

**Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District  
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council  
Monday, March 10, 2008**

**1. WELCOME**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the January 14, 2008, meeting were approved as corrected. Corrected minutes are attached.

**3. GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

**Fairmont Elementary**

- Launched a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade music education program with a teacher/musician from the community donating teaching time for three instructional sessions each Friday morning. The teacher has contact with 130 eager students and the students get instruction from a professional with 20 years experience in teaching music. An example of the school/community mutual assistance program!

**Mabel Paine Elementary**

- An Islands restaurant fundraiser last week brought in \$2,500, another \$790.56 was collected in one week from a penny drive. In addition, a collection box was placed at Yorba Linda Middle School and a donation fund was set up at Washington Mutual for Ian Mercardo. The representative from Mabel Paine expressed the school's appreciation for the support of the district's Crisis Team, Rosemary Gladden, school families and surrounding community members during the tragedy that occurred to a Mabel Paine family.

**Morse Elementary**

- After nearly six months of preparation, two 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Morse Elementary were nominated and accepted into the People-to-People World Leadership Forum. Emmery Llewellyn and Mia Pecora will travel to Washington DC over spring break. The students were chosen based on their leadership skills, academics and letters of recommendation provided by teachers and principal. They will be participating with approximately 194 students from around the world. Their families and Morse Elementary School are very proud of Emmery and Mia!

**Rio Vista Elementary**

- The PTA will hold its first Jog-a-Thon on April 4. This spring fundraiser is supporting the district's promotion of healthy snacks and activities. Also, the new 25 Mile Club, started by the principal for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, has really "taken off!"

**Travis Ranch**

- Travis Ranch held their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary picnic and 600 tickets were purchased. The event was enjoyed by all that attended.

## **Valencia High School**

- The Girls' Varsity Basketball Team went an unprecedented 10 – 0 in Empire League competition. This is the first time in school history that the Girls' Basketball Team has won back-to-back league championships. They advanced to the second round of the CIF Playoffs. Congratulations to Coach Dick Katz and his girls!
- Valencia's Girls' Water Polo Team advanced to the second round of the CIF Playoffs losing to the eventual CIF Champion from Sonora. Valencia's Ani Marganian, a junior, was named the Empire League's Outstanding Offensive Player.
- Valencia's Boys' Basketball Team also participated in the CIF Playoffs.
- Brianna Broady has been selected as one of the state finalists for California's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Homecoming Queen Pageant. This non-profit organization, America's Homecoming Queen, Inc. promotes education, leadership, community service and educational travel in all fifty states. Brianna is the complete package of intelligence, athleticism and beauty from the inside out. She has a total weighted GPA of 3.41 while taking Honors and Advanced Placement classes and is a candidate for the prestigious Valencia Technology diploma in June. She is also a 4-year starter on the Varsity Swim Team. If she is selected she will receive an educational scholarship and go onto nationals.
- Fred Jenkins, Valencia's I.B. Coordinator, and Joey Davis, Assistant Principal of Curriculum, are currently enrolling students for IB and AP Exams to be administered in early May. It is estimated that Valencia will administer approximately 1500 IB and AP exams in 16 IB and 23 AP courses. In 1998, Valencia had only 12 AP courses and administered only 229 exams.

## **Various Schools**

- Chapman University's Ninth Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest Awards Ceremony was held on March 7, 2008. The contest is supported by a grant from the Samuelli Foundation and a gift from Yossie and Dana Hollander. This year's theme was "Saving Memories: History as Witness to the Future." Each school is invited to submit the work of three students, a total of three entries, consisting of either prose, poetry, works of art or a combination thereof. Kraemer Middle School, Tuffree Middle School and Valencia High Schools are regular participants in this event. This year El Camino and Esperanza participated also. Kraemer Middle School's participating students were: Darren Shim, Rachel Leiken, Gita Bhattacharya and teacher; Cathy LaBare. Tuffree Middle School's students were: Emma Liem, Stephanie Suarez and Marlee Fleckenstein. Emma Liem was a finalist in the Prose category, teacher was Rosanna Brichta. Valencia High School students participating were: Joe Queriapa, Karin Emmanuel Zaldana, Pedro Yuque. Joe Queriapa was a finalist in the Art category, teacher was Dana Popa. El Camino Real High School's student participant was Melissa Adams and teacher, Marlene Hollar. Esperanza High School's participating students were: Stephanie Greenberg, Christie Alvord, Karli Ogren and teacher, Frank Perez. Congratulations to all students and teachers! A suggestion was made to expand this program to all schools in the district.

## **4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Smith thanked the representative from Mabel Paine Elementary for mentioning the support of district office staff during their recent tragedy. For SCAC members'

information, the District has an intervention team and two crisis counselors in place at all times. This team is immediately mobilized whenever there is a crisis within the district. During this particular event, the team met early that Monday morning with the teaching staff at Mabel Paine. The team went over with the staff how to handle events that may arise with their students that day. Counseling is also made available for students in need. A community meeting was held that evening with district staff, the police department and counselors. The Crisis Team helped family members with funeral arrangements and immediate concerns. Rosemary Gladden worked with the press. The family's relatives expressed their appreciation to the district for the all the support that was provided.

## **5. BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

Dr. Smith gave an update regarding layoffs and how they are taking a toll on school districts across the state. Dr. Smith then addressed a concern regarding the arts program in our schools. Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified is one of the few districts that had the elementary program we have the past few years. A suggestion that donations be accepted for the arts program was shared. Dixie Shaw, a guest at today's meeting, mentioned that Fullerton School District has a foundation for the arts to protect that program for their students. Over the years they have donated one million dollars. Dixie said she would like to see PYLUSD establish a similar foundation.

Since the School Board is taking action Tuesday night, Dr. Smith wanted the SCAC members to know the latest financial situation currently facing the district. Dr. Smith then provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Governor's Budget. School Board members and Dr. Smith have been meeting with legislators to impress upon them the importance of funding for education. In the meantime, however, the district must present a report to the county showing the district's ability to remain solvent. That report will go to the School Board Tuesday evening. In order to accomplish this budget report, the district must proceed with the necessary cuts that will have the least impact on our students. District staff deserves credit for all the time and effort they put into this budget report. Discussion followed on the complexities of managing the district's budget under our state's system. Dr. Smith reminded SCAC members that writing legislatures is one way of voicing concern regarding the funding for public schools. There is information available on the district's web site. Rosemary Gladden also distributed the names of the legislators that may be contacted.

## **6. MEASURE A**

Mike Bailey was pleased to be able to present a "good news" report after the previous budget presentation. Mike congratulated everyone on their hard work to ensure the passage of Measure A. Besides the Measure A projects, Valadez Middle School is opening this September. Yorba Linda High School is also on schedule to open in the fall of 2009. Mike invited everyone to take a drive down Bastanchury towards Fairmont Blvd. to see the high school buildings now under construction. There are 152 projects mapped out for completion over the next two to three years that are funded by Measure A. Tynes Elementary, Woodsboro Elementary and Tuffree Middle Schools will be modernized this summer. Other summer projects include the Yorba Linda Middle School science building, a new playing field at Bradford stadium in addition to new lighting, and Wagner Elementary School's library reconfiguration. A team of architects has already been selected to begin the design work on 141 additional projects for

construction next year. We are very grateful for your work and support for Measure A and plan to make you proud!

## **7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

In response to a question regarding the artificial turf for Bradford stadium, Mike Bailey explained that the new synthetic turf is much better than the original artificial turf that was first on the market. Also, in addition to Bradford stadium, the fields at Esperanza High School and El Dorado High School will be renovated.

In response to a question regarding refurbishment of the stadium stands, Mike Bailey said Measure A would allow us to complete upgrades on Bradford stadium. Measure A also allowed us to reinstate the stadium at Yorba Linda High School.

In response to a question regarding the timelines for establishing Yorba Linda High School's boundaries, Doug Domene explained that a demographic meeting has just been held and data from that meeting is now being processed. A committee will be assembled in late spring and will then begin the process of establishing boundaries in the fall. The boundary design is expected to be presented to the School Board in January 2009. The entire district will be assessed during the realignment process and all high schools will be affected. Because school boundaries are such an important project with many factors to consider, the School Board has criteria in place for the committee to follow.

Doug Domene informed SCAC members that we are now accepting application for the Measure A Bond Oversight committee. Ads are in the local newspapers and information is on our web site. The application deadline is March 28<sup>th</sup>.