

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

Minutes

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto welcomed SCAC members to the Annual Holiday Potluck Meeting.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Valencia High School continues to garner athletic awards: CIF Championships include the Girls' Tennis Team and the Girls' Volleyball Team. The Boys' Cross Country Team is ranked second in Orange County and seventh in the state. In addition, the Varsity Football Team competed in the Southern Division CIF finals. The school's Tiger Regiment won First Place in the Savanna High School Band Competition with the Color Guard earning Sweepstakes; the Regiment also earned a Silver Medal at the SCSBOA Championships.

Golden Elementary School is hosting a toy drive in partnership with the Orange County Fire Department and will be holding a family night sock hop.

El Dorado High School is proud to report that their Varsity Football Team won the Southwest Division CIF Championship – the first in the school's history.

Rotarians recently hosted a holiday luncheon for George Key students. Students sang holiday songs and were treated with a visit from Santa and gifts.

3. UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Dennis Smith shared that the district celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for Valadez Middle School on December 6th. The event was very special and included members of the Valadez family, a number of former students of Señor Gualberto Valadez (who call themselves the Septuagenarian Tigers), and musical numbers by Valencia High School's choir and second graders from Melrose Elementary School. The Superintendent remarked on the significance of naming a school in honor of a teacher and the impact our teachers have on the lives of their students. (Señor Valadez taught in the PYLUSD for 44 years.) The middle school will be located adjacent to Melrose Elementary School and is anticipated to open in the fall of 2008. Rosemary Gladden added that pictures of the groundbreaking event are available on the district's website.

The Superintendent congratulated El Dorado High School on their football team's CIF Championship against Charter Oaks High School. He added that the EDHS Entertainment Unit performed at half time and provided such a spectacular performance that they received a standing ovation from both sides of the stadium. This is a testament to the district's commitment to the performing arts.

With regard to preparations for construction of Yorba Linda High School, Dr. Smith indicated the Board of Education would be acting on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the school on

Tuesday, December 12, 2006. This will move the district a step closer to going to bid on the project in January or February 2007. While the district is targeting a fall 2008 opening for the school, a final assessment on an opening date will be made once we receive the remaining approvals from the State and the water district; the construction schedule will be very tight.

The Superintendent shared that the district has been working with the Yorba Linda Water District for a number of months and that, despite some frustrating delays, it is anticipated we will reach agreement in time to begin construction. Dr. Olson added that the two issues under discussion are cost and lack of responsiveness on the part of the water district. The water district is requiring the district to pay for consultants to complete the water district's review of the YLHS EIR and for attorneys to represent the water district with regard to the agreement with the water district.

4. DISTRICT WELLNESS POLICY

Jim Moore, Director of Educational Services, shared that in 2004 the federal government mandated that every school district that participates in a federal lunch program must establish a wellness policy. In addition, participating school districts must make a commitment to educate students regarding nutrition (making healthy food choices), provide a nice place for students to eat, and provide time for student physical activity. As part of the monitoring process, middle school and ninth-grade students take a physical exam. He was pleased to report that PYLUSD students score above the County averages.

In response to a question relative to food at classroom celebrations at school sites, Mr. Moore indicated bringing sweets (such as cupcakes) is fine as long as an alternative healthy snack is also provided (ex., fruit and/or veggies). With regard to PTA fundraisers, Henri De'Ora, Director of Food Services, has provided a list of vendors and acceptable foods (SB 12 compliant) to each school site. Mr. Moore added that respective school sites set the policy regarding serving home-baked food items at classroom events. In addition, Education Code allows four variances a year with regard to use of vendors on campus for fundraising events.

5. SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Bill Cline, Director of Personnel Services, thanked SCAC members for their input at the last SCAC meeting regarding possible adjustments to the school year calendar and the concern relative to the dramatic increase in lost ADA on days immediately preceding major winter holidays in recent years. The Calendar Committee, comprised of parents and classified, certificated, and management staff, continues to meet and has established clear guidelines when considering any adjustments to the district's school year calendar. These include: address loss of ADA on days preceding holidays, safeguard the quality of instructional time on those days, and provide options that fall within the constraints of the district's current calendar configuration. The committee will meet again this week to reach agreement on a final recommendation. Under consideration is redistribution of the Lincoln birthday holiday to the day immediately preceding our current Thanksgiving holiday. Any change to the calendar would be piloted during the 2007-2008 school year to determine its effectiveness. Doug Domene added that the concept of using this holiday as a flex holiday was brought forward at the November SCAC meeting. SCAC members agreed that communication with parents regarding any adjustment to the calendar would be critical. Dr. Smith shared that input from the SCAC on issues of importance to the district continues to be invaluable.

6. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Dr. Smith indicated the Board has identified as a high priority working with at-risk students who have failed and are at risk of dropping out of school, being retained, or who have been placed in a County school (particularly in Grades 8, 9, and 10). The district is focusing on bringing those students back into the PYLUSD school system and helping them experience success. Jim Moore, Director of Education, added that the district believes these students are best served and best educated right here in the PYLUSD.

Libby Moore is the principal of La Entrada/Opportunity Class (OC) and has a passion for working with at-risk students. The newly-established OC for eighth-graders is a four-hour/day self-contained program that addresses academic and social-emotional needs of the participating students. The program includes standards-based curriculum in math, language arts, science, and social science; tutoring and remediation; character education; and transportation on a sliding fee scale. In addition, group and individual counseling as well as parent counseling are provided.

The district's next focus is to take a look at providing a program for at-risk students moving into high school. This program will include ROP offerings. In addition, the district is considering placing an Independent Study satellite class at each comprehensive high school one day a week to instruct students who are best served by this type of program. This program will be introduced at Valencia High School second semester. The district's goal is to meet the needs of every student no matter what the need is.

SCAC discussion included inquiries on providing intervention for elementary students. Dr. Smith indicated the RTI (Response to Intervention) program has been implemented for Grades K, 1, and 2 districtwide and focuses on providing students the help they need to be at or above grade level by the third grade. Candy Plahy, director of Curriculum and Development, will attend the next SCAC meeting to share information relative to the RTI program and discuss the district's implementation plan.

Dr. Craig Olson shared that it is exciting that the district is looking at alternatives for our students. He added that the Chancellor of the California State University recently indicated the university has prioritized reaching out to middle and high school students to encourage them to attend college and has made a commitment to admit any student who meets the minimum requirements for admission to the CSU system.

Doug Domene indicated that the district's SERVE (Social Emotional Recreational Vocational Education) program is in place at most of our middle schools and is highly successful. He added that he and the Superintendent had recently met with student leadership at El Camino Real High School. Those students shared that they could not survive on a regular, comprehensive high school campus. Approximately 80 percent of students at El Camino want to remain there through the twelfth grade.

With regard to retention, Dr. Smith shared that there are occasions when the district recommends student retention (typically as related to maturity issues). In addition, if students have not mastered the State standards by the end of third grade, retention is mandatory. Retention is an option at any grade level. That being said, the district's focus is to identify at-risk students' needs and provide them a program and the support they need to be successful.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Moore indicated the district is considering expanding curricular offerings to include more career/vocational/technology classes on all of our comprehensive high school campuses for those students who do not plan to attend college. This would be

accomplished in partnership with the North Orange County Regional Occupational Program. Dr. Smith added that the district is trying to establish these new programs on a cost-neutral basis; if the decision is made to direct resources to a new area, funding must be taken from somewhere else.

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Aeries. In response to an inquiry, Jim Moore indicated it is anticipated Aeries will be implemented at the district's high schools by second semester.

Full-Day Kindergarten. In response to an inquiry, Dr. Smith indicated establishing full-day kindergarten would require a financial commitment from the district. State resources are based on the current funding formulas which do not provide for full-day kindergarten. There may be a limited number of full-day kindergarten classes in district schools which are funded by grants. In response to SCAC discussion, Mr. Domene spoke with Ann O'Rourke, Director of Categorical Programs. She indicated that no district schools have full-day kindergarten. However, Title 1 schools offer extended-day kindergarten for students using federal Title III monies. In some schools, students receiving the extended day program changes each quarter; in other schools, students alternate days of attendance throughout the year.

EdLine. In response to an inquiry regarding the timeliness of grade posting for parent/student access in EdLine, Jim Moore indicated the Aeries program, which is an online gradebook, will help resolve that program. Edline requires that teachers download grading information periodically from their gradebook; Aeries is an online gradebook, and grades would be available to students/parents immediately.

ASVAB Testing. In response to an inquiry relative to the use of the ASVAB test at El Dorado High School, Mr. Domene indicated the test is a vocational aptitude test and provides assistance to students in determining direction for their future. Mr. Moore added that the US military is one of the leading educational institutions in the country and that this resource is widely used to help provide vocational guidance for high school students.

ROTC Offerings. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Domene investigated the district's history in providing an ROTC program to its students. From the 1960's through early 1980, El Dorado High School offered Air Force ROTC, which was the only program in the district. This program ultimately ended as a result of declining enrollment. Currently, the program is not offered due to lack of interest.

Homework Policy. SCAC members wishing to obtain a copy of the district's homework policy were directed to contact Rosemary Gladden at 714-985-8402.

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 22, 2007
District Board Room
11 a.m.