

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, December 10, 2007

1. **WELCOME**

Dr. Marie Otto, SCAC facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Holiday Potluck Luncheon announcing that the first item of business would be lunch! She also wished everyone a very Happy Holiday Season!

2. **GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

Bernardo Yorba Middle School

- An inspirational story regarding the Bernardo Yorba's track team was shared in which the team, realizing that one team member was a full lap behind, ran the final lap with that student.

El Dorado High School

- The varsity football team captured the CIF championship Friday night in front of over 10,000 people.

Esperanza High School

- The girls' cross country team placed 2nd in the CIF finals setting a course record. They were invited to nationals and placed 17th in the nation.

George Key

- Students participated in the annual holiday lunch. The Yorba Linda Sunrise Rotary shared gifts for the students.
- The school received a garden grant and students are excited about the project.
- George Key School was also pleased to report that they now have the Masters Art Docent program with two presentations taking place thus far.

Golden

- The school's PTA Jog-A-Thon was a huge success and generated \$40,000 for the school.

Lakeview

- This past week Lakeview submitted an application for California Distinguished School. An acknowledgment of the tremendous amount of work involved in the process was expressed. Next week is their annual toy drive for the Placentia Head Start program at Melrose Elementary School.

Sierra Vista

- The school incorporated the District's Wellness Wagon diet recommendations for the holiday party menus which were designed to be low-fat. It was an overwhelming success with students amazed at how good low-fat pumpkin muffins could be!

Valencia High School

- The women's tennis team won CIF.
- The varsity football team made it to semifinals in the CIF playoffs.

Woodsboro

- Students participated in an Activity Fundraiser instead of the usual fundraising projects. The Move-A-Thon included a variety of activities that kept all students "moving." It was a festive fun-filled day for all 550 students and over \$20,000 was raised for the school.
- Peter Pan auditions have begun with approximately 100 students involved in this program.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Smith commented on the incredible cooks we have on the SCAC and thanked everyone for participating in the annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon.

Dr. Smith commended Valencia High School's women's tennis team and El Dorado High School's football team for their CIF championships. This is a very significant achievement and all the participants are to be congratulated for the hard work and commitment it takes to achieve this level of play. Although there is nothing like winning a championship, participation is also very important and teaches students and staff the value of teamwork and personal accomplishment. The band also did a wonderful job at the football championship and helped add excitement to the game. The community can truly be proud of our students' achievements.

Dr. Smith also wanted to commend one of El Dorado High School's teachers, advanced placement physics teacher, Mike Oberle. Mike has been ill and is at home recovering from surgery. Because Mike teaches such a high-level course and knew it would be very difficult to find someone to step in and continue working with his students, he has been able to team with the district to "teach live from home." A web cam was set up at his home and in the classroom so he can continue teaching his students. Students are getting the instruction they need from him with a proctor in the classroom. This is proof of our district's teaching staff's commitment and demonstrates how technology can play an important part in the school/home connection.

Dr. Smith wanted SCAC members to be aware that on January 10th, there will be the 2008 Education Forum from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Yorba Linda City Council Chambers, 4845 Casa Loma Avenue in Yorba Linda (corner of Yorba Linda Boulevard and Casa Loma). A brief "State of the School District" address will be given followed by an opportunity for questions and answers. Panelists also include Board President, Judy Miller, and the assistant superintendents responsible for educational, business and personnel services in the school district. A flyer is also attached for your information.

Additionally, Dr. Smith informed SCAC members that Dr. Richard Jones will conduct a Global Visioning workshop on January 28th. It is an opportunity to look 10-15 years down the road and anticipate the trends facing the students of today.

Dr. Jones will meet with the School Board and Leadership Team during the day and then will meet with parents in the evening of January 28th from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dr. Smith will send out a Connect-ED message to the community informing them of this event. Dr. Olson added that the more we can learn and the more ideas we can gather will only benefit our students and expand our frame of reference.

4. **SPECIAL EDUCATION/IEP OVERVIEW**

Dr. Dennis Kreil, Director of Pupil Services, and Joan Akers, Director of Special Education, were invited to attend this SCAC meeting to provide an overview of the special education program and the IEP process. Dr. Kreil opened his remarks by indicating that the special education program is a huge topic so he would provide the basic overview and then invite Joan Akers to add to his comments before opening the floor to a question and answer session. Dr. Kreil clarified that IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) is the federal law that governs the special education program and provides guidelines for school districts. Parents requiring information regarding special education programs and services should contact their site principal.

In response to a question regarding trends in special education, Dr. Kreil stated that Autism is one of the fastest growing areas of special education. A question was asked about options that may be available if the parent, school principal and the IEP team do not agree on services. Joan Akers responded that parents should then contact a Program Specialist in the Special Education Department or call her office for direction and/or clarification on the next step to take in the process. Discussion followed on the transition from grade-level-to-grade-level and from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school and the importance of parents remaining actively involved during that transition time to ensure continuation of services. Transitioning is a critical time for students and staff. Major transition teams begin to meet in January for the following fall.

Another area of focus currently is training general education teachers to be able to recognize reading disorder systems in order to provide quick intervention for students who are struggling in the areas of Language Arts and Reading.

Dr. Kreil and Joan Akers stated they would be available to speak at PTA meetings or participate in parent information meetings to further discuss this topic or other areas of interest if a school discovers a need.

Dr. Craig Olson commented on how special education is funded and informed SCAC members that approximately 10-11% of the district's student population is receiving special education programs.

Dennis Kreil summarized by stating that it is always best to work with your school site principal and resource staff members to maximize available program services for your child's special education needs.

Marie Otto wrapped up the discussion expressing appreciation for the information brought to the meeting and the very worthwhile discussions initiated by SCAC members.

5. **BOND UPDATE**

Kim Palmer, a member of Campaign for Kids 2008 Steering Committee, provided an update on bond activities. Kim stated that they have been very busy working phone banks. Currently there is indication of support for the bond with 56% of the phone contacts in favor of Measure A, 6% stated they were not in favor of the bond measure and 39% were undecided. Of the 39% undecided most indicated they needed more information and time to process the materials received and research the paperwork and web sites in order to make a determination. In January signs promoting Measure A will be put up in the communities. The Campaign for Kids 2008 campaign web site is www.campaignforkids2008.org. There is a video segment on that web site that is categorized in order of area of interest. Kim invited everyone to take a look as it is quite informative and very well done.

6. **ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

In response to a question regarding the distribution of corrected minutes, it was decided that changes would be included in the following month's minutes and the changed minutes would be posted.

In response to a question regarding the fundraising by Esperanza High School for AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) for Middle Schools and Elementary Schools, Mr. Doug Domene explained that right now the plan is to place AEDs initially at the high school level. Federal guidelines have not mandated that each school have an AED available but the district is looking at extending the program in the future. It was suggested that it may be helpful for SCAC members if an AED demonstration was provided at a future SCAC meeting.

In response to a request for information regarding the International Baccalaureate program. It was decided to invite a staff representative to provide information and answer questions regarding this program at a future meeting.

In response to a question regarding the length of time it takes to install wireless technology, Dr. Smith acknowledged that we do have limited staff available that can provide installation services. Dr. Smith stated that the most effective way of ensuring a school is prepared and on the list for the improvements is to work directly with the principal. Dr. Smith said outside vendors would need to be approved at district level to ensure compatibility with district and site equipment. Dr. Smith explained that this is an example of how Measure A would benefit our students; addressing the infrastructure of our schools and making every classroom a smart classroom.

7. **MINUTE CORRECTIONS**

- **September 17, 2007 meeting**
In the September minutes a reference was made to Prentice Hall. The correct name is Prentice School. A workshop featuring Dr. Louisa Moats,

regarding school-wide interventions for improving literacy, will be held on April 18th at Prentice School

- **November 19, 2007 meeting**

At the November meeting a reference was made to a scholarship book. The name of the book is ~~Areferring 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.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, January 14, 2008
District Board Room
11 a.m.