

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, October 23, 2006, 11:00 a.m.
Board Room

Minutes

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto welcomed SCAC members and indicated that the Superintendent had an unavoidable conflict and would not be in attendance at the meeting; however, Doug Domene would be providing the Superintendent's update and announcements.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

El Dorado High School Principal Karen Wilkins, Assistant Principal John Bellows and teachers Jodeen Stark, Michael DuPont, Connie Grosse, and Bill Wright will travel to Washington, D.C., on November 8-10 for the National Blue Ribbon School recognition ceremony. The school was also excited to reclaim the "bell" as a result of their victory over Valencia High School in this year's annual Bell Game. In addition the EDHS Band and Colorguard continue their well-deserved reputation as one of the top entertainment units in Southern California with the band being named Grand Champion and the auxiliary unit placing first at both the Etiwanda High School Field Tournament and the Irvine Invitational Field Tournament. The percussion unit was named sweepstakes winner at the Irvine event. The EDHS band consists of 127 winds, 28 percussion, and 35 colorguard members.

Sierra Vista Elementary School has partnered with the YMCA for their Fitness Counts program, an after school fitness program to fight childhood obesity. The YMCA donated \$6,000 worth of equipment and curriculum to use with the program.

Esperanza High School recently hosted a very successful student/teacher dodge-ball tournament to benefit the Pilar Seguire Memorial Scholarship fund as well as the school's theater arts program. A grand time was had by all!

Bernardo Yorba Middle School is proud to report that their marching band recently participated in the Norwalk 25th Annual Halloween Parade and earned first-place recognition, outperforming five high schools.

Golden Elementary School has implemented Teacher Ease, a student progress report system similar to EdLine and Aeries. The program is available for teacher use in Grades 3-6 on a volunteer basis and allows parents to view grades and student progress online. Teacher Ease has been funded by the PTA and may include Grades K-2 in the future.

The Valencia High School Tigers held their 73rd Homecoming Dance—Midnight Masquerade—at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim on Saturday, October 14. On the athletic front, the school's varsity, JV, and frosh/soph boys' cross country teams placed first at the Empire League Challenge. Of schools with 40 percent of their enrollment taking the California Standards Test (CST) in chemistry, VHS chemistry students are ranked second in the county. Seventy-five percent of the school's chemistry students taking the test scored proficient or advanced, a remarkable achievement! VHS is also proud to report that junior Eric Cook was selected to represent

California at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Conference in Washington, D.C., last June. In speaking of the experience, Eric stated, "It reminded me that, as a leader, I must be a positive role model to others and to actively use what I have learned to make a difference at my school and beyond." And finally, with regard to the school's band and colorguard, the band and percussion placed second and the auxiliary unit earned sweepstakes at the Rowland High School Field Tournament. In addition, the school hosted over 20 high schools at its annual Valencia Field Classic on October 14.

3. MEETING MINUTES

There was no discussion and/or corrections relative to the September 25, 2006 meeting minutes which had been mailed to members.

4. UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Domene, Director of Executive Services, reported that the District's Annual Band Pageant is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, at 7 p.m. This year's theme is Patriotic Spectacular and showcases all of the district's middle and high school instrumental music programs. In addition, the district's annual Winter Festival featuring the high school choirs and the combined El Dorado and Valencia High School orchestras is scheduled for November 30 and December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Valencia High School Auditorium. SCAC members were encouraged to attend these wonderful events with their children who may be considering participating in the district's music programs.

The district's middle and high school bands will be participating in the Yorba Linda Fiesta Days Parade on Saturday, October 28. The parade is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and is a great event for families.

With regard to repair and renovation of the Esperanza High School pool, Mr. Domene indicated the bid package will be presented for Board consideration on October 24. Pending Board approval, it is anticipated that the project will take a year to complete. Mr. Domene commended the Superintendent and Board for their foresight in setting aside funds for emergency contingencies.

Mr. Domene also applauded the district's various sports programs for their athletic prowess and added that it is amazing how many of the district's teams are ranked in the top ten in the county. Information relative to the high school team standings in the county is available in the Tuesday edition of the *Orange County Register* in the Sports Section.

SCAC members were encouraged to read the wonderful article in the November issue of the *Orange Coast Magazine* on the new Yorba Linda High School. Dr. Craig Olson was also recently featured in an article in the Placentia News Times.

5. AERIES UPDATE

Bob Blackney, Director of Technology, reported that Aeries, the district's new student information system which was implemented last school year, is in place at elementary, middle, and high schools across the district. He added that grades are available online at all of our middle schools, and we anticipate that grades will be available online at district high schools by the semester break. We do not anticipate making online grades available at the elementary level. Valencia

High School is currently using EdLine and has established a committee to investigate the possibility of transitioning to Aeries next year.

6. CONFERENCE/LECTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Information was shared relative to the various programs available to parents and teachers through Prentice School. The 2007 Annual Conference on Learning Disabilities and Abilities which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, and Strategies to Foster Motivation and Resilience in Individuals with Learning Difficulties (for educators and professionals) on Thursday, March 15, 2007. Individuals wishing detailed information on these or other events provided through Prentice School are encouraged to visit their website at www.prentice.org.

Also of note is the Fall 2006 Holocaust Lecture Series sponsored by Chapman University. Detailed information relative to lecture topics is attached to the minutes. On November 7, Dr. Robert Krell will be speaking on "Life Journeys: Child Survivors of the Holocaust." Additional information is also available at www.chapman.edu.

7. TRANSPORTATION OF GATE STUDENTS

Steve Umber, Director of Transportation, shared that sharply escalating costs for transportation in recent years made it necessary for the district to clearly define the parameters for qualifying students to ride on district buses. The district makes no exceptions to the established policy. Students in east Yorba Linda who participate in the GATE magnet program at Kraemer Middle School do not meet the established criteria. However, the district would be willing to look into the feasibility of transporting these students on a cost-neutral basis if there was enough parental interest to do so. A more viable option may be to look into non-district transportation services that are available. Mr. Umber would be happy to provide parents a list of private agencies that transport students. Dr. Olson added that the Board's focus is to minimize the impact on classrooms in funding decisions. If funding is increased for one program, monies must be taken from somewhere else.

8. VALADEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL/YORBA LINDA HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES

Mike Bailey, Director of Facilities and Planning, indicated that the Valadez Middle School construction process is well under way. The primary focus at this time is on demolition of the greenhouse and warehouse buildings that are currently on the property. The district is undertaking this project on a multiple-prime basis, serving as its own general contractor. It is anticipated that all trade packages will be Board approved by mid-November and all vendors and contractors will be under contract shortly thereafter. To date, it appears that the project will be on budget (\$45 million which includes land, construction, administrative and management costs) and on schedule. The school is scheduled to open to Grades 6 and 7 in the fall of 2008 and expand to Grades 6, 7, and 8, the following year. Attendance boundaries for the new school have been established and affected families have been notified.

With regard to the adjacent Melrose Elementary School playground, it is anticipated that field lighting should be in place in the next couple of months and that the playground will be operational at that time, as well.

The plans for the Yorba Linda High School are currently under review by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) with approval anticipated no later than January 2007. As soon as the school's plans are approved, the district will go to bid. For those interested, the Environmental Impact

Report (EIR) for the school is posted on the district's website (www.pylusd.org). The high school is scheduled to open to Grades 9 and 10 in the fall of 2008; Grades 9, 10, and 11 in 2009-2010; and Grades 9-12 in 2010-2011. With regard to availability of funding for the high school, Mr. Bailey indicated that, if costs for construction hold firm over the next six months, the anticipated budget should be adequate. If costs escalate, some of the ancillary aspects of the school may need to be reconsidered (for example, the magnitude of the football stadium).

Mr. Domene indicated that the process for establishing attendance boundaries for the new high school will begin in the spring of 2007 with community forums anticipated for the fall of 2007. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Bailey shared that the district makes a concerted effort to provide the realty board updated information relative to PYLUSD school site attendance boundaries; however, sometimes, despite our best efforts, some individuals do not get the word. Dr. Olson added that the boundary changes for the Yorba Linda High School will affect all district high schools.

9. VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM AND FINE ARTS BUILDING

Mr. Bailey indicated construction was delayed for about three weeks when a waterline and flood control system were discovered during preparations to pour the foundations for the building; about 400 feet of the pipe had to be relined. The slab for the new building was poured last week. Completion of construction is anticipated for March 2007 barring weather delays.

10. CITY PARKING RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

Dr. Craig Olson shared that he, Dennis Smith, and Doug Domene had met with the Placentia City Manager and head of the Traffic Commission regarding the City Council's recent approval of a permit parking policy. The City apologized for not notifying the school district regarding their deliberations and approval of the parking guidelines. The district's concerns include the limitations on parking for Valencia High School students, staff, visiting parents, special events, staff development activities, and the general public. The City Manager indicated accommodations can be made for special circumstances upon notification 30 days in advance from the school's principal (temporary covers can be placed over the posted signs). The district is concerned that neighborhoods surrounding other Placentia schools will also pursue permit parking which will result in parking difficulties for city residents wishing to park on city streets when they visit district schools.

SCAC member Mary Weddle and other parents also met with the Placentia City Manager regarding this concern. She shared that the permit guidelines stipulate that 67% of residents in the area pursuing permit parking must agree and that the City completes a follow-up study to see if the request is warranted. She also shared the various options brought forward in their discussion with Mr. Dominguez.

Dr. Olson shared that the City of Yorba Linda has stipulated that there will be no on-street parking around Yorba Linda High School. The plans for the high school provide for extensive on-site parking as well as plans for contingency parking for special events. Our existing high schools were not designed to include large parking lots and constructing larger lots would have significant financial ramifications.

It was suggested that boundary considerations for the new high school include maintaining walking distance to the school of attendance for as many students as possible.

11. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Technology Needs. In response to an inquiry regarding the possibility of providing 80 new computers for Van Buren Elementary School, Mr. Domene indicated technology is one of the biggest concerns in the district right now. He added that State funding for discretionary school site block grants will be available beginning in December or January. It will be up to school site councils to determine the use of those funds which could include the purchase of computers. The State will also be providing block grants in the following areas: Arts/Music, Art/Music/PE, and Instructional Materials/Technology. School sites will be provided specific information regarding the funding they will be receiving and stipulations for use of the money very soon. Mr. Domene will provide more detailed information regarding these new block grants at a future SCAC meeting.

With regard to the additional technology support that will be needed to set up new computers, Mr. Domene indicated the district is currently evaluating how best to address that concern. The district currently has a full tech support team. At the beginning of the year they were inundated with work orders (800) and have made great progress in addressing those requests. One of the district's primary focuses is how best to get computers into the hands of students and staff and then be sure staff is trained on how to use the new technology. Dr. Olson added that the district cannot hire tech support staff based on one-time monies—the funding needs to be ongoing.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Domene indicated the district has established district standards for the purchase of computers as well as for any computers that are donated. There are occasions where exceptions are made to those standards; however, it is important that school sites with concerns relative to technology, established standards, and/or possible exceptions should contact Bob Blackney, Director of Technology.

12. NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 13, 2006
District Board Room
11 a.m.