

PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent's Community Advisory Council
Monday, October 22, 2007

1. WELCOME

Dr. Marie Otto, SCAC facilitator, welcomed and thanked SCAC members for braving the elements to be here today. The winds, smoke, downed power lines and trees made for a difficult commute and the extra effort to be here is very much appreciated.

2. GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Fairmont Elementary

- Students and faculty enjoyed a National Blue Ribbon Award ceremony at the school.

Esperanza High School

- College bound seniors who took the new SAT test scored 120 points higher than the national average.
- Nearly 2,000 parents attended the Back-To-School night and shared positive comments regarding Esperanza.
- Sue Semegran had twenty of her top students inducted into the International Thespian Society. This accomplishment involved over 100 hours of work in Theatre Arts and those students joined the ranks of such notable Thespian Alumni members as Dick Van Dyke, John Goodman, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Tom Hanks!
- The varsity football team continues their unbeaten streak with a win over Newport Harbor High last Friday evening. They are currently 7-0 for the year.
- Congratulations to Bella Staav, named as a piccolo player to an all Southern California Honor Band, who will perform in the Rose Parade.
- Esperanza's Entertainment Unit will perform at Disneyland leading the Main Street holiday parade there on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and on the following Sunday will perform in the Santa Claus Lane parade in Hollywood which will be telecast live on KTLA.
- Reminder that the district's band pageant is November 7 and that everyone really should see it!
- Career Day at EHS is scheduled on November 15.

Glenview Elementary

- Wireless internet access is completed so the school can now use the document program.

Morse Elementary

- PTA sponsored an Art Reflections contest with 100 applicants.

Valencia High School

- Cross County team is ranked second in the State in Division I and 2nd in Orange County.
- Girls tennis team is ranked 1st in our Division in CIF and 4th in Orange County.

- The International Baccalaureate Program has 115 freshman enrolled this semester. Last year 70% earned diplomas. VHS is preparing to invite next year's candidates and is hosting Academy Night for high ranking 8th graders from KMS on November 1. On December 12 Valencia will host the International Baccalaureate Night at the ESC for all 8th graders throughout the district and from private schools.
- Currently Valencia offers 23 Advanced Placement courses and will add three new ones next year.

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Smith also thanked everyone for braving the smoke and winds to be here today. Because of the strong Santa Ana winds, power outages were reported at Glenview, Rose Drive, Wagner, Woodsboro and Esperanza. Esperanza High School had a tree uprooted that knocked out a transformer. Parents were notified and school was closed for the day. The district has many people who immediately "kick" into action when an emergency arises. They work behind the scenes to make sure our school campuses are safe for students and staff.

Dr. Smith shared with SCAC members an informational newsletter that is being distributed to staff and also a newsletter and brochure that is being printed to send out to inform the community what the Bond would accomplish for our district. Discussion followed as to what SCAC members felt would be important information to share with the community. Rosemary Gladden added that information is available on the district web site and that posters will be at each school site listing individual school project lists. SCAC members are encouraged to share that information with the community. Yorba Linda High School and Valadez Middle School lists are also on the website and a link to those schools will be added. It was suggested that the name of a contact person be available on the website in the event someone would like to speak to district staff. SCAC members were encouraged to inform the district if they know of a group that would like district staff to provide information regarding the Bond.

4. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Candy Plahy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate to SCAC members how teachers access staff development in-services that are available from the district. Candy's program has been recognized as one of the top programs in the state in providing support curriculum and in-services for teachers. In response to a member's concern regarding parent information and support, Candy explained that the district does provide parent information and hopes to have that available on the website in the near future. It was asked if at a future meeting Tom Craik could talk to SCAC members regarding stresses facing students today. Marie Otto congratulated Candy on her successful program achievement.

5. AERIES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bob Blackney, Director of Technology, reported on the progress of the elementary electronic report card and the AERIES system. Last year a district committee recommended the district pilot the electronic report card program during this school year. If the pilot program is successful, it will be fully implemented during the 2008-2009 school year. This system will allow teachers to update report cards daily or when they

change their grade books. Parents will be able to monitor their student's progress as desired.

6. BACK-TO-SCHOOL FORMS

Bob Blackney is looking at automating the forms that are part of the back-to-school packet. Since this involves legal issues, Bob is checking with legal counsel to determine what the parameters are. If it is determined we can pursue an electronic process, we will pilot new registrations and if that is successful it would then be necessary to determine the best way to add existing registrations.

7. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- In response to a question regarding the Gates Foundation, Mr. Domene contacted counselors at our three comprehensive high schools. Counselors indicated that students are made aware of this scholarship but only a few qualify to apply. In past years Valencia has had students win this prestigious award. The counselors added that all students are provided scholarship books and counselors meet with students during their senior year to discuss scholarship opportunities. The results have been outstanding. This past year for instance, Esperanza Seniors earned 3.1 million dollars in scholarships. Valencia seniors received 69 different university scholarships. El Dorado seniors earned just over 2 million dollars in scholarships from community organizations and athletic or academic scholarships from universities.
- In response to a question regarding the change in the start time for Wagner Elementary, Doug Domene explained that it was necessary to coordinate with the transportation department the start of the instructional day of special education classes with all other classes to meet legal requirements.
- In response to a question regarding additional strategies that may be used to ensure parents enroll their children before the first day of school, Rosemary Gladden, Public Information Officer, explained that some schools do put banners up encouraging enrollment, enrollment information is put on marquees, ads are placed in local newspapers, articles are submitted in the PTA newsletters, and information is on the school and/or district web sites. .
- It was asked if Ann O'Rourke could attend the next meeting to discuss the district's Academic Performance Index.

Next meeting is November 19, 2007