

**Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, November 19, 2007**

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto, SCAC facilitator, welcomed SCAC members and called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. It was asked if there were any corrections to last month's minutes. It was brought to the attention of Dr. Otto that at the previous meeting a request for information regarding special education and the IEP process had been requested. Dr. Smith stated that he would invite Dr. Dennis Kreil to attend a future meeting to give an overview of the special education program, including emerging areas of additional special education services such as Autism. Also, as a follow up to last month a book referring to college and university scholarships entitled "The K & W Guide to Colleges for Students With Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorders by Marybeth Kravets, M.A. and Imy F. Wax, M.S." was shared.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Bryant Ranch

- A Red Ribbon Week penny collection resulted in \$3,000 dollars of pennies being donated. The money was split between their traditional leukemia fund and the families affected by recent brush fires in Orange County. Also, a canned food drive resulted in donations for the fire victims as well.

Esperanza High School

- EHS had 18 students awarded a National Merit scholarship.
- In memory of Shauna Stuewe, a member of the junior varsity cheer squad who passed away in 2006, \$16,000 for AEDs was raised by the cheer and song squads to provide an AED for each school in the district. Doug Domene mentioned that currently they have raised enough money for 3 or 4 AEDs for each high school campus.
- The football team won their first round in CIF after finishing the regular season with a 9-1 record.
- EHS competed this past Saturday in Arcadia and took first place and in the evening sweepstakes in Savanna. Wednesday evening they will perform at Disneyland. Sunday the band is participating in the Santa Claus parade which will be shown on KTLA next weekend. All the high school and middle school bands were praised for their performances in the band pageant on November 7th. The community is very fortunate to have the music program that our district provides. The band is the largest extra-curricular group on campus and collectively they have the highest GPA.

Tuffree Middle School

- Tuffree Middle School was honored by the San Bernardino Humane Society and the School Board for their fundraising efforts. After the fires last month, a few students expressed a desire to do something to help. They talked with a few teachers and it quickly turned into a school-wide effort. The students and teachers raised over \$1,800 and filled four SUVs with dog and cat food to donate to the San Bernardino Humane Society.

Valencia High School

- The girls JV and Varsity Tennis teams have earned their third consecutive Empire League Championship. Stephanie Hammel was named the MVP of the League and has signed a letter of intent with UC Irvine for a full athletic scholarship in the fall. The team plays at 1 p.m. today for the CIF title. (They won.)
- The Girls Golf team finished their season placing 2nd in the Empire League. Three girls earned All Empire League status (Whitney Fernandez placed 1st, Ashley Baek, placed 2nd and Felicia Titus, placed 3rd). The team also broke the Valencia record at Alta Vista for the front nine as well as the back nine.
- The Boys Cross Country team claimed 1st place at all levels of the Empire League Finals and Talal Khan earned the individual MVP of the Empire League. The team qualified for the CIF Finals in Division I.
- The Tiger Regiment earned 2nd place overall at the "Tournament on the Hill" behind Esperanza band by ½ point. The Color Guard earned 1st place overall.
- Nick Colombo, who has been fighting cancer since 8th grade, was given a standing ovation during the half-time celebration that crowned this year's king and queen. Former Kraemer teachers, his teachers from Valencia, his soccer team and band friends were in the stands to show their appreciation for the inspiration he has given to all who have had an opportunity to know him and his family.
- The Valencia Tiger Football Team finished as tri-champions and won the Empire League Championship with a coin toss. The Tigers won their first round in CIF playoffs.
- November 1st Academy Night was successful with 200 high-achieving students and parents in attendance.
- Over Veterans' Day weekend, the Valencia alumni baseball players from the classes of 1972 to 2007 played in their annual baseball tournament. The class of 1992 won this year's tournament. This annual fundraiser raised \$15,000 for Valencia's baseball program.
- The First Annual Pride Day will be held with 100 students who have signed up for community service. They will be painting railings and doors on the weekend, under the supervision of two of the district's employees, Jim DeMase and Chris Ortiz.
- The Drama Club put on the female version of the Odd Couple this past weekend.
- The VHS management team is getting ready for the annual BBQ on November 30th which serves the Valencia staff.
- Valencia's first phone tree for Bond Measure A is set for November 27th.

3. VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Jim Bell, principal at Valencia High School, was invited to attend this SCAC meeting to provide an overview of the Alternative Education Programs available at VHS. Mr. Bell commented on how excited he is to have the opportunity to pilot alternative programs which address the needs of "all" students. For the past ten years, VHS has built a strong Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. This program is designed for students who do not have college-educated role models at home. Valencia's AVID program currently has 155 students. The past two years, every senior AVID student at VHS has been accepted to a four-year college. Last year, Valencia implemented their Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) in conjunction with the Building Industry and Trade Association and the North Orange County ROP. When fully implemented, this will be a four-year program where students learn the major facets of home manufacturing including laying foundations, framing in wood and metal, drywalling, roofing, and fundamentals of electricity and plumbing. Currently, the BITA students are building their first structure. This year, Valencia implemented two new programs for at-risk students. For sophomores who are at least 30 credits deficient, VHS started an Opportunities Program also called a "School-within-a-School" or SWAS. Currently, there

are 20 students in this program who are taking eight or nine classes a day. The goal of this program is to get these students back on track for graduation. For freshmen, Valencia started the "Freshman House" which targets the 75 most at-risk students matriculating from Kraemer Middle School. All of these students have the same Earth Science, Algebra 1A, and Language Arts 1 teachers who collaborate daily. Jim Bell refers to the SWAS as a "reactive program" whereas the Freshman House is a "proactive program" designed to ease the pressure of transitioning from middle to high school. Valencia's At-Risk Counselor, Paul Juarez, oversees both programs under the tutelage of Rick Lopez, Assistant Principal of Pupil Services. Jim Bell reported impressive results after only one quarter.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Dennis Smith distributed a Measure A brochure that will be mailed out to all community members next week. The brochure lists projects that will be accomplished as a result of a successful bond measure. The results of an earlier bond, Measure Y, are on the back page of the brochure. An argument in favor of the bond initiative was submitted to the county and no argument against the bond was received. Kim Palmer mentioned that information is available on the district's web site regarding the bond and that an informational bond web site will be established soon. Kim Palmer is organizing community support for the bond measure if anyone would like to help.

All three high schools' football teams won the first round of the CIF playoffs. It is a tribute to our students and coaches that our high schools are doing so well and compliments the exceptional P.E. program that begins in the elementary schools. It was also mentioned that the high school band units contribute greatly to the enjoyment of the football program.

5. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX

Ann O'Rourke, Director of Student Assessment and Categorical Programs, presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the Academic Performance Index. Ann explained that the target number for the district's schools is 800 and is derived from CST, CAT6, CAHSEE and CAPA scores. Schools that achieve the 800 target must maintain that score. Schools that fall below the 800 are expected to improve by 5% of the difference from their present score and 800 by the next year. The state monitors schools that are not on target and provides a sequence of support and expectations over a five-year period of time to reach the target number. At the completion of 5 years, if there has not been sufficient improvement, the state has the option of intervening. Discussion followed on assessment tools, identification of at-risk students and strategies teachers use to prepare their students to do well. It was asked if the testing is necessary and Ann explained that the testing is state mandated. A question was posed as to why California is still ranked below so many other states. Dr. Smith explained that California adopted the most rigorous academic standards and in spite of the low state ranking our students benefit from our high expectations to help prepare them for the challenges they will face in college and the work force. Marie Otto closed the discussion by thanking everyone for their questions and comments.

6. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mike Bailey, Director, Facilities and Planning, presented a PowerPoint presentation showing both of our current construction projects, Valadez Middle School and Yorba

Linda High School. Both projects are on time and on budget. Discussion followed regarding the status of the different phases of preparation for opening a school site. Valadez Middle School lost approximately three weeks due to wind damage during our past Santa Ana winds but because we have been blessed with good weather otherwise, Valadez is back on schedule. Valadez Middle School is proving to be a nice model for ordering, etc. and makes the process even smoother for the Yorba Linda High School site which is still expected to open in the fall of 2009. It was asked what the district's projected enrollment for both schools will be when they open. Valadez Middle School has been designed for a student enrollment of approximately 850 and it is expected to stay near the 800 enrollment forecast. The Yorba Linda High School will open with approximately 1600 students and will take three years to fully populate the school. Yorba Linda High School is expected to remain at a 1600-1800 student population. It is the district's intent to have all four comprehensive high schools with a 1600 to 2000 student enrollment. This size school has proven to be able to provide the development of learning opportunities and a career focus. The district is also hoping to provide students with a transfer opportunity to "pick and choose" the school site that meets their needs.

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

None

8. NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 10, 2007
District Board Room
11 a.m.

Holiday Potluck Luncheon

Marie Otto thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting today and reminded them that at the December meeting we will once again have our Annual SCAC Holiday Potluck. Dr. Otto will provide ham and vegetarian lasagna. *SCAC members are asked to bring a side dish to share.* Paper products and beverages will be provided.

