

# Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DECEMBER 16, 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

## ► Board Elects Officers and Appoints Representatives

During its organizational meeting, the Board of Education elected the following members for officer positions: Todd Gutschow, President, Penny Ranftle, Vice President, and Andy Patapow, Clerk. The Board also appointed members to various boards and committees. New President Gutschow thanked Marc Davis for his service as the Board President over the past year.

## ► Board Recognizes PUSD Students

Four PUSD high school seniors earned the top composite score of 36 on the ACT College Admission and Placement Exam. Kevin Jiang and Wesley Yang from Mt. Carmel High School, Jacob Basinger from Poway High School, and Amanda Tjitro from Westview High School have achieved this honor for the 2013-2014 school year. Among ACT-tested U.S. high school graduates in the class of 2013, only 1,162 out of 1.8 million students, less than one-tenth of one percent of all test takers, earned a perfect composite score of 36. The students were recognized and presented with certificates.

## ► Board Recognizes PUSD Staff Members

Two PUSD staff members were presenters at a county-wide workshop for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program. Margo Selensky, Lead at Twin Peaks Middle School, and Rocco Stefano, Site Coordinator at Black Mountain Middle School presented at the annual Touching Minds Shaping Futures (TMSF) Conference in November. The conference, sponsored by Children's Initiative, was attended by 760 staff members from San Diego County after-school programs. Margo's presentation, "Amazing Race," provided attendees with ideas to create challenges in a competition similar to the television reality show. Margo and Rocco co-presented "Culminating Events: DIY (Do It Yourself)," which included hands-on activities for students to use in creating their own science fair projects.

Christina Rodocker, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) teacher at Turtleback Elementary School, was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Rancho Bernardo Foundation to purchase iPads for three ASD Classrooms at Turtleback.

## ► Board Recognizes PUSD Schools

Los Peñasquitos Elementary School was honored as a Golden Bell recipient by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) at their annual awards program on December 7, 2013. Golden Bells are awarded to select California schools demonstrating outstanding educational programs. Los Peñasquitos Elementary received this honor for its leadership role in the No Excuses University Program; which incorporates staff collaboration, assessment design, and data analysis to provide an environment that supports college readiness for all students.

Shoal Creek Elementary School has been awarded a grant from the Rice Family Foundation for over \$11,000 to fund their project, "Changing the Way We Do Science – Through iPads." Thirteen teachers will receive iPads for their classrooms along with support materials and professional development time to work together to bring science to life in their classrooms.

PUSD robotics teams have won acclaim at recent area competitions. At the Annual FIRST Lego League (FLL) Tournament held at Poway High School, the following awards were won:

- Adobe Bluffs Elementary School, AzTechs team - Projects Award
- Monterey Ridge Elementary School, Mechanical Monsters team - Core Values Award
- Monterey Ridge and Stone Ranch Elementary Schools, Attack of the Robots team - Sunday's Champion's Award
- Black Mountain Middle School, RoboRaiders team - Saturday's Champion's Award
- Black Mountain Middle School, Technically Clueless team - Robot Performance Award

At the FLL Tournament at Eastlake High School:

- Meadowbrook Middle School, Mustang Robotics team won for robot design.

The teams from Monterey Ridge, Stone Ranch, Black Mountain, and Meadowbrook advanced to the Southern California Regional Championship at Legoland on December 7, 2013.

**► Board Approves Resolution No. 32-2014 “Approving the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions By and Between the Poway Unified School District and AmeriCare Health and Retirement, Inc. for the Purchase of the Water Tower Site”**

At a Special Board Meeting on December 3, 2013, the Board directed staff to negotiate and finalize the offer made by a Letter of Intent (LOI) submitted by AmeriCare Health and Retirement, Inc., for the purchase of the Water Tower site. The terms of the LOI were: Purchase price: \$7,380,000; Close of Escrow: within 30 days or no later than December 31, 2013; Terms: 10% deposit of \$738,000 by Cashier’s Check upon acceptance of offer placed in escrow at the title company of District’s choosing; Condition of Parcel: As-Is Where-Is.

During tonight’s meeting, Associate Superintendent, Malliga Tholandi thanked the PUSD team who worked on this agreement and reviewed the background of the nine-year project.

The Board approved the Resolution 5-0.

**► Board Approves First Interim Report**

Associate Superintendent, Malliga Tholandi presented a report on the District’s First Interim Report. A breakdown of the General Fund was provided, with 74 percent of the budget revenues coming from LCFF and the majority of expenditures (80.4 percent) going to salaries and benefits. With this approval, the Board will now certify to the County Superintendent of Schools that the District will be able to meet its financial obligations for the current year and two subsequent fiscal years.

**► Future meetings**

Regular Meetings:

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

Monday, February 10, 2014 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

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