

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, January 22, 2007, 11:00 a.m.
Board Room

Minutes

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto welcomed SCAC members and hoped they had a great holiday.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Valencia High School is proud to report that they have two students who have earned commendations from Congressman Ed Royce and will be seeking acceptance into the United States Naval Academy at West Point. This is the second time Valencia has had two students from the same graduating class receiving commendations from West Point; this has only occurred three times in Orange County history! The student body honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King last week by celebrating Yellow Ribbon Week. The school also looks forward to the opening next year of their new facility which will house the art program and make possible the addition of two new AP art courses: AP Photo and 2-D Art.

Morse Elementary School is excited to report that they had 295 entries submitted for the Reflections fine arts competition—the most in the school's history. This was made possible by art workshops sponsored by the PTA during lunch. These workshops were so successful that the PTA will be sponsoring another art workshop in the spring.

Travis Ranch Middle School will be holding its annual "Penny Wars" this next week with proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House. Grade levels 6, 7, and 8 compete against each other to collect the most "copper" (i.e., pennies) in respective five-gallon water bottles. A good deal of strategy is involved in this competition since the value of any silver coins contributed results in an equivalent deduction in the penny count. Students have been known to contribute silver to competing grade bottles to cancel out penny contributions! Travis students look forward to this competition every year, and it's a great way for "kids to give back to kids!"

3. DECEMBER 11, 2006, MEETING MINUTES

In response to discussion relative to the December 11, 2006, SCAC minutes, Doug Domene, Director of Executive Services, will follow up on a request for information relative to the process for implementing an ROTC program in the district.

4. UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Dennis Smith shared that the Board of Education recognized the outstanding accomplishments of our district's CIF championship teams at the January 16th Board meeting: Valencia High School Women's Tennis, Valencia High School Women's Volleyball, and El Dorado High School Football. He added that the football team invited two of the district's bus drivers to accompany them to the Board meeting because they have provided such wonderful support for the team; it isn't just classroom teachers that support our kids, it's across the board!

With regard to Yorba Linda High School, the Superintendent indicated the district anticipated closing escrow on the purchase of the property in the near future and that we are pursuing all of the mandated State approvals. Release of the project to bid has been delayed approximately six weeks due to an additional requirement from the Division of the State Architect relative to the grading design for the site. In addition negotiations with the Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) have been difficult. The district had anticipated that the cost for annexation into the water district would be approximately \$400,000; however, the water district has indicated a fee of over \$2 million and, to date, has refused to consider a study relative to estimated water usage provided by the school district's consultant or conservation measures included in the plans for the high school which the water district had originally requested the district include as an opportunity for mitigating the high fees.

Subsequent to the January 22 SCAC meeting, PYLUSD staff members have met several times with representatives of the Yorba Linda Water District and significant headway has been made in the thinking of the water board and their willingness to work with the school district on a variety of factors relative to annexation. These factors include: conservation credits, payment of the fees over time, and cost of capital improvements for the water district.

As a result of the above described delays, the district is evaluating the opening date of the high school which is currently scheduled for September 2008. Benefits and risks associated with an accelerated construction schedule are also being weighed. Possible risks include an increase of approximately 30 percent in the overall cost of the project. In addition, an accelerated schedule would place an enormous burden on the surrounding community with lengthened construction days and the addition of weekend work. The district must also take into consideration the potentially negative impact on the educational program associated with a 2008 opening.

The Board of Education will be deliberating on this issue later this spring.

In response to a question regarding the possibility of a negative fiscal impact associated with delaying the opening of the high school, Dr. Olson indicated the district would not be postponing the construction of the school, just the opening. The district will be moving ahead with construction as soon as final State approvals and negotiations with the YLWD are complete; this should result in minimal impact to anticipated construction costs. There would, however, be increased costs associated with implementing an accelerated construction schedule in order to open the school in fall 2008.

Dr. Smith announced that the PYLUSD Annual Education Forum is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, from 6-8 p.m. at the Yorba Linda City Council Chambers, 4845 Casa Loma Avenue, Yorba Linda. The Board President, Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendents will be speaking and attendees will be provided opportunity to ask questions of the panel. Flyers regarding the event were distributed to SCAC members, and SCAC members were encouraged to attend.

5. ONLINE GRADING AND ATTENDANCE PREVIEW

Doug Domene, Director of Executive Services, indicated it is anticipated that Aeries, the online attendance and gradebook program, will be available to parents and students beginning second semester at El Dorado and Esperanza High Schools. Valencia High School will continue to use the EdLine online grading system for the remainder of the year and then transition to the Aeries online gradebook in the fall of 2007. Nori Murphy, the district's Coordinator of Technology

Training, presented a demonstration of the Aeries parent interface. Students at schools implementing the Aeries program are assigned a code number which is provided to the parent. SCAC members were given opportunity to dialog with Ms. Murphy regarding any questions and concerns they may have regarding this program. Ms. Murphy will follow up on an inquiry regarding the posting of accumulated community service hours in the Aeries program.

6. FIRST RESPONDERS' TRAINING

Doug Domene indicated that, in recent months, staffs at school sites have expressed a desire to be better equipped in responding to emergency situations. As a result, a committee comprised of nurses, teachers, and school site administrators was brought together to develop a plan that would identify and then train "First Responders" to emergency situations. Individuals identified for this training include teachers, counselors, administrators, secretaries, campus supervisors, and custodians. On Friday, January 26, 2007, the district will provide CPR/first aid and EpiPen training for 120 staff members. Additional training sessions are scheduled later in the year to ensure that all designated first responders at each school site in the district have been trained. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Domene indicated that in the event of an earthquake students are kept on campus and that procedures are in place at each site for these kinds of eventualities. While school districts are not required to have emergency supplies on hand, PYLUSD school sites typically provide for such provisions through PTA fundraisers and/or use of discretionary block grant funding.

7. NEW STATE MONIES

Doug Domene shared that the State has provided some additional funding to public school districts in the form of block grants for use in the areas of Art, Music, Physical Education, Instructional Materials/Library and Educational Technology. A discretionary block grant is also available, and individual school site councils provide input on how these funds will be used. The level of funding for the block grants is based on respective school site student attendance. Detailed information relative to this funding is available from site principals.

8. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Valencia High School. In response to a question relative to maintenance of the Valencia High School site, Dr. Smith indicated funding is provided in two categories: capital improvement (fencing, concrete, etc.) and landscaping. He added that efforts were made in recent years to keep budget cuts away from the classroom. These included reductions in allocations for landscaping; however, additional funding has recently been allocated in this area and projects have been prioritized across the district for use of those funds. The district is also working with custodians to focus more attention to campus grounds. Dr. Olson added that school sites have discretion on use of allocated funds, and it is often a matter of competing priorities when school sites make recommendations to the district's Maintenance and Operations Department on how to use those funds.

Bradford Stadium. In response to a concern relative to the condition of the field at Bradford Stadium due to the high level of usage by athletic teams and bands and the suggestion that the district consider installation of artificial turf, Dr. Smith indicated that resodding the field cost approximately \$100,000. Prior to resodding, the district had investigated artificial turf; however, the cost was prohibitive (approximately \$1.5 million). It is anticipated that limited usage of the field during coming summer months will allow the grass to be well-established by the fall. The district will postpone making any further decisions relative to upgrading Bradford Stadium pending the results of the construction bids for the new high school and stadium. In response to suggestions

relative to donations from PYLUSD graduates who are now professional athletes and/or local groups who use the field, Dr. Smith indicated the district would welcome such funding.

Mabel Paine. Dr. Smith will follow up on an inquiry relative to the removal of the wall between the nursery and the playfield at Mabel Paine Elementary School. He added that the district is entering into mediation with the City of Yorba Linda and the land developer regarding flooding issues.

Follow-up Response: Mike Bailey, Director of Facilities and Planning, indicated district staff has met with consulting engineers on the status of flood control improvements recently installed by the City of Yorba Linda above the Mabel Paine campus. Also included in that discussion was a review of "upstream" improvements that were to be made by ongoing residential development. It appears that all improvements have been installed in accordance with the design standards established by the City. These same school district consultants are now undertaking a final analysis of the constructed improvements and will make a recommendation relative either to the need for a permanent flood deterrent on the Mabel Paine site or removal of the temporary wall and reinstatement of the field area. It is anticipated the current conditions will remain in place through the end of the official rain season which extends through the end of April. Contingent upon the final report from our consultants, it is our hope that removal of the temporary wall can begin at that time.

Flex Holiday. In response to an inquiry, Dr. Smith indicated the recommendation of the school year calendar committee was to move the Lincoln Holiday to the day before Thanksgiving and maintain our traditional beginning and ending dates. However, a final decision relative to the use of a flex holiday for the 2007-2008 school year is pending negotiations with district bargaining units and Board of Education approval. A suggestion was made to consider starting and ending the school year later and incorporating more days off during the year.

9. NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 12, 2007
District Board Room
11 a.m.