

# Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **APRIL 5, 2016** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

## ► Superintendent and the Board Recognize Students, Schools and the District

The Superintendent and Board recognized student and staff accomplishments at school sites and the District. Below are just a few of those recognitions. The entire list can be found in the agenda packet here:

<http://www.powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2016/04-05-16-Board-Agenda.pdf>

- Five students were recognized by their high schools as AVID Senior Standouts. AVID stands for “Advancement Via Individual Determination.” AVID’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Every year one senior student from each PUSD high school is selected as an AVID Standout. These outstanding students are selected by their AVID coordinator for their strong academic performance and four-year university potential. This year’s Senior Standouts are:
  - **Del Norte: Stephanie Legault**
  - **Mt. Carmel: Jonathan Fernandez**
  - **Poway: Marissa Boyd**
  - **Rancho Bernardo: Nia Akins**
  - **Westview: Kyle Hamada**
- Rancho Bernardo High School’s Head Athletic Trainer, **Robbie Bowers**, was recognized as the Athletic Trainer of the Year by the San Diego High School Athletic Trainers Association. This is the inaugural year of the award, with Robbie being one of the first two recipients. He has been the Head Athletic Trainer at Rancho Bernardo since the school opened in 1990.
- The Design39 Campus is the recipient of the Award of Excellence for New Construction Projects from the Coalition for Adequate School Housing or (**CASH**). D39C was selected for its “Design-Thinking Environment” and its beautifully composed spaces and outside-the-box design. Jurors were also impressed with the planning process for D39C that included a three-day symposium with teachers, administrators, business leaders, and the local community.

## ► School Library Month

- April is **School Library Month**, and the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> is **National Library Week**. It is a time to recognize the critical role libraries play in our students’ education, and celebrate the work of teacher-librarians and library media technicians. The board watched this video for a glimpse of the inspirational work happening at our school libraries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnWNSRvfj0E>

## ► Poway Pool Update

- Dr. Collins provided an update to the Board and the public on the topic of the Poway High School pool. He started by thanking all the people who spoke on the issue during last month’s board meeting. He also clarified that the work on the PHS pool had been initiated back in November of 2015. The initial timeline to have a new filtration system was estimated for 20 weeks, which would have put the pool reopening at May 1<sup>st</sup>. To accomplish this “fix” much sooner, staff came up with a more cost effective and creative solution, saving the District \$30,000, while shaving three months off of the proposed

timeline. Once the filtration system had been fixed in February, however, the heater wouldn't start. So that pushed back the opening of the pool to March. Dr. Collins was happy to report that the Poway High Pool is once again open for use for our students and community to enjoy.

### ► Robotics Stipends

- Dr. Collins also wanted to address the multiple requests during public comments for additional robotics stipends. While robotics coaches are already receiving stipends, Dr. Collins explained that PUSD is the recipient of a two-year grant for Career and Technical Education, thanks to the foresight and work of Associate Superintendent Mel Robertson and Career Technical and Adult Education Director, Kathleen Porter. Some of these grant funds will be allotted to our robotics programs, as well as other CTE-specific programs. The Board also approved a resolution to declare May 18, 2016, "Poway Unified School District Robotics Day."

### ► Abraxas High Aquaponics

- Dr. Collins also highlighted Abraxas High School's aquaponics program, which is a fully functioning organic farm that uses fish to feed the plants, and plants to feed the fish. The farm is the result of a remarkable partnership with the Home Depot Foundation, their local Team Depot Volunteers, and students in the Biology, Art, Construction Engineering, and Transition classes at Abraxas High School. The board watched this video to learn more about the program:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38RmdGT\\_Du4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38RmdGT_Du4)

### ► Student Board Representative Reports

- **Michael Sarmiento, Abraxas High School:** Diploma-bound students are on break. Leadership students served a luncheon, held a blood drive, collected shoes, and completed hygiene kits for the homeless. The leadership class has also entered a recycling competition. Storm troopers attended the Star Wars' themed Transition Prom. Transition students also competed in the Special Olympics
- **Reagan Cloutier, Del Norte High School:** Presentations from parents sharing their careers. 8<sup>th</sup> grade family night and open house nights. U.S. News and World Report ranked Del Norte 55<sup>th</sup> in the state. AVID college tour visited four schools in two days including UCSB and CalPoly SLO. Student paper "Talon" published April Fools edition. Megan Gross, one of the District teachers of the year. Global awareness on campus, pasta fundraiser, school dance donation drive
- **Jennifer Welch, Mt. Carmel High School:** Les Miserables production finale, Legends concert, Band performing in Hawaii, Prom will be at Del Mar Hilton with Great Gatsby theme, Blacklight dance Circus Extravaganza, seniors preparing for graduation
- **Simon Shapiro, Poway High School:** Team Spyder robotics competition, Poway student forum on format change, LCAP student survey, "Most Spirited Titan" competition, hosted District Special Olympics
- **Sahar Salehi, Rancho Bernardo:** Senior trip to Disneyland, Dancing with the Teachers event, annual flashback dance, and cultural night. Best Buddies Ball with over a dozen schools and 300 students attending. Foundation hosted pasta dinner, raising \$5,000. Silver Stars awards for 4.0 GPA, over 260 seniors will be recognized. Students getting ready for 4x4, Mr. Bronco
- **Ella Smith, Westview High School:** Sunday's free heart screening screened over 900 students, 12 athletes signed letters of intent, dance team took sweepstakes trophy, Westview theater students competed in Fullerton. "No Place for Hate" activities all week

### ► ITEM C – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board heard comments from the public regarding:

- SHOK (Seniors Helping Our Kids) teaching ballroom dance to youth
- Importance of literacy and dyslexia intervention and awareness
- Attorney's fees for restraining orders.
- Questions over security at Painted Rock Elementary
- Public Records Act requests

▶ **Associate Superintendent of Learning Support Services**

- Contract for Dr. Mel Robertson - Approved Unanimously

▶ **School Lunch Prices**

- First meal price increase since July 1, 2014. Director of Food & Nutrition requested increase to keep up with rising costs. Board approved unanimously to raise all meal prices (except Free and Reduced meals) 25-cents.

▶ **School Bus Drivers' Day**

- Resolution approved declaring Tuesday, April 26, 2016, as School Bus Drivers' Day.

▶ **Future meetings**

Regular Meetings:

**Tuesday, May 31, 2016** in the District Office (6 p.m.)

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