

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, April 16, 2007, 11:00 a.m.
Board Room

Minutes

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto welcomed SCAC members.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Valencia High School reports that Senior Katerina Yale was recently named *Orange County Register's* Athlete of the Week. Katerina participates in softball and volleyball and was part of the All-Empire League softball team for the past two years and was also a member of this year's CIF championship volleyball team while maintaining a 4.6 GPA in the school's IB program. Senior Chelsea Maltas has qualified for final auditions for the Orange County Performing Arts Center "2007 Tomorrow's Stars at the Center" event. Students selected will perform on May 8 in the Samueli Theater. Students at the school also competed in the High School Theatre Festival at Fullerton College, Dance Solos Competition at Esperanza High School, Science Olympiad competition, and several members of the Girls' Varsity Water Polo team were named to All CIF Teams. The VHS Tiger Regiment (band and color guard) recently returned from Florida where they performed at the Epcot Center. Congratulations to all!

Esperanza High School's 2007 Valedictorian is Hooman Hefzi who will have completed 300 credits in addition to 242 community service hours all while maintaining an unweighted 4.0 GPA by the end of the year. Hooman is one of four National Merit Scholars at EHS and scored a perfect 2400 on the SAT exam. The school's Dance Team earned their 50th national title when they were named Grand Champions at the Contest of Champions National Competition in Orlando, Florida. In addition, 73 students were recently inducted into the National Honor Society in recognition of their strong academics, leadership, community service, and character. The school also boasts one of the district's three Teachers of the Year: Nadine Elwood. Among other accolades, Ms. Elwood played a key role in the recent WASC accreditation process. The WASC visiting committee stated that Esperanza is a model site for educational best practices.

Tynes Elementary School is happy to report that they earned the state Title I Academic Achievement Award which will be presented at the California Title I Conference later this month.

Information regarding A Is for Autism, F Is for Friend, a book authored by Joanna Velasco, special education aide in the PYLUSD, was shared. This book was written to help children understand autism and to encourage them to make friends with autistic children. April is Autism Awareness month in the United States. It was also suggested that the district may want to consider having students, particularly at the high school level, read a book about autism (or other relevant subjects) over the summer for discussion when they return to school in the fall.

3. March 12, 2007, MEETING MINUTES

There were no corrections to the March 12, 2007, SCAC meeting minutes.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Smith introduced Jeremy Yamaguchi, El Dorado High School senior, who is job shadowing the Superintendent and is attending his second SCAC meeting as part of this process.

Dr. Smith announced that the district had a wonderful groundbreaking ceremony for the new Yorba Linda High School on Wednesday, April 4th. It was an absolutely beautiful day with the largest turnout the Superintendent has ever seen at a groundbreaking ceremony. Attendees included former Yorba Linda school board members, our current Board of Education, the Yorba Linda City Council, representatives from the Placentia City Council, and community members. Students from all three of the district's comprehensive high schools performed, and a number of students from Mabel Paine Elementary School, representing future YLHS graduating classes through the year 2019, were also present. The program included remarks by a representative of the Yorba family and Alan Cummins, Vice President of Shapell Industries, who shared some thoughts regarding the late Nathan Shapell. Mr. Shapell's generous contributions were instrumental in making the new high school a reality. Our own Sylvia Derby represented the district PTA and also spoke briefly at the ceremony.

Dr. Craig Olson shared that the process to select a superintendent to replace Dr. Smith, who will be leaving at the end of the school year, has begun. The Board has interviewed and hired an executive search firm to assist in this process. The search firm will have input sessions with principals, teachers, classified staff, employee bargaining unit representatives, the SCAC, and the community later this month to learn more about the district and hear the characteristics we feel are important in a superintendent. While it is an aggressive timeframe, the Board hopes to have selected a new superintendent by July 1.

In response to an inquiry, the Superintendent indicated the district will be providing a monitoring report on progress in reaching Board-established goals this year. A few years ago, the Board established a two-year cycle for these reports: year one – an extensive report; year two – priority action goals review. The 2006-2007 school year is a mid-cycle year. Dr. Olson added that the Board goals for the 2007-2008 school year will be established when the new superintendent comes on board.

5. STUDENT INTERVENTION UPDATE

Jeanie Cash, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, provided a brief overview of the district's 2006-2007 priority action goals: English language learners, early intervention, algebra, writing, technology, career technical education, alternative pathways. She added that the district's 2007-2008 priority action goals include RtI (Response to Intervention), English language learners, Professional Learning Communities, algebra, writing, career technical education, social science/science adoptions, expanding alternative educational opportunities, and data. Mrs. Cash's presentation focused primarily on two intervention programs: English learner program and RtI (Response to Intervention). Schools piloting the proposed tiered intervention model she briefly described will include all of the district's middle schools and the following elementary schools: Fairmont, Travis, Melrose, Glenview, Morse, Topaz, Mabel Paine, and Sierra Vista. SCAC members were provided opportunity to dialogue with Mrs. Cash, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Olson regarding their questions and concerns relative to eighth-grade algebra and the state-established standards, staff development opportunities, as well as the referenced intervention models. In

response to inquiries, Dr. Olson indicated the State Board of Education sets the mandated standards and among those is the requirement for eighth-grade algebra. Dr. Smith added that, as a result of the mandated standards, teachers know what standards they are to teach to and district-adopted textbooks include those standards. Teachers have limited flexibility during the school day; meeting the standards, of necessity, consumes what is taught in the classroom. In addition, the mandated expectations for students in public education are greater than they have ever been. As a result, the focus on providing intervention for students performing below grade level in Grades K, 1, 2, and 3 is absolutely critical.

6. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mike Bailey, Director of Facilities and Planning, indicated construction for Valadez Middle School is right on target, with an opening anticipated for the fall of 2008. Escrow for the property for the Yorba Linda High School has closed, and construction bids are now being analyzed. Information relative to these bids and the construction schedule will be provided for the Board's consideration in the next few weeks with a subsequent decision regarding a target date for the school's opening (either the fall of 2008 or 2009). The locker room/fine arts facility for Valencia High School students is complete and in use. And, finally, the district is nearing completion of a district-wide needs assessment. The Board will review this information in the near future to make a decision regarding a future general obligation bond measure.

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Forum Theater. In response to an inquiry, Doug Domene, Director of Executive Services, indicated the district will be assuming full responsibility for running the Forum beginning in September 2007 and that the facility will be available for use until December 2007. The final determination regarding availability of that facility subsequent to that time has not been made. School sites will be notified as soon as a final decision has been made regarding use of the Forum after December 2007 (during YLHS construction). The district's priority is to keep the facility open as long as possible. It was suggested that the district consider dedicating the Forum or another facility on the campus of the new high school in honor of Nathan Shapell.

George Key Overhang. In response to an inquiry, Mike Bailey indicated the George Key overhang project has been scheduled for this coming summer.

8. NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 14, 2007
District Board Room
11 a.m.

Our May meeting will include an end-of-the-year potluck. SCAC members are asked to bring their favorite dish to share. Paper goods and drinks will be provided.