

**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Superintendent's Community Advisory Council**  
**Monday, September 25, 2006, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Board Room**

Minutes

**1. WELCOME**

Dr. Marie Otto, SCAC facilitator, welcomed SCAC members and offered opportunity for self introductions. She then encouraged regular attendance at monthly meetings and stated that SCAC members make a significant contribution in sharing their perspective on what is happening at respective school sites and across the district. The district places a very high priority on hearing and responding to parent concerns and suggestions. Dr. Otto directed members' attention to the "Good News" report form and indicated meetings provide a great opportunity to share news from their respective sites. Completed "Good News" forms are provided to Rosemary Gladden, the district's Public Information Officer, for possible publicity opportunities.

**2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

Mabel Paine Elementary School welcomes new principal Dorie Staack this year. In addition, they are pleased to have received a grant from the Mind Institute and are excited to start the program.

Golden Elementary School is pleased to offer the Young Rembrandts after school program to their students. In addition, the school's PTA will be painting a mural on the front wall of the school in honor of their California Distinguished School recognition.

Valencia is proud to announce that all 28 seniors in its first diploma class for the International Baccalaureate program fulfilled all of the requirements this last June. Students graduating with an IB diploma generally enter the University of California system as sophomores. New this year, Valencia is offering the BITA (Building Industrial Trade Association) program as part of the offerings in vocational education. The program will take four years to fully implement. Valencia is also excited to report that they have a new principal, Jim Bell. Former principal Bill Cline is now Director of Personnel Services.

Esperanza High School's back-to-school night was a rousing success with over 1,900 parents attending. Coupling that with the 145 band members who showed up at 4:45 in the morning to volunteer their time and talents to the CHOC half marathon gives you an idea of the caliber of the school's parents and students.

Travis Ranch School is happy to report that their lower playground has been finished. In addition, the school is in the second year of implementation for the Professional Learning Community. They also have a new Assistant Principal—Tamie Beeuwsaert. The school is also boasting a new paint job and a new roof! Travis's SCAC representative shared how pleased she is with the Aeries program, the curriculum the school offers, teachers, instrumental music, and the administrative staff. Keep up the good work, Travis!

Bernardo Yorba Middle School is pleased to share that they are celebrating the opening of their new Boys' and Girls' Club. The club will offer services to students Monday through Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. Parents wishing to have their student participate pay a \$10 registration fee and \$5 a day. The club offers supervised homework help, laptop computers, and supervised outdoor activities. Everyone is welcome!

Melrose Elementary School reported that, while math scores took a slight dip, their language arts scores are up. The school is confident that scores will increase in both areas this year and is working on a grant to offer afterschool programs and tutoring to students.

El Dorado High School students are excited to have a refurbished swimming pool. The pool was available for student use the first day of school and looks absolutely wonderful!

Fairmont Elementary School is cheering the arrival of their classroom furniture!

### **3. MEETING MINUTES**

Dr. Smith directed members' attention to the copy of corrected minutes from the May 15, 2006 meeting that had been provided. He added that future SCAC agendas will include an item regarding meeting minutes to provide opportunity for discussion, if needed.

### **4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Superintendent indicated how pleased he is that SCAC members volunteer their time to participate in the group and that the district highly values each member's representation of not only their respective school sites but the community as well. Dr. Craig Olson, member of the Board of Education, added that the SCAC began in 1988 and has been an integral part of the district since that time.

Dr. Smith then referenced the listed sampling of issues from the past six years and commended members for their valuable contributions. He added that hearing from SCAC members is critical; their impact makes a difference! We want to be a better district and to do that we must hear from our parents and our teachers, as well. The Superintendent also meets with teacher representatives (Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council) once a month in much the same format as the SCAC.

With regard to summer projects, the Superintendent indicated that, while there were no major modernization projects in the district, staff was busily engaged in a number of smaller projects which included refurbishing the El Dorado High School pool (a \$500,000 project). A recently discovered leak at the Esperanza High School swimming pool will also require a similar amount to repair.

On another note, the district continues to explore a variety of avenues for providing support to at-risk students. This year the district has added five new counselors as a result of new State funding. In addition, a new Opportunity Class (OC) has been established for seventh- and eighth-grade students who are at risk of failing and/or dropping out of school and/or who may have been placed at ACCESS (a county program). The class is located at the site of the new Yorba Linda High School and provides a top-notch teacher and counseling support. The focus of the program will be to provide these at-risk students the support they need to get back on track academically and socially and return to their regular school of attendance.

Dr. Smith added that Parkview School, the district's home schooling program, has been expanded to include ninth and tenth graders. In addition, the district is applying to have both Parkview and La Entrada schools WASC accredited.

Dr. Olson stated that the district anticipates housing alternative education offerings on the West Campus of Esperanza High School when Yorba Linda High School opens. This would include Parkview School, La Entrada (the district's independent study program), Adult Education, and Opportunity Classes, as well as the district's Teen Mom program (which is already located on West Campus). The Superintendent added that, eventually, the alternative programs could include as many as 300 students on that campus.

With regard to the \$2.9 billion Proposition 98 settlement funding which is owed to public education, the Governor signed special legislation mandating that the money be paid over a seven-year period to qualifying decile 1, 2, and 3 schools. The funding is to be used to lower class size. Unfortunately, distribution of the money is limited to qualifying schools who apply rather than to qualifying students in the state. While the PYLUSD has decile 1, 2, and 3 students at each school, only one school in the district meets the mandated qualifications. Orange County school districts will be receiving less than other counties in the state; some districts in Orange County will receive nothing. Since the funding must be reauthorized each year, it is hoped that the funding will be redesignated to decile 1, 2, and 3 students.

On the local front, Valadez Middle School is anticipated to open in the fall of 2008 and will relieve overcrowding at Kraemer Middle School. The Superintendent also shared El Dorado High School's excitement over being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School. El Dorado was one of only seven high schools in Orange County to receive this prestigious recognition. With regard to the new Boys' and Girls' Club at Bernardo Yorba Middle School, the Superintendent indicated the district provides the facilities at no charge and the club provides all other equipment and staffing. It is a wonderful synergistic relationship. A Boys' and Girls' Club is also available at Mabel Paine Elementary School for elementary-level students.

## **5. COUNSELORS**

Dr. Dennis Kreil, Director of Pupil Services, stated that the 2005-2006 counselor-to-student ratio at the high school level was approximately 1:500 and at the middle school level, 1:1100-1200, and added that the district had one K-12 crisis counselor (Tom Craik) during that time period. The high student-to-counselor ratios severely limited counselors' opportunities to provide intervention services to students.

This year, the welcome addition of new and ongoing State funding for counselors (\$67 per 7-12 ADA) has allowed the district to hire five additional counselors. To date, counseling staffing in the district has been increased at Yorba Linda Middle School, Tuffree Middle School, Kraemer Middle School (bilingual, bicultural counselor), Valencia High School (to focus primarily on ninth-grade transition), and El Dorado High School. The district has also added an additional crisis counselor (Barbara D'Arcy) to work with Tom Craik. Barbara will provide leadership in the areas of discipline and intervention (students at risk of failing and/or dropping out of school) and help with issues related to the CAHSEE. She will work closely with counselors at the school sites, address K-12 crisis situations, and assist with the Opportunity Classes where she will work individually with students and parents as well as teachers.

Dr. Kreil added that the State's target in providing this funding is to reduce counselor-to-student ratios to 1:300 at the high school level and 1:500 for middle schools. Decisions are still

pending regarding use of the remainder of state funding in this area for the PYLUSD. A counseling position is currently posted, and staff is evaluating student achievement data to determine the district's focus for the balance of anticipated counseling positions (there may be as many as four counselors yet to be hired). In response to an inquiry, Dr. Kreil indicated the legislation does not include counseling at the elementary school level.

In response to an inquiry, Dr. Kreil indicated district psychologists and counselors would be participating in a Search Institute workshop which will focus on enhancing their professional skills in the area of developmental assets of students and on how to establish more caring school environments. One of the priorities in the area of counseling is communicating with students and the community regarding the role of counselors and how to effect change with students. Dr. Smith suggested the possibility of including this information in the district's biannual newsletter to the community.

## **6. 2006-2008 BOARD GOALS AND AREAS OF EMPHASIS**

The Superintendent indicated that a copy of the 2006-2008 Board Goals which were established by the Board of Education as well as 2006-2007 Focus Goals were included with the meeting's agenda. These goals guide all of the decisions made in the district. With regard to the Vocational Education focus goal, each high school has been charged with the responsibility of developing a distinct career pathway for students who may not have college as a number one priority. These students will still take a comprehensive high school program.

## **7. PYLUSD AYP AND API RESULTS**

Ann O'Rourke, Director of Educational Services, provided a presentation and handout regarding the two mandated accountability systems: (1) the Academic Performance Index (API) which is California's accountability program (based on closing the gap between the school's API score and the target of 800 by 5% per year), and (2) the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) which is No Child Left Behind's accountability model (federal) based on meeting an established target (100 percent of our students will score "proficient" or "advanced" on the California Standards Tests or CAHSEE in English/language arts and math by 2014). Mrs. O'Rourke highlighted some of the concerns associated with meeting the established targets. These include subgroup requirements for each school site which impact the overall school standing (some schools have as many as 29 different subgroups) and the fact that the content of accountability tests differs from state to state. An independent group has determined that California's assessment in language arts and math is one of the most rigorous in the nation.

## **8. SCAC ROSTER AND REVISED MEETING SCHEDULE**

Doug Domene, Director of Executive Services, directed attention to the SCAC roster of members which was provided as well as the revised 2006-2007 meeting schedule. In particular, members were asked to note that the next SCAC meeting on Monday, October 23, will be held at the Educational Services Center, 4999 Casa Loma Avenue, in Yorba Linda.

## **9. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

- **Busing to Kraemer GATE Program.** In response to an inquiry regarding the possibility of providing busing to students living in Yorba Linda who participate in the Kraemer GATE magnet program, Dr. Smith shared that the district does not provide transportation to magnet programs (GATE, ValTech, and International Baccalaureate) due to budget

constraints. The district's transportation costs are \$2 million more than the funding provided by the state. The Superintendent will talk with the Director of Transportation to determine if there are any options available to these students. Dr. Olson added that while there are many good things the district could do, priorities must be thoughtfully established because choosing to do one thing would likely affect another.

- **Status of Esperanza High School Swimming Pool.** The EHS swimming pool has a significant leak which must be repaired prior to student use. The repair process includes identification of the source of leak, a bid process to select the contractor to do the work, Board approval of the contract, and the time required to complete the repair. It is anticipated the pool will be ready for student use by February 1, 2007, barring any unforeseen delays (i.e., weather, etc.). In the meantime, students are being transported to other district school sites for swim practices.
- **Print Shop Fees.** In response to an inquiry, Dr. Smith shared that the Print Shop had recently adjusted fees for printing in an effort to run a "cost neutral" operation. A tiered fee schedule was established based on "in-house" jobs, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations. He added that staff has taken another look at the newly-set fees charged to PTA, PTSA, and PYLUSD booster groups and has determined that a flat-fee schedule will be established for the schools and these closely-affiliated, non-profit groups.
- **School Site Restroom Repairs/Supplies.** In response to an inquiry regarding repairs to restroom stall doors and supplies, Mr. Domene indicated the school sites must submit work orders for any needed repairs and choices regarding paper supplies are at the discretion of the site principal.
- **Aeries Update.** In response to a request, an update on Aeries will be provided at the next SCAC meeting.
- **Melrose Parking Lot.** In response to an inquiry, the Superintendent indicated the State has issued the needed clearance on the soil in the parking lot area and that the district anticipates work on the parking lot will be completed by the end of winter break.
- **Playground Drinking Fountain.** An inquiry was made regarding the possibility of installing a drinking fountain on the playground for the PE class at Melrose Elementary School. Dr. Smith indicated the district's Maintenance and Operations Department makes determinations regarding those kinds of issues and that the school site principal should contact Jerry Thompson, Director of Maintenance and Operations, regarding that request.
- **Additional Office Staff.** In inquiry was made regarding the possibility of providing an additional office clerk for Melrose Elementary School. Dr. Smith indicated the district has established formulas to determine staffing for school sites based on size and type of school. Since Melrose is a Title 1 school, they have resources that many other schools in the district do not have. The school makes decisions regarding the allocation of those funds.
- **Status of Air Conditioning Issue at George Key School.** A request was made for an update on the status of addressing the AC problems in a wing of classrooms at George Key School.

*In speaking with Jerry Thompson, Director of Maintenance and Operations, he explained that in order to remedy this issue, several ceiling tiles from each classroom were removed and replaced with louvers to allow more warm air to leave these rooms. Through these efforts room temperatures have been registering between 69 and 73 degrees.*

- **Status of Air Conditioning Issue at Mabel Paine Elementary School.** A request was made for an update on the status of addressing the AC problems in classrooms at Mabel Paine Elementary School.

*In speaking with Jerry Thompson, he indicated that two 15-ton compressors which supply all the air conditioning to these rooms stopped working within a week of each other. These were custom-built compressors that must be rebuilt. It is anticipated that the compressors will be up and running in a week.*

- **Valencia High School Parking Problem.** A concern was expressed regarding the lack of adequate parking for staff, students, and parents at Valencia High School. Contributing factors in this situation include the relocatables placed on an existing parking lot and implementation of permit-only parking in the vicinity of the school by the city of Placentia. There now appears to be increased pressure from local residents to expand restricted parking. Dr. Smith, Dr. Olson, and Doug Domene will continue to follow up with the City on this concern.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

Monday, October 23, 2006  
Educational Services Center  
4999 Casa Loma  
Yorba Linda