

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, January 14, 2008

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto, SCAC facilitator, called the meeting to order and welcomed SCAC members back after the holidays.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Bernardo Yorba Middle School

- BYMS book club, which fosters a love of books and reading, was highlighted in an article in the Yorba Linda Star.

Glenview Elementary

- ~~The jog-a-thon was very successful and enabled teachers to purchase LCD projection units and laptops.~~ On November 30th Glenview held a very successful jog-a-thon. Also, the school was able to provide the necessary funding to purchase laptops and LCD projectors for those teachers that previously did not have them.

Mable Paine Elementary

- Students are participating in the Ticket-To-Read program and it is a big hit!
- The Student Council and Mrs. Nolan had a "giving tree" project in the month of December and were able to assist 58 families in our community. A total of 143 children received gifts and toys this holiday season.

Travis Ranch

- Travis is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The official anniversary ceremony is Friday, February 1, with a performance by ENCORE and Travis' Instrumental Music program. The day's highlight will be the unveiling of the 20th anniversary tile wall.
- The 7th Annual Pride Day is Saturday, February 2. Over 350 volunteers, including teachers, parents and students, will clean and beautify the campus.
- Friday, February 8, is the 7th and 8th grade dance.
- Salute to Literature Week will be held on February 19-22. Highlights of this week-long event will be the Elementary Spelling Bee on Tuesday, February 19, and the Community Read Aloud on Thursday, February 21.
- A concert in the park and a family picnic will be held on Sunday, March 9. The event is to celebrate the school's 20th birthday. In-N-Out Burger will be there, relay races will be held and there will be a Travis Trivia contest in addition to an outdoor concert.

Valencia High School

- Valencia had seven seniors who were recognized as National Merit Semifinalists and another eleven seniors who were commended. Based upon recent SAT results, it is projected that Valencia will have nine National Merit Semifinalists and another 15 commended for the 2007-2008 school year.

- The Valencia Girls Tennis Team won back-to-back CIF championships while maintaining a 4.14 grade point average.
- One of Valencia's International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates, Alejandro Dos Reis, recently received a letter of acceptance to MIT. This is the third consecutive year that a Valencia Tiger has been accepted to MIT or Cal Tech.
- The Harrier, a prominent cross country magazine, recently ranked Valencia's Cross Country Program as one of the top 50 high school programs in the United States.
- This year, Valencia implemented a 45-minute teacher collaboration period every Monday morning from 7:30 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. Collaboration time for teachers is considered to be the foundation for Professional Learning Communities. Currently, the Valencia faculty is busy formulating systematic interventions that will meet the needs of all students. This Intervention Pyramid will be implemented next school year.

Marie Otto thanked everyone for the very good news reports!

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Global Visioning workshop for the Board of Education will take place on Monday, January 28. This workshop is to raise the awareness of the driving forces and future trends that are likely to impact education over the next decade. In the evening, from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the ESC, the workshop will be available for the community and parents. The workshop will cover increased understanding of key societal changes likely to impact education, future challenges and expectations of education, and a reflection of future policy and program implications for elementary and secondary education. Dr. Smith invited SCAC members to attend the evening presentation. Flyers are going out and a PACE message will also alert the community to this very informative event.
- Governor's Budget – the Governor has sent his proposed budget to the legislature. Dr. Smith shared information that the Governor's office released regarding the state's 14-16 billion dollar deficit. The Governor has proposed mid-year budget cuts of 400 million, a 10% reduction in categorical program funding, a zero COLA for next year and a 2.5% roll back in actual funding in 2008-2009. Cuts of this magnitude would be devastating to PYLUSD and all California schools. Dr. Olson encouraged SCAC members to express their opinions and to write to their legislators. Dr. Smith wrapped up by sharing that district staff and the Board of Education will be working hard on contingency plans to keep our district fiscally sound. Dr. Olson added that our district is involved in several organizations throughout the state and we will be networking with them to ensure that educational needs have representation during the budget process.
- A Santa Monica daily press newsletter written by students in that district was shared by a SCAC member. It was asked if perhaps our district would consider a similar project for our students possibly contributing to the Orange County Register and/or the Yorba Linda Star and Placentia News Times. The students' writing had some great ideas and insights.
- Automated External Defibrillators – Cheer and Song Leader students at Esperanza High School were involved in a fundraiser to acquire AEDs for their school. The district has joined in the effort and set up policies and regulations in addition to donated funds to provide AEDs at all of our high school campuses.

Training times have been established for first responders and they will be prepared to use the AEDs prior to installation at the school sites. Providing middle schools and other district facilities with AEDs would be a next step. Doug Domene, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services, asked Theresa Fox to provide an AED demonstration for SCAC members. Discussion followed regarding installation, availability and security of the AEDs.

5. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM AT VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL

Jim Bell, Principal, presented an overview of the IB program at Valencia High School. Additional information can be found on the VHS site (www.vhstigers.org). The IB program was established by international businessmen and diplomats based in Geneva, Switzerland, for high-achieving students worldwide. It is the fastest growing program for high-achieving students in the United States today. To enter the IB program freshmen and sophomore students are encouraged to first participate in the pre-IB program. Students must complete an intensive course of study that includes a special course in Theory of Knowledge, an Extended Essay which is a 4,000-word research paper on a subject of each student's special interest, and culminates in six internationally graded exams from the following subject areas: Language Arts, Foreign Language, Social Science, Experimental Sciences, Math, Arts and Electives. Additionally, students must participate in 150 hours of creative action and service. Dr. Olson acknowledged the incredible amount of work from Mr. Bell and a large number of other staff to make this educational opportunity option available to our students.

6. BOND UPDATE

Kim Palmer, Campaign for Kids 2008 committee member, reported that they have received endorsement from the Teachers Association. Also, the sample ballots are arriving in the community now and it is in an easy-to-read format that includes an argument in favor of Measure A but no argument against it. Kim has endorsement cards available for interested SCAC members. The Bond web site is receiving many hits every day, ads are in the local newspapers, and signs have been posted along streets and intersections.

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- Susan Johnson, VHS representative, introduced Mrs. Dixie Shaw, a guest at our meeting today. Mrs. Shaw has been very involved in programs for our students and is a strong advocate of the arts including the 3rd grade Music Mobile and the Art Docent program. In 1980 Mr. and Mrs. Shaw established the Shaw scholarship fund for a PYLUSD graduate attending a theatre or dance program at Cal State. As a side note, the first winner was a drama teacher at Valencia High School and the current winner of the scholarship is also from Valencia High School.
- George Key still has not had the overhang shelters installed for their students to protect them from the rain and/or sun while waiting for buses or parents to pick them up. Dr. Smith said he will check with Mike Bailey on the situation and/or timeline for this project.
- A SCAC member initiated a dialogue regarding the purpose of the SCAC committee and how the interests of the school and community are best served by this group. A concern was expressed that there might be less of an opportunity

for input and discussion of curriculum and school-based issues as in the past. Dr. Smith emphasized that the SCAC is a valuable committee and that it is meant to be member-driven. District staff tries not to structure the meetings but to have the SCAC members bring topics of interest that reflect their school's community to discuss. Marie Otto thanked everyone for the conversation and Dr. Smith reminded members to return to their school sites to share information from SCAC meetings and to gather items of interest that have been generated by SCAC members' respective school communities.

- A request was made to have a staff member provide information on the status of drugs in our schools and to explain what the schools do to a student as a consequence of drug involvement. Dr. Smith explained our district has a "zero tolerance" policy regarding drugs. Discussion followed on concerns regarding social problems within the community that may contribute to the problems in our schools and the necessity of educating children at school and at home about the damaging effects of drug use. Dr. Smith acknowledged that there are drug incidents in our schools but as they occur they are dealt with. However, Dr. Smith suggested that parents and students remain vigilant and to let school administrators know, in person or anonymously, if they are aware of a student having drugs on campus. Students are our best line of defense in the war against drugs.

Marie Otto wrapped up the discussion by thanking everyone for the excellent dialogue and their concerns for our students and schools. Marie also reminded everyone that there will not be a meeting in February so we will see you in March.

8. NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 10, 2008
District Board Room
11 a.m.