

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, March 16, 2009

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Mrs. Bonnie Castrey called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for spending the time at SCAC at this busy time of year. Mrs. Castrey reported seeing Marie Otto recently and had asked her how long this committee has been meeting. Mrs. Otto thought it had been 22 or 23 years and expressed how important it is for community involvement at the district level and the district having a resource to deliver information to the community. Mrs. Otto also sent greetings to SCAC members. Mrs. Castrey reported she had been approached by members of the community wishing to address the SCAC and this will be accommodated after the regular meeting agenda items.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

- **Esperanza High School** hosted a jazz festival this past Saturday. Many positive comments by visitors were overheard by Esperanza's staff and parents! SCSBOA Concert on March 24 is for jazz musicians and is by invitation only.

Esperanza High School's Varsity Song leaders competed in Orlando, Florida at the NDA National Championships. The squad took first place in both the Jazz and Team performance divisions. They also won the Grand Champions for having the highest two combined scores of the competition.

Everyone is invited to attend the Town Hall meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the gym and hear the State of the School Address regarding all the magnet programs and other great things happening at Esperanza.

An update on Steve Marshall's condition was provided. Steve is recovering from a bicycle accident and is doing well but will have a long rehabilitation process. The music director, Bincins Garcia, is stepping in to help out during Steve's absence.

- **Fairmont Elementary** was happy to share the results of their RTI Walk to Read program; the first grade benchmark had been 24 but averaged 48.8 words per minute, second grade's benchmark was 44 and the average words per minute was 84, third grade benchmark was 92 but averaged 132, fourth grade saw one student increase from 85 to 105 words and another from 80 to 119, in fifth grade a student increased from 72 to 115, another student from 83 to 126, sixth grade also saw a student increase from 106 to 120 and another increase from 108 to 122.

Fairmont is also participating in the Battle of the Books program with the Yorba Linda Public Library.

Also, Fairmont welcomed back Lisa Mitchell, office clerk, from a leave. Lisa has been part of the Fairmont family for nearly twenty years and the staff and school community are happy to have her back!

- **Golden Elementary** – As part of a PTA fundraiser to help a kindergarten student diagnosed with leukemia, a goal of raising \$3,600 was set. Principal, Tamie

Beeusaert, added that if this goal was met she would kiss a pig. The fundraiser ended up raising over \$7,000. Principal Beeusaert lived up to her promise to kiss that pig. The event made a certain little boy feel very special and a pig feel loved!

Also during the Dr. Seuss day festivities, the principal personally read a book to each grade level and the PTA sponsored cake and punch for the students. A fun morale booster for all!

- **Kraemer Middle School's** GATE program was visited by the California Association for the Gifted (CAG) and their "MathCounts" won first place (four students won out of 16 teams). They will participate in the state competition at UCI in two weeks.

Kraemer's Dance Team won first place in every division during the Glendora competition.

The Science Olympiad team won second place in the county competition and will attend the state finals in two weeks at Cal State Long Beach.

- **Linda Vista Elementary** reported they had two employees honored; Cindy Gjersvold, Classified Employee of the Year (School Secretary) and Connie Polivka, Teacher of the Year (Special Day Class Teacher). Dr. Smith was at the school to make the presentation and help celebrate.

- **Rio Vista Elementary** will hold its second annual jog-a-thon, sponsored by Disney and the Ducks, on April 9th. Last year's event raised nearly \$30,000

On April 4th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the city of Anaheim will be celebrating the community/city cooperation that allowed a beautification project and lights to be added to the park.

- **Valadez Middle School Academy** held their Dedication Ceremony on December 10, 2008. Senor Gualberto J. Valadez's family, the Mayor of Placentia and City Council members in addition to the Chief of Police and Dr. Smith along with PYLUSD School Board members were present for the ceremony.

December 15, VMSA held its first concert night. A large audience was present to enjoy the music provided by sixth and seventh grade students.

VMSA held its first student/faculty football game in December. The faculty was victorious. Students and faculty faced off again at a hockey game at Disney Ice. A large crowd enjoyed the game and once again the faculty held on to win.

An award program to increase grade-point averages has been initiated. The business community is providing gift cards and prizes as incentives.

A thank you was expressed to Brookhaven Elementary for donating books to the VMSA library.

A parent's Round Table night has been established. Parents will meet once a month and provide community feedback to the school. VMSA also hosted a parent night featuring presenter, Dr. Perez, who discussed adolescent development. On March 31, VMSA and the AVID class of 2010 are hosting a University Pathway Family Night.

On April 4th VMSA and the PTA will host the “Valadez Founding Families and Community Tile Wall. This is an opportunity to create a historical tile to commemorate the founding year of VMSA.

- **Woodsboro Elementary** was happy to report on all the press coverage they have been receiving lately! The PTA provided an assembly titled “Aquarium on Wheels” which is associated with the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific and in addition to the assembly a sea life “touch pool” was enjoyed by the students. Also, the school’s six performances of the play “Alice in Wonderland” were enjoyed by the two casts and community. A write up was also in the papers regarding the Family Night Book Signing on May 14 featuring children’s illustrator, Robin Preiss Glasser.

Woodsboro sponsored a fundraiser and fellowship event at Ameci’s Pizza in Yorba Linda in conjunction with Girl Scout Brownie Troop 1239’s sponsored bake sale to raise money for the “Timarree Rocks CHOC” program that provides rock painting kits to the children’s playrooms at CHOC.

“Dad and Donuts” sponsored by the PTA and the literacy program was a huge success. An anticipated attendance of 80 swelled to 300!

A “Walk Through Revolution” program for fifth grade students was held in February and was also sponsored by the PTA.

- SCAC guest, Lenore Bruckner, reported on Chapman University’s 10th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest. Following is a list of schools, teachers and students from our district that participated in the contest this year: El Camino Real High School, teacher: Marlene Hollar, student: Ester Fiszgop; Kraemer Middle School, teacher: Cathy LaBare, students: Yian Cho, Leslie Ha and Tiffany Zhu; Travis Ranch School, teacher: Cynthia Riley, students: Makenna Morris (middle school essay finalist), Eylan Torres, Austin Wagenknecht; Tuffree Middle School, teacher: Rosanne Brichta, students: Matthew Hallman, Sarah McKinnell (middle school poetry finalist) and Eric Stoermer; Valencia High School, teacher: Dana Leon, students: Adolfo Larios, Cesar Mendez and Andres Miranda. ~~Winners included El Camino’s Ester Fiszgop, Kraemer Middle School students Yian Cho, Leslie Ha and Tiffany Zhu, Travis Ranch students Makenna Morris, Eylan Torres and Austin Wagenknecht, Tuffree Middle School students Matthew Hallman, Sarah McKinnell and Eric Stoermer, Valencia High School students Adolfo Larios, Cesar Mendez and Andres Miranda.~~ Mrs. Bruckner encouraged SCAC members to take a look at Chapman University’s website for the many fine programs that are offered there.

3. MEETING MINUTES

Correct minutes to reflect the scheduled February 9, 2009, meeting date had been canceled. Also a clarification to January’s minutes to reflect that the 8th annual conference on Dyslexia and Other Learning Differences featuring Dr. Louisa Moats is being offered to educators and professions only, not parents. If a parent has registered the fee will be refunded.

4. SUPERINTENDENTS UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BUDGET UPDATE

Dr. Smith will combine his announcements and the budget update. The budget was finally approved and Dr. Smith presented a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the

district's budget projections. Discussion followed as Dr. Smith went through the various presentation slides.

In response to a question of a rumor circulating about the closing of Rose Drive Elementary School, Dr. Smith said that this has not been considered. In response to a question regarding balancing classes at Yorba Linda High School, Dr. Smith explained the school would be staffed according to the district's staffing formula. In response to a question regarding the number of pink slips the district issued, Dr. Smith indicated 91 were issued, however, that number includes probation teachers (30).

In response to a question regarding classified staff notification, Dr. Smith said that classified has not been notified since their timeline is different. In response to a question regarding revenue enhancements, Dr. Smith said stimulus money includes Title 1 funds and additional special education funding. Also the district is considering leasing sections of the ESC annex and warehouse which would generate additional revenue. In response to a question regarding an educational foundation, Dr. Smith said the foundation we had in previous years struggled due to the lack of "big business" in our area.

5. FACILITY UPDATE

Mr. Mike Bailey showed a PowerPoint presentation which provided information on various projects under construction, projects that are planned for the summer and others that are in the design stage. Discussion followed on the stages of completion at Yorba Linda High School. In answer to a question regarding the decision on which construction projects took priority, Mr. Bailey explained that a few projects had been designed and bid prior to the passage of Measure A. When funds from Measure A became available those projects were ready to go. In response to a question regarding smart classroom installation, Mr. Bailey explained the district is attempting to coordinate the installation with teacher training.

6. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- Budget suggestion forms were distributed to provide a forum for SCAC members to submit budget-saving ideas. The form will also be available on the website for the community. Mr. Domene added that every suggestion staff receives is considered and evaluated.
- Dixie Shaw, SCAC guest, wished to remind the council about free programs offered by the Philharmonic Society. In response to a question regarding how many of the K-6 Art Docent kits that were supported by Sharon McHolland are still being used in the district, staff said they would have to inquire and report back.

Staff reported the art docent program is available through the ESC. Schools have trained parents to come and check out the materials and provide lessons by grade levels at various elementary schools in the district. Schools that are not using the Art Docent program are using Meet the Masters as part of the visual arts curriculum.

Also, the Placentia Library will have a brochure that accompanies arts prints that will be displayed each month. A foundation in San Diego is offering 20 \$12,000 dollar grants for anyone 55 and older to submit proposals that will benefit the underserved in the community. Deadline is March 31st.

- A request was made for guidelines regarding the distribution of flyers through the schools especially in regards to nonprofit groups and fundraisers.

Doug Domene checked with staff and it was clarified that the long-standing practice of the district is not to approve flyers from non-profit organizations that advertise for fundraisers and solicit funds from students.

- Clarification was requested regarding the criteria a school uses to determine when information is sent home in English and Spanish rather than just English.

Doug Domene checked with Jeanie Cash, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, regarding this question. Mrs. Cash indicated that we have checked with the State Department of Education and they indicated that anything sent home to a school whose parent population exceeds 15% or more of a given language, the communication must be in that language.

- A concern was expressed from an Esperanza incoming freshman's parent regarding not receiving notification of the 8th grade parent night. The question was asked if it was because they had applied for a Choice transfer.

A call to Esperanza High School indicated the invitation had been sent to the family. Since it still had not been received, a second invitation was sent.

A question was asked why Choice transfer parents had not received information regarding Yorba Linda High School's "Meet and Greet" Administrators meetings. Dr. Smith answered that a letter would not be sent to a Choice transfer parent until that transfer had been approved.

In answer to why Yorba Linda High School would not hold their parent information meetings after the Choice transfers have been approved, Dr. Smith answered that schools coordinate with their feeder schools on school events. Parent meetings and school functions do not coordinate with Choice transfer timelines. Once all transfers are approved, an additional information meeting will be held according Principal Dave Flynn.

A suggestion was made to have 30% of Bryant Ranch's students attend Esperanza High School to free up transfer accommodations or hold a lottery that would provide one third of the students from each middle school to attend Yorba Linda High School.

- In response to a question regarding Choice transfer numbers, Doug Domene reported that staff is currently in the process of gathering transfer data.
- A guest at SCAC read a letter regarding their opinion on the School Board's new high school boundaries decision.

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 20, 2009
District Board Room
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.