

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCTOBER 13, 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► **Board Recognizes PUSD Teachers of the Year Celebrated at Salute to Teachers Event**

On Saturday, October 11th, PUSD’s three Teachers of the Year were honored at the Salute to Teachers Awards Ceremony. Stephanie Martin from Willow Grove Elementary, Crystal Ochoa, from Sunset Hills Elementary and Mike Bird from Mt. Carmel High School represented Poway Unified incredibly well. Stephanie and Crystal were also selected as Top Ten Finalists. Our Mt. Carmel Dance Troupe also performed during the celebration. The community can see the broadcast replayed Saturday evenings on Channel 4.

► **Board Recognizes California Distinguished Schools**

This past spring, Creekside Elementary, Del Sur Elementary and Stone Ranch Elementary were selected as California Distinguished Schools for 2014. They are among 424 schools statewide to earn the honor this year. Teams from each of the three schools, along with Board President Todd Gutschow and Superintendent Collins, attended the Southern California Region Award Ceremony in Irvine on Wednesday, June 11, 2014.

The 2014 California Distinguished Schools Program focuses on California's students' right to an equitable and rigorous education, and recognizes those schools that have made progress in narrowing the academic achievement gap.

► **Board Recognizes National Blue Ribbon School**

On September 30, 2014, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized Poway Unified School District’s Del Sur Elementary as a National Blue Ribbon School. Secretary Duncan made this announcement live via the Department's USTREAM channel.

Del Sur Principal Doug Johnson and his team of staff, students and families celebrated the announcement that afternoon during a surprise assembly.

In presenting their school to the United States Department of Education during the rigorous application process, Del Sur highlighted the visionary creation of the school and their innovative, relationship-based curriculum. Nationwide, 337 schools are being recognized as 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

► **Board Discusses Possible Refinancing of the Capital Appreciation Bonds (CABS)**

The Board received a report from Superintendent Collins and Associate Superintendent Tholandi on the CAB Bond Community Forums and surveys. In accordance with Board direction, three community forums were held to present information on the possible refinancing of the CABS and to gather public input on the subject.

The forums were held on September 23, October 2, and October 4, 2014, at three of our schools. Over 70 community members attended one or more of these forums. Following is a recap of their feedback as stated in the preference cards

Would you as an SFID resident and tax payer prefer:	9-22-14	10-2-14	10-4-14	Total
I do not support refunding the CABS as this would result in an increase to my SFID tax rate above those prescribed by law.	20	17	49	86
Allow the public to vote their preferences at the next election in 2016; the district would be required to fund the election costs.	12	6	36	54
Move forward if we can refund 10% of the CABS, and my SFID tax rate does not increase by more than approximately \$7.00 per \$100,000 annually over and above the changes prescribed by law.	2	0	4	6

Move forward if we can refund 20% of the CABs, and my SFID tax rate does not increase by more than approximately \$14.00 per \$100,000 annually over and above the changes prescribed by law.	4	1	9	14
Total:	38	24	98	160

The CABs survey was also online and available for the public from September 24, 2014 through October 6, 2014. 138 individuals responded to the survey. Following is a recap of their feedback:

Question 1: Do you pay Mello Roos/CFD Taxes?:

Yes	21
No	109
I Don't Know	8

(Respondents who answered Yes were taken to the end of the survey with a message their property taxes could not be impacted.)

Question 2: Would you as an SFID resident and taxpayer prefer:

I do not support refunding the CABs as this would result in an increase to my SFID tax rate above those prescribed by law.	47
Allow the public to vote their preferences at the next election in 2016; the district would be required to fund the election costs.	21
Move forward if we can refund 10% of the CABs, and my SFID tax rate does not increase by more than approximately \$7.00 per \$100,000 annually over and above the changes prescribed by law.	3
Move forward if we can refund 20% of the CABs, and my SFID tax rate does not increase by more than approximately \$14.00 per \$100,000 annually over and above the changes prescribed by law.	30

The Board discussed next steps in the process including the preparation of a FAQ document to be posted on the website in the next week, posting the Dale Scott PowerPoint on our website early this week, and gathering data from outside financial organizations.

► Board Approves Resolution No. 09-2015 Entitled “Character Counts! And Red Ribbon Week for Alcohol, Tobacco, And Other Drugs Prevention”

The Board approved a resolution proclaiming October 20-24, 2014 as Character Counts! and Red Ribbon Week for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Prevention.

The theme for this year’s week is “Show Good Character by Being Drug Free.” Red ribbons and wristbands will be distributed to all students to wear in support of a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

The District also expressed thanks to our Partner in Education and Sponsor, Aurora Behavioral Health Care, for underwriting the cost of ribbons, and to the Poway City Council for creating a proclamation in support of a community-wide celebration of Character Counts! and Red Ribbon Week.

► Future meetings

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

Monday, December 8, 2014 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

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