

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY 18, 2015 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► Board and Audience Recognize Moment of Silence

The Board President called for all in attendance to observe a moment of silence in honor and memory of a very special individual our District recently lost. All in attendance honored Meadowbrook Middle School Sixth-Grade Teacher Dan Wilkins who passed away earlier this month after a battle with cancer. Dan was a celebrated and beloved teacher and the students and staff at Meadowbrook and all of us in Poway Unified deeply appreciate his dedication to learning and the immense kindness he showed to everyone he met.

► Superintendent and Board Recognize Student, Staff and School Stars

The Superintendent and Board recognized a large number of students, staff and schools. Below is a brief summary of the recognitions. The entire text can be found in the agenda packet.

- Tonight, Poway Unified School District honored the following eighth-grade students who “stand out” amongst their AVID peers: Rania Hachimi and AVID coordinator Elizabeth Campos - Bernardo Heights Middle School; Luis Bernal and AVID coordinator Julie Reshatoff - Black Mountain Middle School; Ruby Beltran Cruz and AVID coordinator Kay McHeffey - Meadowbrook Middle School; Francisco Platt and AVID coordinator Aimee McCoy - Mesa Verde Middle School; Alexis McCall and AVID coordinator Alyssa Dykes - Oak Valley Middle School; Beatrice Pitts and AVID coordinator Mikki Matautia - Twin Peaks Middle School.
- Westview High School students Michael Yitayew and Mayra Blanco both received Gates Millennium Scholarships. UNCF’s (United Negro College Fund) flagship scholarship program, the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, recently announced its Class of 2015 high school student recipients. This scholarship award provides full-ride scholarships from bachelors through PhD.
- Laura Slaven, a Mt. Carmel High School Sports Medicine/Athletic Trainer student was honored at the SD County Chapter of the California Association of Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (CAROCP) awards ceremony as Poway Unified School District’s CTE Distinguished Student for 2014- 2015. This award is given to standout students in career technical education courses who show great potential for success in their future education and career.
- DeSean (DJ) Owens, a 7th grade student at Twin Peaks Middle School has been selected to receive the 2015 Space Camp Scholarship sponsored by Northrop Grumman Foundation. DJ will join other middle school students from across the country for a one-week Space Camp experience at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL, July 26-31, 2015.
- Jay Posteraro of Mesa Verde Middle School and Ulli Reiner-Marcus of Bernardo Heights Middle School and Twin Peaks Middle School have both been announced as quarterfinalists for the Music Educator Award. A total of 213 music teachers from 194 cities across 42 states have been announced as quarterfinalists for the Music Educator Award™ presented by The Recording Academy® and the GRAMMY Foundation.
- Cal State San Marcos has chosen a PUSD teacher as one of their three Distinguished Teachers in Residence (DTiR) for the next two school years. Christina Adamson, first grade teacher at Stone Ranch Elementary, has been chosen to serve, and will begin the upcoming school year.
- Dena Glynn of Tierra Bonita Elementary School has been selected to serve in the Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) Program. The ADE Program began in 1994, when Apple recognized K-12 and higher education pioneers using a variety of Apple products to transform teaching and learning in powerful ways. Today it has grown into a worldwide community of over 2,000 visionary educators and innovative leaders who are doing amazing things with Apple technology in and out of the classroom. Every other year, over 3,000 educators across the nation apply and only 100 are accepted throughout the United States.
- Carole DeBruin of Abraxas High School was named the NBC 7 San Diego Inspirational Teacher of the Month for April 2015. An Inspirational teacher is a dedicated educator who brings his or her energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the classroom every day.

- Cynthia Mills of Twin Peaks Middle School has been selected to receive the Northrop Grumman Educator Scholarship to attend Space Academy for Educators, July 26-31, 2015.
- Meadowbrook Middle School has been announced as a recipient of the 2015 California Gold Ribbon School Award. Across California, 193 middle schools and 180 high schools have been honored under the new Gold Ribbon Schools Awards Program, which is temporarily taking the place of the California Distinguished Schools Program while California creates new assessment and accountability systems. The new award is recognizing middle and high schools this year and elementary schools in 2016.
- On Saturday, April 25th, Meadowbrook Middle School's submitted video won the "3-8 How To" category at the 14th Annual Innovative Video in Education (iVIE) film festival and awards with their tutorial How to Tie Dye. Student filmmakers from throughout the county walked the red carpet, accepted awards, and showed their videos. Winning teams received high-definition video cameras donated by Sony Electronics, membership to San Diego Computer Using Educators (SDCUE), and a ticket to SDCUE's annual Tech Fair.
- Each year, Poway High School's FFA attends the annual State FFA Convention which is held in conjunction with the State FFA Finals. The competing Poway FFA members had phenomenal success. The Light Horse Judging Team consisting of Sarah Contreras, Sarah Robertson, and Loha Leonui was named the third place team out of 35 teams from across the State. Sarah Contreras was Top 5 individually. The Small Engines Team consisting of Austin Okeson, Jacob Eyraud, and Austen Eyraud placed 11th out of 25 teams. Jacob Eyraud, who was a State Finalist for his proficiency in Forest Product Management, was the State winner and will now go on to the National competition this October. Advisor Mary Martineau was named the Southern Region Star Advisor and Denise Kelly was the Southern Region Star Supporting Staff Member and was also named the CA State Star Supporting Staff Member. Loha Leonui was a State Finalist in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Competition.
- Poway High School's Robotics Students have had an incredible year. This year's accomplishments: FIRST ROBOTICS 2015 Season: World Championship: Safety Star of the Day – Shelldon Boyd; San Diego Regional: Engineering Inspiration Award plus \$5000 Cash for NASA; Qualifying for the World Championship in St. Louis, MO; Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award; Safety Star of the Day – Shelldon Boyd; Bayou Regional: Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award; Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen; Safety Star of the Day – Alison Crawford; South Florida Regional: Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award; and Safety Star of the Day – Shelldon Boyd. VEX ROBOTICS 2014-15 Season: San Ysidro Regional: Judges Award; and Chula Vista Regional: Innovate Award. FIRST and VEX ROBOTICS Combined: Poway Parade: 1st place "BEST THEME" winners for the "Most Creative Entry."

► Board Honors Everyday Heroes and TEAM PUSD Honorees

Everyday Heroes honors classified employees who demonstrate excellence in work performance, school and community involvement, and leadership and commitment to our District and students. Tier 1 of the program allows anyone (fellow employee, supervisor, parent, etc.) to submit a nomination to recognize the efforts of Poway Unified classified employees at any time of the year. Nominated classified employees, along with their supervisors and nominator, receive a notification informing them that they have been nominated as a Tier 1 Everyday Hero. Three times a year, a committee reviews the nominations of employees recognized in Tier 1 and selects those to be recognized as Tier 2 Outstanding PUSD employees. Tier 2 employees are recognized at Board of Education meetings and receive certificates of recognition. The May Tier 2 Outstanding Classified Employees are (full descriptions available in agenda packet):

- Sherrie Meyer, Lead ESS Assistant, Sundance Elementary School
- Jane Lauderdale, School Administrative Assistant - Middle School, Bernardo Heights Middle School
- Roberta Boyd, Health Services Technician, Stone Ranch Elementary
- Cynthia Long, School Secretary, Rancho Bernardo High School
- Leslie Stebbins, Health Services Technician, Westview High School
- Precious Halliday, Instructional Assistant, New Directions
- Gary Velarde, Bus Driver, Transportation Department

TEAM PUSD 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. The activity for which they are being recognized generally demonstrates excellence or exceeds the employee's normal job responsibilities. Recognized for a TEAM PUSD award are (full descriptions available in agenda packet):

- Sandra Dinslage, Student Services Assistant; Caryn Harris, Student Services Assistant; Kimberly Hoshino, Student Services Assistant; Gloria Kuramoto, Student Services Assistant; Elizabeth Wells-Whitwam, Student Services Assistant; and Darlene Woodworth, Student Services Assistant. This team of Student Services Assistants have volunteered to be part of the Student Services Leadership Team and have worked diligently writing lesson plans, modeling class lessons, and providing monthly training lessons for all of the other newly hired Student Services Assistants.
- Kathleen Ahles, Instructional Assistant I-Special Education; Lisa Avalos, School Secretary; Nancy Beretz, Teacher; Timothy Biland, Principal; Margie Bitsimis, Teacher; Susan Carpenter, Teacher; Kathleen Crouch, Teacher; Kathryn De Bolt, Teacher; Christopher DeCremer, Teacher; Kathryn DiDia, Teacher; Jill Halsey, Assistant Principal; Kathe Hedges, Teacher; Jane Lauderdale, School Administrative Assistant-Middle School; Heather Lees, Teacher; Gregory Ormsby, Teacher; Leonora Persichina, Teacher; Tipton Roberts, Teacher; Carly Romero, Assistant Principal; Karen Sare, Office Assistant II; Richard Simon, Instructional Assistant I-Special Education; LaShawn Summerour, Psychologist; and Jean Young, Teacher. A student and a parent nominated this team of dedicated employees they refer to as TEAM NICK. They have accomplished the exceptional task of making this succeed in the middle school general education population. This is the student's whole IEP team.
- Michelle Fouts, Psychologist; Karla Wilburn, Speech Pathologist; and Holly Mehaffie, Resource Specialist. Last fall, Willow Grove received a generous donation from a family who was interested in bringing a Buddy Bench to Willow Grove. The Buddy Bench is a simple idea designed to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship and kindness on the playground by providing a place for students to signal to other children that they need a friend to play with during recess. This team of Willow Grove Elementary School Special Educators embraced the Buddy Bench idea as a way to support the school's vision of building a caring community by helping our students strive to be good friends to others.

► **Board Considers Approval of Resolution No. 68-2015 Entitled “Supporting Educational Opportunities for the Humane Treatment of Animals”**

The Board considered the Resolution and voted the subject matter was not within the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board voted 3-2 (Beatty and Sellers - no) to table the topic indefinitely.

► **Board Appointments of Student Board Member to Serve During the 2015-2016 School Year**

The Board accepted the recommendation of the interview committee and appointed Neel Pujar of Del Norte High School, to serve as the Student Board Member during the 2015-2016 school year.

Each year a high school student is selected by the Board of Education. The term of office is their senior year. A total of six outstanding applications were received from juniors interested in serving as the PUSD Student Board Member for the 2015-2016 school year. A screening committee reviewed the applications for the criteria and qualifications contained in the Board-adopted policy for Student Board Member selection and decided to forward all six applicants to a Board sub-committee to be interviewed. On May 14, the sub-committee made up of two Members of the Board of Education, the current Student Board Member, and the Director of Communications interviewed the six candidates.

Neel Pujar's appointment was approved 5-0.

► **Board Holds Public Hearing of PUSD Local Control and Accountability (LCAP) Updates for 2015-2016**

The Board held a public hearing of the PUSD LCAP updates for 2015-2016. In compliance with California Education Codes 52060 – 52077, PUSD District staff has developed the District's LCAP using the new template required by the California Department of Education. Last year, the board adopted two-year goals. This is the update and additional services and actions set forth, based on community input. The complete update is available in the agenda packet.

A request for formal approval will be submitted at the June 22, 2015 Board Meeting

► **Future meetings**

Special Meetings:

Monday, June 15, 2015 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

Regular Meetings:

Monday, June 22, 2015 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

Monday, August 24, 2015 in the District Office (6 p.m.)

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