

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, November 13, 2006, 11:00 a.m.
Board Room

Minutes

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto welcomed SCAC members and thanked them for their faithful attendance.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Valencia High School is proud to report that a number of their sports teams have experienced remarkable success this year: the girls' tennis team is ranked third in CIF going into Empire League finals, the girls' volleyball and boys' water polo teams garnered Empire League championships, and the varsity football team qualified for CIF playoffs. Students at the school are to be commended for their exceptional achievement on the Advanced Placement exams with 4 students earning recognition as National AP Scholars, 49 students qualifying as AP Scholars with Distinction, 33 qualifying as AP Scholars with Honor, and 57 students qualifying for the AP Scholar Award.

Students at Sierra Vista Elementary School are participating in a "virtual walk across America." Students at the school were provided pedometers by the YMCA and distances they walk/run each day are tracked, logged in, and totaled. The virtual route they will be traveling is approximately 3,500 miles long, begins in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and ends in Placentia. Teachers will share information about points of interest along the way (e.g., Yellowstone, the Oregon Trail, etc.).

Travis Ranch School's annual Turkey Trot (jogathon) was a great success. Other school activities include their school play which was held this year at The Forum and Connect the Dots, a diversity education opportunity for students. School staff and students are also to be commended for the recent successful implementation of their emergency lockdown procedures. Parents were gratified to see that the plan the school had in place was clearly communicated to staff and students and that it worked very well.

Bryant Ranch Elementary School's students held a Penny Drive during Red Ribbon Week and raised \$2,801.58 for Orangewood Children's Foundation. The students also collected 1,390 pounds of food for the Orange County Rescue Mission.

Woodsboro Elementary School recently held auditions for the Wizard of Oz which is scheduled for presentation in February 2007. It is anticipated that 75 students will participate in this production. Students at the school also participated in a coin drive to raise funds to donate to one of the school's students who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Yorba Linda Middle School's PTSA held a 3K Family Fun Run on Saturday, November 4. The day included two races and entertainment, along with food and craft vendors. Over one third of the student body participated as well as a majority of the school's teachers and staff. The event generated over \$19,000 in revenue and fostered a great deal of enthusiasm and school spirit and will likely become an annual event.

Lakeview Elementary School's fifth-graders had the privilege of viewing an NBC production chronicling the life of Dr. Sammy Lee, Olympic Gold Medalist, who, despite overwhelming odds, achieved tremendous success in life. Dr. Lee, now 86, spoke to the students regarding perseverance and the importance of having a "can do" attitude. Following his presentation, students were excited to have the opportunity to dialog with Dr. Lee. On another note, the students at the school are participating in "Once Upon a Million Pages" which is promoted by the school's reading program, library, and PTA to encourage a love for reading. The student body works together to read one million pages. As an incentive, for every 250,000 pages read, the faculty presents a play. The most recent presentation was the hilarious *Spiderella*. Future plays will include *Slurping Beauty* for 500,000 pages read; *Little Late Riding Hood* for 750,000; and the much anticipated *The Bremontown Rappers* starring Principal Helen Kinsey as Donkey MC for one million pages read!

3. MEETING MINUTES

There was no discussion and/or corrections relative to the October 23, 2006 meeting minutes which had been mailed to members.

4. UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Dennis Smith shared that he recently attended a conference for the Suburban School Superintendents organization which is comprised of 100 school superintendents from some of the highest performing school districts in the United States (25 from each of four regions). This year's future-based theme—As Far as the Mind Can See—focused on job skills, attitudes, and attributes students will need to be successful in the future. Conference attendees spent an entire day at the Microsoft National Headquarters and were provided a sneak preview of technology that will likely be available in 18 to 24 months. It was particularly gratifying to hear Microsoft new-hires who are fresh out of college (the top 2 percent in the nation) state that they believed the education they received prepared them very well for the workplace. Among conference presenters were a molecular biologist who suggested science textbooks should be consolidated and provide only broad concepts (detailed information can be accessed electronically), and a futurist who indicated that only 30 percent of today's jobs require a post-secondary degree and this is not anticipated to change over the next decade. As a result, it will be important for schools to provide students a range of skills to augment a comprehensive high school education.

The PYLUSD Board of Education has set a goal of offering a variety of opportunities for students along with a comprehensive high school education. Those opportunities include technology-related skills through ValTech and the newly-established BITA program (construction trades). In addition, the district may be partnering with ROP to offer students training in the biomedical field.

With regard to an inquiry regarding the percent of students entering college who actually earn a degree, Doug Domene indicated he would report back to the SCAC with any statistic he could find. *After reviewing numerous websites, Mr. Domene was able to find the attached information which provides the percent of students nationally that graduate in four, five and six years from all four year institutions. We do not track this data for students who have attended PYLUSD high schools.*

The Superintendent indicated El Dorado High School's principal and staff representatives recently returned from Washington, D.C., where they received the National Blue Ribbon School award. The school will also be recognized at our Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

We received news today that Señor Gualberto Valadez, for whom the new Valadez Middle School will be named, passed away on Sunday. The groundbreaking for Valadez Middle School is scheduled for December 6, 2006.

Dr. Smith shared that the district has had two reported instances of problems with adults/intruders interacting with students in recent weeks. One instance involved a Brookhaven student who was approached by an adult male off campus on the way home from school. Fortunately, the student followed recommended safety procedures and fled the scene. To date the suspect has not been apprehended. The Travis Ranch incident, which resulted in a school lockdown, is still under investigation by the Brea Police Department. According to the police, there is no connection between these two incidents.

With regard to parental notifications, both schools issued a PACE message to their parent communities with follow-up letters. Detailed information relative to the Brookhaven suspect was also provided. In addition, all K-8 principals were provided information regarding these incidents in the event they had questions from their community and all elementary and middle schools also received a safety tip information sheet in English and Spanish to provide to their students. The school district will continue to work in collaboration with local police departments relative to these incidents and will remain vigilant in efforts to provide safe school campuses for our students and staffs.

SCAC members were provided opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns relative to notifications provided parents regarding such incidents. Dr. Smith indicated the district collaborates with local law enforcement agencies in determining what information should be released and added that the district spends a lot of time determining not only what information should be released but how far to release it. The information is always provided to principals district-wide so they can answer any questions their respective parent communities may have.

With regard to the district's efforts relative to campus security, Dr. Smith shared that the district embarked several weeks ago on a safety audit of all of school campuses. The audit includes fencing, lighting, vandalism, as well as access to campuses. He added that each school has established an excellent safety plan in the event of an emergency (e.g., intruder on campus/lockdown, earthquake/duck and cover, fire/exit the buildings) and that those plans will undergo review by an outside consultant. The Superintendent anticipates receiving recommendations in the next few weeks regarding the outcome of these reviews.

5. SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Bill Cline, Director of Personnel Services, shared that a committee comprised of district staff and parents has been established to consider possible alternatives to our traditional school year calendar with a focus on addressing the loss of ADA in the days immediately preceding major fall and winter holidays. Nancy Phillipi, SCAC representative from Woodsboro Elementary School, Rose Mergelmeyer, SCAC representative from Travis Ranch School, and former SCAC member Steve Emmrich, participate on the committee.

Nancy Phillipi provided a handout reflecting the district's recent years' losses in ADA for days preceding fall and winter holidays and related information. She then provided a brief overview of the Calendar Committee's deliberations to date. One of the options being considered is the addition of two flex days for use, as appropriate, when unusual spikes in student absenteeism are anticipated in days prior to holidays. SCAC members brought forward several suggestions for

consideration by the Calendar Committee and discussed the possible pros and cons of these suggestions. Suggestions included: maintain Presidents' Day holiday in February and make the current Lincoln's Day holiday a flex day (highly supported by SCAC members); schedule the first student day prior to Labor Day (suggestions ranged from mid-August to the Thursday and Friday before Labor Day); extend the school year by one day (i.e., last day for students would be on Friday; last day for teachers, the following Monday). Dr. Craig Olson added that it would be important to determine how any change might affect families who have children participating in sports and band camps prior to the beginning of school and the resulting impact on family vacation times. It was also stressed that notice should be provided to families well in advance of any alterations to the calendar, should any changes be made.

Rose Mergelmeyer indicated the handout would be sent to PTA presidents districtwide to seek input from their respective parent communities. SCAC members were also encouraged to share the handout with and seek input from their children and other parents. Nancy Phillipi would appreciate receiving any additional input at phillipi@sbcglobal.net (please indicate "Calendar" on subject line).

6. PARKING ACTIONS

Doug Domene, Director of Executive Services, shared that plans are underway to initiate student permit-only parking in the Kraemer Middle School parking lot east of the school's athletic fields on Angelina Drive. Permit-only parking signs will be posted beginning December 4 and citations for unauthorized parking will be issued beginning on January 8, 2007.

Dr. Smith commended Mary Weddle and other parents for their efforts in meeting with officials of the City of Placentia with regard to the parking difficulties encountered by students, staff, and community members visiting Valencia High School. Their assistance made a big difference.

7. FACILITIES UPDATE

Dr. Smith shared that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Valadez Middle School has been approved and that the opening of the school is anticipated for the fall of 2008. He then provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the status of the women's locker room facility at Valencia High School which is scheduled for completion in February or March 2007, the newly-completed parking lot at Melrose Elementary School, the progress that has been made in clearing and grading the site for the Valadez Middle School, and the future site of the Yorba Linda High School. He added that the EIR comments for the Yorba Linda High School have been received and will be discussed at the November 14 Board meeting. Responses to comments must be submitted prior to Board approval. Once the EIR has been certified, the project will go to bid.

In response to a question, Dr. Smith indicated that the Yorba Linda High School will open to ninth and tenth graders and will, consequently, have no varsity sports teams initially; however, the school will offer a full co-curricular program (ex., sports and instrumental music).

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Accreditation for La Entrada and Parkview School. In response to an inquiry, Dr. Smith indicated the district is pursuing accreditation for La Entrada High School (independent study) and Parkview School. Although Parkview School is currently K-10, accreditation would be desirable as the school expands to K-12. Students currently attending La Entrada High School can pursue post-secondary education through community colleges and many four-year institutions; however,

securing accreditation for the school would be a real plus as the district expands its offerings to students who wish to participate in an independent study program.

Wellness Program. In response to an inquiry, staff will provide a presentation regarding the district's wellness program at a future SCAC meeting.

Earthquake Provisions. An inquiry was made regarding the district's ability to provide supplementary emergency supplies to school sites in the event of an earthquake. In speaking with Rick Davis, the district's coordinator of emergency response, the district supplies human resources but does not keep emergency supplies for individual schools. Acquiring these supplies is an ongoing responsibility of the school site.

Water in Vending Machines at Elementary Schools. With regard to the procedure for securing a vending machine to dispense water at elementary schools, Mr. Domene spoke with Henrietta De'Ora, Director of Food Services. She indicated that any elementary school wishing to have a vending machine placed on their campus should contact Food Services.

8. NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 11, 2006
District Board Room
11 a.m.

As is our tradition, the **Annual SCAC Holiday Potluck** will be held at our December meeting. Ham, turkey, vegetable lasagna, drinks and paper goods will be provided. SCAC members are asked to bring their favorite side dish or dessert.