

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, September 22, 2008
Board Room

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Mrs. Bonnie Castrey called the meeting to order, welcomed SCAC members and guests.

2. FACILITATOR'S REPORT AND THANK YOU TO MARIE OTTO

Mrs. Castrey gave SCAC members a brief background of her experiences in education and in facilitating various meetings. Mrs. Castrey then introduced Marie Otto, guest of honor, at today's meeting. Dr. Smith presented Marie with a plant and card and thanked her for many years of service to the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council. Mrs. Otto thanked everyone for the special luncheon today and expressed her appreciation for what the SCAC does and for the many fond memories she has from her 20 plus years of SCAC meetings. Mrs. Castrey then asked SCAC members, staff and guests to introduce themselves.

3. SCAC ROSTER AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Dr. Smith gave a brief explanation of SCAC membership and the role of a SCAC member. Dr. Smith distributed copies of topics that have been discussed over the past few years in addition to the roster and meeting schedule. Dr. Smith reminded members that if they are aware of a particular problem at their site to first discuss the situation with the principal and/or teacher and then make the determination if the topic needs to be addressed at the SCAC. Agenda topics may be sent to Connie Parker at (cparker@pylusd.org) or you may call 714-985-8694.

4. "GOOD NEWS" REPORTS

- Esperanza High School shared positive comments regarding the district's reputation in the community at large. The representative also encouraged all members to visit Bradford Stadium to see the improvements that have been completed.
- Travis Ranch School started off the year on a high note celebrating a 17-point increase in its API score, which is now at 894. Staff credits the jump in large part with the implementation of its Response to Intervention program. This year, teachers are also hard at work during their early release Wednesdays working in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to revise curriculum and benchmarks, analyze data and plan interventions to help struggling students, as well as those proficient and beyond. The Positive Behavior Support Team is also moving forward, and it is kicking off the year with an assembly on "Academic Honesty."
- Valencia High School reported that their IB enrollment is at an all time high and the Val Tech Program currently has 56 candidates. VHS has also added three more AP courses and has 42 college-level courses. Valencia High School is also celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Smith was happy to report that the school year opened smoothly. PYLUSD's enrollment is remaining fairly stable, with growth in our Parkview home schooling program as well as alternative programs such as La Entrada.

Dr. Smith clarified current news articles regarding Student Clubs on our campuses. Student Clubs have operated under a "Closed Forum" for the past 30 years. Dr. Smith explained that a Closed Forum requires that a chartered and approved school club must have a direct tie to the schools' existing curriculum. The application for a Bible Club at Esperanza High School was denied based on that premise. A lawsuit was filed and a temporary injunction was issued to allow the Bible Club to function as a club on campus pending the outcome of the lawsuit. The School Board will be considering whether to revise this policy.

Dr. Smith gave SCAC members an update on the La Floresta property dispute with Brea Olinda Unified School District. The Chevron corporation had filed a petition with the Orange County Department of Education which would allow students in the La Floresta's housing development, currently within PYLUSD's attendance boundaries, to attend school in BOUSD. PYLUSD argued against the petition. Unfortunately, the County Committee voted 6 to 5 in favor of the developer. PYLUSD is currently appealing that decision at the State Board.

Dr. Smith distributed the district's Board Goals, Guiding Principles and the Areas of Emphasis. The School Board uses these documents to carry out the district's mission.

Dr. Smith provided an update on the district's budget. Steps taken by the district last spring in anticipation of the Governor's budget has resulted in no further reductions to the current district's budget. However, because the Governor's budget did not truly address the budget problems, next year will once again be a very challenging time for public education.

6. PYLUSD AYP AND API RESULTS

Mrs. Ann O'Rourke, Director of Student Assessment and Categorical Programs presented information regarding both Federal and State accountability. Attached, as requested, is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

7. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Mr. Mike Bailey, Director of Facilities and Planning, provided an update on the district's current construction projects which began last spring. His update included the Travis Ranch office/lobby area, Bryant Ranch's outdoor light project, Lakeview's driveway walkway, Bradford Stadium and Valadez Middle School Academy. In addition he explained that Woodsboro Elementary School, Tynes Elementary School as well as Yorba Linda and Tuffree Middle Schools are currently being modernized. The Yorba Linda High School project is currently on schedule. The above are the majority of major projects currently underway with many more projects in the design stage. Many technology projects are also underway including Smart Classrooms with interactive SmartBoards.

8. NIXON LIBRARY FORUM

Mr. Doug Domene, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services, distributed a flyer from the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum which announces the Library's Fall 2008 Community Forum Series. The Library would like to involve the community in

a discussion of three important public policy issues. All forums are free and open to the public. Forum participants are asked to read an issue book prior to the forum and be prepared to discuss these issues.

9. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Dr. Smith suggested that because of the lateness of the hour the floor be opened for items of interest that the staff might bring to the next meeting. The following items were suggested

- Booster clubs – Purpose and guidelines
- High School Exit Exam - The district's plan for students with disabilities that have not passed the test
- Homework policy – The expectations for students in sixth grade at a K-6 school versus expectations for a student in sixth grade at a middle school.
- Emergency Situations – The district response to emergency situations at schools

10. NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 20, 2008
District Board Room
11 a.m.