

# Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 21, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

## ► Board Recognizes PUSD Students

The following PUSD students were announced as winners in the 2013-2014 CATE (California Association of Teachers of English) Student Creative Writing Contest for San Diego County:

- Ansh Chaurasia, Monterey Ridge Elementary School – 2nd Place
- Skyler Wu, Oak Valley Middle School – 1st Place
- Jenna Kim, Oak Valley Middle School – 3rd Place
- Lillian Shea, Oak Valley Middle School – 1st Place
- Kesinya Belyhseva, Del Norte High School – 1st Place

These students will be honored at an awards ceremony at the San Diego County Office of Education on March 14, 2014.

Zenzele Green, 4th grader at Turtleback Elementary School, organized a drive with the school's Bucketfillers for Life group to collect toiletries for homeless students at the Monarch School. Through Zenzele's efforts, approximately 860 items were collected to make 110 kits to donate.

## ► Board Recognizes PUSD Schools

Tierra Bonita Elementary School has been selected as an Apple Distinguished School for 2013-2015, a two-year designation. Apple Distinguished Schools are recognized for demonstrating five areas of excellence: visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence, and a flexible learning environment. Joe Erpelding, Principal of Tierra Bonita and Ted Lai, K12 Development Executive from Apple Education presented a brief overview of the award.

At the Quiz Bowl Tournament in December at Madison High School students at Black Mountain Middle School won 1st place and 4th place. Students from Mesa Verde Middle School placed 3rd.

Black Mountain Middle School students won acclaim at the recent "We The People" Competition held at Grossmont College. Mr. Dennis Moore's 8th grade Humanities class won the Jefferson Division and Ms. Arlene Gapusan's class won the Madison Division.

Poway High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) students, led by teacher Mary Martineau, participated in the San Diego Section FFA Field Day and took home several awards. The Light Horse Judging Team comprised of Sarah Contreras, Sarah Robertson, and Loha Leonui took first place, extending Poway FFA's winning streak for the 4th year in a row. Alternate team members Madison Franklin, Keanna Reddish, and Ayla Peterson placed 5th overall. Small Engines Team members Garrett Barton, Austin Okeson, and Evan Cribb placed second overall in their division. Veterinary Science Team members Allyson Kusuda, Katie Mandrusiak, Madison Davis, Hannah Jones, and Naraca Akins, placed 9th overall.

## ► Board Receives College and Career Readiness Update

The Board received its monthly report from Associate Superintendent, Mel Robertson, on PUSD's College and Career Readiness. LSS Executive Director II, Eric Lehew, reviewed the District's transition to the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium's (SBAC) assessment system. Mr. Lehew reviewed the fundamental shift of the statewide assessment system to the new growth model that will help hold districts accountable for individual student growth. This year's SBAC Spring Trials will be an opportunity for our students and teachers to participate in a national study of the new assessments and assist teachers in evaluating the test. After the trials, the District will survey students for feedback, further evaluate the technology readiness of our District, determine item appropriateness, and complete norming. The field

test will be given to students in grades three through eight and grade eleven. Students will take a combined ELA and Math Test that will not produce scores/results, but will serve as a trial only.

► **Board Receives Preliminary Information Regarding Closing the Loophole Initiative**

The Board received preliminary information regarding Closing the Loophole. Board Member, Kimberley Beatty, introduced the subject of Closing the Loophole at the December 16, 2013 Board Meeting. The Board's direction was to bring it as an informational item to tonight's board Meeting. The sample resolution was presented and discussed.

► **Board Receives Monthly Budget Revisions and Update on Governor's January Budget Proposal**

The Board received a detailed report from Associate Superintendent, Malliga Tholandi on the monthly budget revisions and the Governor's 2014-15 January Budget Proposal that he presented on January 9, 2014. District staff attended the Governor's Budget Workshop presented by School Services of California and received a very positive review of the budget proposal for K-12 education with an average of a 10.9% increase in funding. The Governor's top priorities and proposals were "education, education, and education" and he proposed an increase of \$6.3 billion to Proposition 98, bringing it to a total of \$61.6 billion. Using the Prop 98 increase, the Governor is also proposing to pay down the 10-year old "wall of debt" owed to education, eliminating the \$6.1 billion in K-12 deferrals. Additional funds will also be provided for LCFF, totaling \$4.5 billion, \$33.3 million for COLA (equaling 0.86%), energy efficiencies of \$316 million and two rainy day funds.

► **Board Approves Resolution No. 26-2014 "...Joint Acquisition Agreement and a Bond Purchase Agreement..."**

The Board approved Resolution No. 26-2014 "Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Joint Acquisition Agreement in Connection with the Issuance of the Poway Unified School District Public Financing Authority Special Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2014, in an Aggregate Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$40,000,000, Authorizing the Preparation and Distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement and a Final Official Statement, and Authorizing the Execution of Necessary Documents and Certificates and Related Actions." By adopting the resolution, the Board, acting in its capacity as the legislative body of Community Facilities District No. 2, No. 4, No. 6, No. 9, No. 10, No. 12, No. 13, No. 14, No. 15 and Improvement Area B of No. 8, will be approving the primary forms of the Financing Documents and authorizing the Superintendent, and/or Associate Superintendent, Business Support Services, to execute these documents on behalf of the Participating CFDs. The proceeds of the Bonds will be used to finance ongoing construction costs of Design39Campus.

► **Board Approves Resolution No. 33-2014 "National School Counseling Week 2014"**

The Board approved Resolution No. 33-2014 "National School Counseling Week 2014" and received an update from Superintendent Collins on the elementary counseling positions approved during the November Board Meeting following a presentation on the K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling and Guidance Program. The Superintendent was pleased to report that last week, nine elementary counselors were placed at 25 elementary schools for at least one day a week. Some schools will continue to support additional counseling days through their Title 1 funding.

► **Future meetings**

Regular Meetings:

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

Monday, March 17, 2014 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

Special Meetings:

Monday, February 3, 2014 in the District Office (9 a.m. to noon)

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