

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► Board Recognizes Director of Transportation

The Board of Education recognized Tim Purvis, PUSD Director of Transportation, for being officially selected to participate on the National Congress on School Transportation Writing Committee. A committee of approximately twelve individuals is selected from across the country; Tim is the only California committee member. The National Congress comes together for the purpose of reviewing National Standards relative to school bus design and operation. The National Congress written language also provides “best practices” for State Directors down through local education authorities, i.e.: school district, county office SELPA and JPA pupil transportation program. The committee’s work eventually would go to the National Congress for School Transportation annual meeting for full congress review for adoption or rejection.

► Board Recognizes PUSD Teachers, Classified and Volunteers of the 2014-2015 School Year

The Board of Education recognized the following individuals as PUSD Teachers, Classified Employees and Volunteers for the 2014-2015 School Year:

- Teachers of the Year: Mike Bird, Mt. Carmel High School; Stephanie Martin, Willow Grove Elementary School; and Crystal Ochoa, Sunset Hills Elementary School.
- Classified Employees of the Year: Linda Cialeo, Career, Technical and Adult Education; and Michelle Testa, Sunset Hills Elementary School.
- Volunteers of the Year: Mary Belay, Sunset Hills Elementary School; Zoom Duong, Black Mountain Middle School; and Bill Warner, Abraxas High School.

► Board Receives Capital Appreciation Bonds Presentation and Approves Parameters and Dates for Public Forums

At the August 19, 2014 Board Meeting, following a presentation on the possibility of purchasing and refunding Capital Appreciation Bonds, Board members agreed upon the need to conduct several open public forums in order to inform community members about the proposed refunding and hear their feedback.

Ron Bennett, CEO of School Services of California, presented this evening to assist the Board in setting up the parameters for the public forums and will facilitate the forums as well. The forums will be structured as Board Workshops to satisfy the requirements of the Brown Act; however, Board members will not be required to attend and a quorum will not be necessary as there will be no scheduled action taken. Information provided at the forums will include an overview of the refunding opportunities, impact of refunding, and the methodology that will be used to provide feedback. The forums will be open to all and will be audiotaped.

The proposed and approved dates, locations, and times are:

- Tuesday, September 23, 2014 – Rancho Bernardo High School Performing Arts Center (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
- Thursday, October 2, 2014 – Black Mountain Middle School Multipurpose Room (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
- Saturday, October 4, 2014 – Midland Elementary School Multipurpose Room (10:00 a.m. – noon)

Attendees at these presentations will be given a “preference ballot” to complete at the end of the workshops. An online survey will also allow those not able to attend to provide their input. The Board will receive a summary of the public input from the three forums at the next Regular Board meeting on October 13, 2014.

► Board Receives Presentation on OpenGov

The Board received a presentation and demonstration from Associate Superintendent, Malliga Tholandi of the OpenGov financial tool.

At last month's Board of Education meeting, staff brought forward a new web-based technology that will provide more open access and transparency to the Board and the public. On February 14, 2014, the Board approved an agreement between PUSD and OpenGov, Inc., to build a platform that enables governments to share financial data with elected officials and the public to improve communication and build trust.

OpenGov has worked closely with the District Finance and Information Technology staff to build a system that shows the District's general ledger and chart of accounts such as monthly and year-to-date financial data and can help community members better understand how school district budgets work. The tool provides all users access to five years historical data and current year spending and budget.

One of the key goals for PUSD is transparency and the District continuously looks for new ways to communicate and share data with the public. This is one such innovative method. Currently OpenGov is used by over 100 government agencies in twenty states, including three school districts and one university.

► **Board Approves Resolution No. 08-2015 Entitled "Observance of National School Lunch Week"**

The Board approved Resolution No. 08-2015 entitled "Observance of National School Lunch Week" from October 13 through October 17, 2014. This special week is recognized annually to help raise awareness of, and garner support for, the role school nutrition programs play in improving the health and nutritional status of students.

The primary goal of the Child Nutrition Program is to improve the health and nutritional status of students. The theme for 2014 is "Get in the Game with School Lunch." It's about encouraging kids to find a balance between healthy eating and physical activity. Schools nationwide will celebrate and recognize the importance of eating well and getting active. Studies indicate that students who consume nutritious meals have the greatest success in school. Healthy eating correlates with improved math and reading scores, increased attention, reduced absence and tardy rates, and improved behavior.

This week provides the opportunity to reflect on the critical role the school lunch program plays in promoting the health and well-being of tomorrow's leaders. We also recognize the talent and dedication of all the food and nutrition professionals, school officials, community leaders, and parents for their efforts to ensure that children are provided nutritious meals each day.

► **Board Receives Recap and Lessons Learned from the May 2014 Fires**

On Tuesday, May 13, 2014, the District's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated as a result of the Bernardo Fire breaking out in the 4S Ranch/Del Sur area and being a potential threat to schools in the area. The Bernardo Fire event was unique in that this was the first time the EOC has been activated during normal school operation hours. In most recent previous natural disasters causing the District's EOC to be activated, events have been during non-school hours. The experience allowed the District EOC, key participants, and site staff a unique opportunity to critique the effectiveness of the District's EOC. A detailed summary is available in the Board agenda packet (Please see item G-309).

► **Future meetings**

Regular Meetings:

Monday, October 13, 2014 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

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

Board Workshops on Capital Appreciation Bond Restructuring:

Tuesday, September 23, 2014 – Rancho Bernardo High School Performing Arts Center (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

Thursday, October 2, 2014 – Black Mountain Middle School Multipurpose Room (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

Saturday, October 4, 2014 – Midland Elementary School Multipurpose Room (10:00 a.m. – noon)

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