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services and Mr. Ron Smiley, Director, Fiscal Services and explained that they are the lead administrators working on the worst budget situation in the state's history. Mr. Klempen showed a presentation regarding the state budget and the \$41.6 billion dollar deficit. After three special sessions the state legislature is still deadlocked. Discussion followed on the Governor's proposal to give districts more flexibility in using categorical funds to help balance the budget.

In response to a question regarding how the district will inform the community regarding the budget, Dr. Smith said that a Connect-ED message will be placed to all parents directing them to the district's website for information. Also the district will be submitting articles in the newspapers to reach community members. Dr. Smith will also be keeping principals informed so they will be able to update their staffs, PTAs and parents.

In response to a question regarding what the community can do to help, Dr. Smith indicated that contacting legislators and asking for their support for educational funding would be the most helpful at this point.

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- In response to a question regarding a district standard for maintaining minimal supplies at each school site for disaster preparedness, Mr. Domene responded that the health clerks are responsible for maintaining first aid kits. Additional supplies may be provided by PTA funds or fundraisers, discretionary school funds or the school's unit budget.
- In response to a question regarding the cost of providing a bus for a field trip, Mr. Klempen indicated several factors are involved such as fuel, insurance, bus driver time and the possibility of having to charter a bus. Mr. Klempen will have Mr. Steve Ueber, Director of Transportation, provide information on the best way to compute the cost of a trip prior to booking an event.
- A SCAC guest announced that on Friday, March 27, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Prentice School will hold its 8th annual conference on Dyslexia and Other Learning Differences. It is open to the public (\$75) and educators (\$125). This year's speakers will be Dr. Reid Loyn and Dr. Louisa Moats, who are experts in the areas of reading and literacy. The conference will be held at Westminster Rose Center, 14140 All American Way, Westminster, 92683. You may visit their website at www.prentice.org.
- In response to a question regarding schools having a Green Recyclable container available, Mr. Domene said that idea had been explored a year ago. Several issues were raised at that time including the problem of vandalism that had been experienced by other districts.
- In response to a question regarding how PYLUSD compares to other districts and what they are doing to survive the budget deficits, Dr. Smith said that the district is in good financial shape but will still have difficulties in the coming years. Many other districts, unfortunately, may be even more affected by the state's budget decision due to a lack of adequate reserves and will have major economic problems.
- In response to a request to add a meeting in February since one of the Monday holidays was eliminated, Dr. Smith indicated he would check his calendar and if at all possible a February 9 meeting would be added to the 2008-2009 meeting schedule.
- In response to a question regarding what impact a school district such as LAUSD going bankrupt would have on all the other districts, Eric Padgett indicated it would have a substantial impact due to the size of the district.

8. NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 9, 2009
District Board Room
11 a.m.