

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, April 14, 2008, 11 a.m.
Board Room

Corrected 5/15/08

Minutes

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Marie Otto, SCAC facilitator, called the meeting to order and welcomed SCAC members to today's meeting.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Bryant Ranch Elementary

- Congratulations were extended to Darlene Messnik, Special Education Teacher at Bryant Ranch on her selection as a Teacher-Of-The-Year. Darlene will be recognized at the School Board meeting on April 22nd.

El Dorado High School

- El Dorado High School held the Prism show recently and the representative encouraged everyone to take advantage of any opportunity to see it. The show was fabulous!

Esperanza High School

- Congratulations to Lisa Tully, 2007-2008 Mock Trial Teacher/Coach of the Year. The Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County will present Lisa a special award at the 27th annual Mock Trial Awards luncheon on April 18th. Lisa took over the Mock Trial program in 2006 and has continued the history of outstanding team competitions and victories over the past two years.
- Congratulations to 2008 Valedictorian, Amman Desai, and Salutatorian, Laura Toy.
 - Valedictorian – Amman Desai: 52 A's (7 semesters) which includes 33 Honors and AP classes with 752 hours of community service. His current semester schedule includes five AP classes, orchestra, tennis and Academic Competition.
 - Salutatorian – Laura Toy: 49 A's (7 semesters) which includes 32 Honors and AP classes with 829 hours of community service. Her current semester's schedule includes six AP classes and orchestra.
- Congratulations to the following Seniors who have received an "A" in every class they have taken at Esperanza:
 - Brian Goldsworthy
 - Anna Katz
 - Cara Beth Mohlman
 - Krista Perry
 - Walter Ralston
 - Kimberly Sommer
 - Chin Yin Yau
- Congratulations to Esperanza's Instrumental Music Program. Before spring break, the Concert Band under the direction of Bincins Garcia and Brad Davis, along with four orchestra groups under the direction of Kay Crask, received "superior" ratings at the SCSBOA Music Festival.
- Esperanza held their Big Band Bash this past Friday night with the Jazz Band performing with trombonist, Harry Watters of the US Marine Blues and Jazz Band, as well as the United States Marine Corp Brass Quintet, based in Washington, DC, and Vocalist, Stacy Cumby. Esperanza was joined by Travis Ranch and the Bernardo Yorba Jazz Bands.

Glenknoll Elementary, Lakeview Elementary and Van Buren Elementary

- Congratulations were extended to Glenknoll, Lakeview and Van Buren elementary schools on their Distinguished School honors.

Mabel Paine Elementary

- The school enjoyed a successful Family Science Night last week. Mabel Paine held a fabulous talent show this year. The show consisted of forty acts and everyone involved had a great time!

Rio Vista Elementary

- All students, teachers and many parents participated in Rio Vista's first J-A-T jog-a-thon as part of the school's "healthy way of thinking" program. The school was very pleased with the \$7,000 they were able to net from the event.

Valencia High School

- Valencia's Varsity Baseball Team is having a stellar season. Currently, they are 14-3 overall and 4-1 in the Empire League play. They are tied for first place in the Empire League and are ranked 8th in Orange County.
- Valencia's Science Olympiad Team recently captured 2nd in Orange County behind only Troy High School who were the National Champions in 2007. They competed in the State Science Olympiad Championship at California State University, Long Beach, this past weekend and placed 10th in the state.
- On Saturday, April 5, Valencia held its second Tiger Pride Day for the 2007-2008 school year. Over 200 students and staff members painted lunch tables, fences and doors for hours on that day.
- Valencia has accepted almost 200 8th graders into its prestigious Academy consisting of the International Baccalaureate and Val Tech Program for the 2008-2009 school year.
- The Val Tech Program is negotiating with DeVry Institute to teach college-level business and technology courses at Valencia next year. Valencia is hoping to pilot its first DeVry course taught by a DeVry professor. This particular course is titled "Introduction to the Development of Simulation and Gaming."

Wagner Elementary

- Wagner is implementing a Peer Mentor Program to offer leadership opportunities for the upper grade students and to assist younger students with social skills.
- Wagner is also integrating technology. Teachers are doing an outstanding job of using new laptops and LCD projectors to provide visual supports for their lessons, especially in the area of supporting the Step-Up-to-Writing program.

California State University, Long Beach

- Marie Otto wanted everyone to know about the Arts Day at the Japanese Garden at Long Beach University. The Japanese Garden provides a variety of art forms suitable for all ages in addition to the beautiful flowers and koi. Marie encouraged everyone to enjoy the garden and be inspired to give art a try. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 4.

University of Pennsylvania

- It was reported that the University of Pennsylvania is now accepting students based on merit only. If a family cannot afford tuition, the university will cover any educational debt with an endowment fund. Now other universities have decided to participate in this same type of program. Very good news for students and their families!

3. MEETING MINUTES

There were no corrections to the March 10, 2008, SCAC meeting minutes.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with great sadness that Dr. Smith informed SCAC members of the loss of one of our teachers at Bernardo Yorba Middle School. Devon Alcosser was valued and respected by her students and staff and our deepest sympathies were extended to her family.

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Dr. Smith shared that not much has changed with the district's budget situation since our last meeting. District staff continues to contact state legislators in order to keep educational funding at the forefront of their negotiations. The School Board took action in March regarding RIF (reduction in force) notices to personnel. Several individuals have spoken at recent School Board meetings regarding the value of the PYLUSD music program. Specific reductions in music include fourth grade instrumental music and elementary vocal music programs. Dr. Olson shared that we hope to be able to reinstate the original program in future years when funding is available. The Governor's budget is still in flux and we are waiting for the Governor's May Budget Revise.

GLOBAL VISIONING

Dr. Smith shared with the group that the Global Visioning workshop that was held on January 28th was very informative. Discussion focused on the critical skills our students will need in this changing and dynamic world market.

A Global Visioning White Paper that reflects the discussions by the Board and Leadership team from the January 28th workshop is included in these SCAC minutes for members to review. Each SCAC member is asked to read the attached document and this item will be agenized for discussion at the May 12, 2008, meeting.

BELL SCHEUDLE

Steve UMBER, Director of Transportation, shared information regarding next year's bell schedule. With the budget situation, it is imperative that the district operate the transportation system as efficiently as possible in order to save money for the educational programs. Therefore, this next school year, start times and ending times have been coordinated at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The individual school bell schedules will be made public in the next few weeks. Elementary schools will begin at either 7:50 or 8:30 and the middle schools at 8:45-8:55, all high schools will start at 7:55 creating greater consistency and efficiencies across the district.

EL DORADO HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PROJECTS

Dr. Smith shared that the El Dorado High School Senior Project is a very unique program. The students have been working on their projects for several months and have dedicated a great deal of time and effort investigating a career or creating a project that is of interest to them. They have worked fifteen hours with a mentor in the community and have maintained a journal of their experience. El Dorado High School is in need of assistance to make this project a success again this year. The final phase is an oral presentation to a board of three to five community members, administrators, parents and staff. Evaluators for the panels are needed. The event is Friday, May 16. A brief orientation luncheon from 12:45 until 1:15 is provided and the students will make their presentations between 1:30 and 3:45. If you are interested, please contact Cozette Petitt at cpetitt@pylud.org by April 20th.

DR. CRAIG OLSON

Dr. Craig Olson informed SCAC members that at the April 8th School Board meeting he announced he will be stepping down after 16 years as a member of our district's School Board. He and his wife have long anticipated participating in a mission for their church. The opportunity has presented itself a littler earlier ~~then~~ than they had planned but they are excited and looking forward to this new phase in their lives. Dr. Olson explained that his term ends in December but

he plans to officially step down at the end of June. Marie Otto articulated what a great asset Dr. Olson has been to this district and expressed the hope that he will come back to visit us often. Dr. Smith shared Marie's sentiments and reiterated that Dr. Olson is a very special person and his leaving will be a huge loss to our district.

5. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

In response to the proposed elementary music program reductions, a SCAC member expressed concern regarding its impact on student learning and added that news reports have suggested music positively impacts academics. Marie Otto mentioned a 60 Minutes telecast that had documented Venezuela's classical music program and the tremendous difference it has made in that country. Dr. Olson stated that the School Board members are very supportive of the music program and they hope in the future the budget will allow the program to be reinstated.

A SCAC member is planning a tour of Valencia High School to discover how the school campus operates and find out about the many activities that exist on the campus. This informative opportunity is available to anyone that is interested in the district's schools.

In response to a concern regarding a Keyboarding class and how many words per minutes are necessary to pass the class in order to take an alternate class, Doug Domene will follow up and check the middle school requirements and standards for keyboarding and report back.

A discussion followed relative to the value of reading and the lack of opportunities and the importance of students developing their reading skills in specific classes through the middle school and high school level. It was suggested that staff consider having an elective that focuses on reading.

A SCAC member suggested two books to Dr. Smith that may be applicable to the material he will be putting together, Right Brain Children in the Left Brain World and Building a Bridge to The 18th Century.

A thank you was extended for the Head Start preschool program. The Head Start program works with a family at home and at school and makes a big difference for the families involved.

In response to a concern regarding teachers not updating grades and assignments on AERIES, Dr. Smith asked for time to find out what the requirements and/or expectations are for teachers and will report back at the next SCAC meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2008
District Board Room
11 a.m.