

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council  
Monday, December 8, 2008

**1. WELCOME**

Mrs. Castrey welcomed everyone to the meeting today and apologized for the necessity of canceling the November 17 meeting due to the devastating fires that affected many of the district's families and staff members. Mrs. Castrey had members introduce themselves and thanked everyone for participating in the annual holiday luncheon.

**2. FACILITATOR'S REPORT**

No report this month.

**3. MEETING MINUTES**

There were no corrections to the October 20, 2008, meeting minutes.

**4. GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

- **Fairmont Elementary** – The PTA is sponsoring music programs for students in grades 2 through 4 provided by a local Yorba Linda music teacher. Also, a \$500 donation was received from the Japanese Business Associates, which selected Fairmont from a number of schools. The donation is providing materials for the RTI program.
- **Van Buren Elementary** – Students raised \$800 for the victims of the recent fires, half of which was donated to the district's fund and the other half directly to students. Van Buren also shared the sad news that former night custodian, Victor Gomez, had passed away.
- **Woodsboro Elementary** – In spite of the huge refurbishment taking place at Woodsboro, things have been going extremely well. The teachers have done an excellent job of creating a fun "city" from the portables by putting up flags for their classrooms and "avenues/highways". The PTA membership drive did very well and the new "kids corner" in the PTA newsletter is very popular with the students and families.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Website Update - Rosemary Gladden has been working with the school principals to insure that their school's website is updated on a regular basis.
- Budget Update – Dr. Smith provided an update of the state's budget. Unfortunately, this is the most challenging financial situation the district, as well as the state, has ever faced. Dr. Smith presented a PowerPoint presentation which gave additional budget information. In response to a question as to what the district would do if reductions are necessary, Dr. Smith said that the first step would be to examine all programs and positions for possible reduction or

elimination. In addition Dr. Smith indicated that he hoped that the state would provide flexibility in the use of restricted categorical funds. Dr. Smith expressed his optimism that a solution will be found before drastic program cuts have to be implemented.

- Dr. Smith extended an invitation to attend the dedication ceremony of Gualberto J. Valadez Middle School Academy on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 11 a.m. The school is located at 161 E. La Jolla Street in Placentia. Following the dedication ceremony a tour of the school will be provided.

## **6. LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY PLAN (LEAP)**

Candy Plahy, Educational Services Director, distributed a LEAP report synopsis and provided information on the district's 5-year plan for K-12 Writing, K-6 Reading, 6-12 Reading, K-12 Math, English Learners, Science and Social Science. Mrs. Plahy said the district is also continuing to provide parent workshops to help reinforce parental understanding of classroom instruction. The Local Education Agency Plan will be modified over the next 5 years as instructional needs change in the district. In response to a question regarding materials in all the schools being the same, Mrs. Plahy explained that for the most part the same textbooks and instructional materials are provided to all teachers. However, schools may choose to supplement these materials with other resources.

## **7. HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARIES**

Dr. Smith commented on the large number of parents that had attended all four nights of the high school boundary public forums and how pleased he was at the turnout. Mr. Doug Domene provided an update on the high schools boundaries. Mr. Domene presented a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed each boundary scenario. Mr. Domene then explained the Board policy and the steps that have been taken by the Boundary Advisory committee in preparation of presenting a recommendation to Dr. Smith. Discussion followed on the scenarios presented. Mr. Domene explained that the committee is currently analyzing all comment forms turned in by the community. In response to a question regarding the alternative programs in place at Yorba Linda High School and if they will remain at the YLHS site, Dr. Smith said that is currently under discussion and final plans have not been determined as yet.

## **8. ONLINE PAYMENT FOOD SERVICE UPDATE**

Mr. Domene had been asked at the previous meeting to check on the district's ability to provide information regarding a student's online food service account. Mr. Domene reported that currently five schools are piloting the online program. (Fairmont, Woodsboro, Bryant Ranch, Bernardo Yorba, and Esperanza) All schools will be participating in the program by the end of this school year or the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. Students will have a permanent identification number for online payments and debits. A question was asked regarding parents ability to see balances. The system allows for parents to see balances but parents can not see what their student spent their money on. .

## 9. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- In response to a question regarding the California Teachers Association and who they are, Dr. Smith explained the CTA is a statewide organization. Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified teachers belong to the district's APLE (Association of Placentia Linda Educators) organization which pays dues to the CTA.
- In response to a question regarding the LEAP and what it is, Dr. Smith explained that LEAP stands for Local Educational Agency Plan. It is a federal program that requires a local school district to report on how it uses federal funds such as Title II. The district is required to file an accountability report on the use of the federal funding and the management of programs contained in the LEAP.
- In response to a question regarding establishing an IB program at Yorba Linda High School, Dr. Smith explained that an IB program will not be placed at Yorba Linda High School. He further explained that it is the district's goal to establish different academic opportunities at each high school. Valencia High School for instance has the IB, Val Tech and the Business Industrial Trade Academy, while El Dorado has developed a media arts academy and Esperanza a medical science academy. Under consideration for Yorba Linda High School is an international business academy.
- In response to a question regarding the earthquake preparedness program and what the district provides, Dr. Smith explained that the health clerks at the school sites are responsible for updating the basic first aid kits. Mr. Domene added that each year schools request funds for specific needs. In addition, PTAs have also helped by providing equipment such as emergency backpacks or have held "adopt a classroom" programs and parents have contributed emergency supplies.
- In response to a question regarding the bomb threat at El Dorado High School at the beginning of the school year, Mr. Domene stated despite the efforts by the Placentia Police Department, the person making the threats has not been found.
- In response to a question regarding an Esperanza High School student's attempted abduction, Mr. Domene explained that, unfortunately, it was discovered that a false report had been made. Mr. Domene explained that based on the information the district had at the time of the report it was important to warn parents of a possible situation.
- In response to a question regarding the recent fires in the Bryant Ranch area and what would have been the district's plan if the fires had happened on a school day, Dr. Smith explained he has been involved in conversations with Police and Fire Department commanders. In the past the district has concentrated on keeping students safe at a school site. Currently, we are in discussions on the coordinated evacuation procedures with the district's emergency responders. All agencies are providing their recommendations on how the evacuation would be handled and depending on the situation where evacuation sites would be located. The district is prepared to evacuate several schools at once if the need were to arise. It was discovered in the process of the Yorba Linda fires,

however, that the district has great people on staff and in a crisis, they make the difference.

- In response to a question from a previous meeting regarding AERIES implementation by the district's teachers, it was determined by looking online that 96% of the teachers are currently using the Aeries GradeBook program.
- In response to a question regarding parents lobbying for the district regarding the budget, Dr. Smith indicated that legislators do hear what the community and parents have to say. As requested, the website to send e-mail to the state's legislators is being included in the minutes:  
[www.fourthdistrictpta.org/legislation/sac-safari.html](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org/legislation/sac-safari.html)

Mrs. Castrey thanked everyone for the great questions from the SCAC members and the informative presentations from the staff. Also, thank you to everyone for all the good food!! Mrs. Castrey wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Great 2009. See you January 12<sup>th</sup> at the next SCAC meeting!!