

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCTOBER 14, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► Board Recognizes PUSD Schools

In September, Valley Elementary School hosted trainings in Instructional Rounds for administrator and teacher teams from the Vista Unified and Oceanside Unified School Districts. Personnel from the San Diego County Office of Education facilitated the day-long trainings which included visiting Valley classrooms to collect evidence of student engagement and students' use of academic vocabulary, and analyzing teachers' instructional strategies.

On October 10th, Black Mountain Middle School hosted a group of educators as part of AVID's District Director Leadership training series. Approximately 30 District Directors from across California had an opportunity to visit classrooms and speak with teachers, administrators and counselors about the school's successful implementation of AVID's 11 essentials. Black Mountain is an AVID National Demonstration School because it models the very best AVID methodologies and strategies both within the AVID elective classes and throughout the school.

► Board Receives Presentation on District Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Title I School Results

As part of the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, the District and Title I schools are required to meet specific academic targets. The Poway Unified School District and Title I School Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and Program Improvement (PI) status update were presented by Kimberlie Rens, Executive Director, LSS. Site action plans were presented by Andy Johnsen, Principal, Valley Elementary School, Tracy Liu, Principal, Midland Elementary School, Deanne McLaughlin, Principal, Los Peñasquitos Elementary School, and Luis Ortiz, Principal, Pomerado Elementary School. Each school provided a summary of their concerted efforts to continue to work with their communities to best assist their students toward academic achievement and growth.

Based on the 2013 targets for AYP, the District and four Title I schools are in Program Improvement. Poway Unified School District, as a whole, entered into Year 2 Program Improvement in 2013-14. Los Peñasquitos Elementary and Pomerado Elementary entered into Year 1 of Program Improvement while Midland Elementary and Valley Elementary progressed to year 2 and 3 respectively. When a District or school goes into PI specific actions are required: parent notification, school choice, supplemental educational services (SES), parent programs, and professional growth for the staff.

Schools are required to have 100% of students proficient in English Language Arts and Math for the 2013-14 school year. In California, the bar for students to score proficient is very high. The District feels the current model is "broken" and that schools should be held accountable for individual student growth, not for meeting targets. Board Members noted that PUSD is proud our students are showing growth and improvement.

► Board Receives Presentation on Financial Support for Extra and Co-Curricular School Programs

Foundations, boosters, volunteers, and community organizations are an integral system of support for District extracurricular and co-curricular programs. The support they provide in both financial and human resources allow our students and curricular programs to flourish.

The structures in which foundations, boosters, volunteers, and community organizations operate have been clearly defined by District practices. Policies and procedures are currently being updated. Staff is working with school leaders, ASB, foundations, boosters, and volunteers to make sure student participation is in alignment with the California Constitution, Education Code, and recent Court Case rulings.

As a result of an August, 2010 ACLU Audit, District and school staff meet annually with foundation/booster presidents. Detailed guidelines are provided on the District's website, and there are ongoing discussions with site leaders.

Next steps for the District will be to continue to assess current practices at sites, gather guidance on policies and procedures and bring forward revised policies and procedures at future board meetings.

► **Board Approves Resolution No. 14-2014 Entitled “Character Counts! And Red Ribbon Week for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Prevention”**

The Board of Education approved Resolution No. 14-2014 as part of the District’s participation in Character Counts! and Red Ribbon Week for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Prevention. The theme for this year is “Show Good Character by Being Drug Free.” Red ribbons will be distributed to all elementary school sites, and wristbands for middle school students to wear in support of a healthy and responsible lifestyle. There will be campus wide activities at both the middle and high schools.

The District thanked sponsor, Aurora Behavioral Health Care, for underwriting the cost of ribbons and expressed appreciation to the Poway City Council for creating a proclamation in support of a community-wide celebration of Character Counts! and Red Ribbon Week. Linda Ellett was also acknowledged for her work coordinating the week’s various events and programs.

► **Future meetings**

Regular Meetings:

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

Monday, December 16, 2013 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

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