

Board Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 12, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► Board Recognizes PUSD Schools

Westwood Elementary School was the \$5,000 grand prize winner in the Mighty School Challenge, a nation-wide competition sponsored by MightyNest, a school fundraising organization whose mission is to help families and communities create healthier schools and homes.

The sixth grade robotics team from Mesa Verde Middle School competed in the regional qualifying tournament at High Tech High School on Saturday, November 2, 2013. They came in first place in the category of Robot Performance. In the three team presentations on Project, Engineering, Programming and Design, and Core Values categories, they received scores high enough to win the highest award in the competition: Tournament Champions. This qualifies the team for an automatic spot in the Southern California Championship in December.

► Board Recognizes PUSD Employees

The Everyday Heroes recognition program honors classified employees who demonstrate excellence in work performance, school and community involvement, and leadership and commitment to our District and students. Outstanding Classified Employees recognized were:

Paraprofessionals:

- Sue Bartolini - Instructional Assistant II - Special Education - Abraxas High School/ Transition Program
- Michelle Testa - Health Services Technician - Sunset Hills Elementary School
- Ada Thompson - Instructional Assistant I - Special Education - Monterey Ridge Elementary

Office Clerical:

- Carolyn Buckner – School Secretary – Bernardo Heights Middle School
- Cheri Kellhofer - School Administrative Assistant-Elementary - Tierra Bonita Elementary School
- Sara JoAnne Larson - School Secretary - Black Mountain Middle School
- Carolyn Lyons - Office Assistant II - Sunset Hills Elementary School

Maintenance, Operations, Facilities, and Grounds:

- Jim Fitzgerald – Custodian – Willow Grove Elementary School/District Office
- Brent Focht – Lead Custodian – Willow Grove Elementary
- George Haughelstine – Custodian - Twin Peaks Middle School

The TEAM PUSD recognition program is designed to recognize an admirable team of employees, who together accomplish an exceptional task or project. The recognition is for a group of two or more certificated and/or classified individuals who have made a significant contribution to the benefit of PUSD, an individual, his or her work site, the community, or other volunteer or service organization. Employee teams recognized were:

- Carin Freitas and Christine Gold for their phenomenal work with the Insurance Carrier change-over throughout the District; and
- Tina Cano Bailey, Marshawn Cherry, Naomi Estrada, Larry Evans, Dixie Grossman, Douglas Hackett, Ismath Kasmi, Michelle Smith, and Linda Spoerner, the SDC/CS team at BHMS.

► Board Approves Monthly Budget Revisions and Receives Update on LCFF Revenue Projections

The Board received a detailed report from Assistant Superintendent, Malliga Tholandi on the monthly budget revisions and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) revenue projections. The District is required to identify cuts needed in 2014-15 to meet the County Office's requirements to balance the District's budget. However, the District is still being funded by the previous revenue limit formulas, not the proposed LCFF formulas. Therefore, the state, county and District are left guessing on many aspects of funding and budget planning. While the District is aware we are deficit spending

under current projections, we have a long-range plan for reconciling the budget as well as projections for increased funding. Future expenditures are on hold as we await more detailed information from the Governor in January.

► **Board Holds Public Hearing and Sale of Surplus Real Property**

A public hearing was held on the sale of surplus real property. No written or oral bids were submitted. Staff will research District options for proceeding.

► **Board Receives Presentation on and Approves K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling and Guidance Program**

The Board received a presentation from LSS Executive Director, Elaine Cofrancesco and LSS Director, Dawn Kastner on the Comprehensive School Counseling and Guidance Program. A Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling and Guidance Task Force of 25 members representing K-Adult Ed, was formed to address concerns arising from the Innovation U Challenge on Safety and Security, the Superintendent's Staff and Student Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force, and Significant Disproportionality report; and to research current practices. This work is aligned to District Goal #1, "Ensure each student engages in a challenging 21st Century learning experience," and Initiative #2, which states: "provide comprehensive programs, services, and facilities to ensure the social and emotional well-being of all students and staff in a safe and secure environment."

While a multi-year implementation plan is being developed, year one was presented with recommendations from the Task Force. The recommendations were to provide each elementary school with a:

- Credentialed Counselor one full day per week
- Student Services Assistant for fifteen hours per week
- Coordinated, research-based social/emotional curriculum and support for all TK-5 students

Following evaluation and feedback, further recommendations and revisions will be brought to the Board in the future.

The Board voted 3-1 to approve the \$1 million (annually) in recommendations.

► **Board Approves Common Core Plan**

In August 2010, the State of California adopted the Common Core State Standards, and in January 2013 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium as our assessment tool. The movement towards the College and Career Readiness standards and assessment requires a deep, thoughtful plan. Our District is entitled to approximately \$7 million, which must be spent in a 24-month period. As an initial proposal to the Board, staff recommended expenditures including, but not limited to, the following percentages which align with the categories required by the state: 55% to staff development, 30% to instructional resources and materials and 15% to technology infrastructure, hardware, and support. Future presentations to the Board will review more of the details of the plans as they are continuing to be developed and more information is known. The Board and District staff expressed their appreciation for the frustration from the community surrounding implementation, but thanked them for their cooperation and understanding during this transformative change to education.

► **Future meetings**

Regular Meetings:

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

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

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