

# Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **JANUARY 17, 2019** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

## ► **January is School Board Recognition Month**

Many thanks to our hard-working school board members who dedicate so much of their time to championing public education and supporting our students, staff, and schools.

## ► **Superintendent and Board Recognition**

The Superintendent and Board recognized student and staff accomplishments at school sites and the District.

The entire list can be found in the agenda packet here: <https://www.powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2019/01-17-2019-Board-Agenda.pdf>

Among those highlighted include:

- Bernardo Heights 8th grader Lilia Montiel was chosen as the NBC/San Diego Office of Education Inspirational Student of the Month, for her work in raising money and donations for children who don't have beds to sleep in. Lilia received a surprise visit during her science class from her family members and media representatives. Her story aired on NBC7 over winter break.
- Westwood Elementary 5th grader Lyndsay Biddle was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of all San Diego School Safety Patrols. Lyndsay was nominated by student resource officer Gary McPhee and based on her essay and interview, she was selected out of 16 finalists representing 2,000 safety patrols from 79 schools. She will represent the safety patrol at public events across San Diego.
- Adobe Bluffs Middle School won the prestigious title of International Confucius Classroom of the Year Award. Adobe Bluffs was the only elementary school to be recognized internationally for best Mandarin language and culture program at this year's 13th Annual Confucius Institute Global Conference held in Chengdu, China.
- Black Mountain Middle School won 1st place in the San Diego County "We the People" Competition, competing against a dozen other middle schools in a mock, congressional style hearing, demonstrating student knowledge of the Constitution.

## ► **Excellence in Education Video Series**

This month's video and photos, produced by the Studio 701 student interns, focus on the AVID program at Black Mountain Middle School, a National AVID Demonstration School.

**WATCH IT HERE:** [https://youtu.be/qnvjYH1X\\_Gw](https://youtu.be/qnvjYH1X_Gw)

**VIEW THE PHOTO ESSAY HERE:** <https://spark.adobe.com/page/WDySNNPkFSyNF/>

## ► **Student Board Representative Reports**

For the 2018-19 school year, the six representatives alternated months, with the students attending every other board meeting. This month we heard reports from Poway, Rancho Bernardo and Westview High Schools. The students from Abraxas, Del Norte, and Mt. Carmel High Schools will give their next reports at the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Savannah Ivanko (Poway HS) winter-themed activities including Toys for Tots drive, spirit week, and lunchtime activities to encourage bonding, theatre department preparing for Singing in the Rain starting Feb. 1, Titans United Week at the end of January with motivational speaker and emphasis on kindness, February Titan Times Wizard of Oz themed production for senior class, peer counseling welcomed new members, winter trimester ends March 9 and ASB officers will end their term, thank you to Sean Fallon for his service as president
- Sydney Roberts (Rancho Bernardo HS): prior to break, ASB granted winter wishes around campus, winter spirit included “snow” days and elfie selfie activities, students collected over 1,000 cans for needy families, VAPA groups put on a collective 7 shows, 16 students got perfect ACT scores and 4 got perfect SAT scores, two CIF titles for Girls golf and cross country, winter formal masquerade on Jan. 26, students in the midst of finals, Black History month celebrations planned, theatre program will put on Peter Pan for spring musical, Royal Regiment to perform at Disneyland, this is Sydney’s final board meeting as ASB president
- Dean Olsson (Westview HS): Dean is the new ASB president, record-breaking over 1,000 hours of volunteer work from ASB members, Black History month celebrations planned, Westview hosted Unity basketball game for Best Buddies, Westview peer ambassadors are busy visiting elementary schools, cocoa and cram de-stress event, holiday pancake event hosted for staff, Westview improv show next week, graphic design hosting open house

#### ► **Public Comments**

The Board heard comments from the public regarding:

- Upcoming All-PUSD High School Choir concert at the Poway Center for Performing Arts this Saturday (1/19 at 7pm) and Sunday (1/20 at 3pm)
- Upcoming Poway High’s Singing in the Rain theatre performances on Feb. 1, 2 and 8, 9 at the Poway Center for Performing Arts
- VAPA updates, including newly adopted California Arts standards for K-12

#### ► **OtterCares Grant Awarded to Pomerado Elementary School**

The OtterCares Foundation presented a \$10,000 grant to Pomerado Elementary School to support their Launch Lab, which focuses on connecting student learning to career exploration by providing hand-on learning experiences including digital media production, computer science and coding, and robotics engineering and building. The Tech and Innovation Department worked with Pomerado staff to write the grant request. The money will be used to purchase equipment and supplies.

#### ► **Bond Investor Outreach Feedback**

At its December 2017 meeting, the Board authorized a team of finance professionals to gather information from existing bondholders of the District’s General Obligation Bonds of SFID 2007-1. The goal was to explore options to reduce or eliminate all or a portion of the non-callable Bond while minimizing potential impacts to taxpayers. In early 2018 and again in late 2018, Raymond James reached out to existing bondholders to gauge their interest. Raymond James’ analysis showed three scenarios that might provide some level of debt service savings to taxpayers, but not necessarily positive present value savings. Next steps include doing nothing/pausing bond modification efforts or refining their analysis and come up with a more concrete proposal to share with bondholders and test community support.

#### ► **X-ploration Program Presentation**

Staff provided an overview of the expanded X-ploration program. PUSD is in its third year of the implementation of the TK-5 program. The purpose of the program is to provide equitable, innovative, and engaging learning experiences for all elementary school students in VAPA, STEM, and PE, as well as provide teachers with job-embedded collaboration time.

### ► 2017-18 Fiscal Year Audit

The audit extends from April through December, and was completed January 2019. A summary of the auditor's results: 0 material weaknesses and 0 significant deficiencies on financial statements, no findings for federal compliance, and 3 findings for state compliance: attendance reporting, unduplicated pupil counts, and ASES policies.

### ► National School Counseling Week

The Board approved a resolution proclaiming February 4-8 as National School Counseling Week 2019 to honor the unique contribution of professional school counselors in three broad areas: academic development, personal/social development, and career development.

### ► Site Safety Security Cameras Update

Phase 1 of the installation of security camera systems at most PUSD middle schools and high schools has been completed and a new set of policies and procedures for the new video recording equipment will be distributed to schools this month. Phase 2 of the camera installation process is getting underway.

### ► Future meetings

Regular Meetings:

**Thursday, February 14, 2019** in the District Office (6 p.m.)

The following regular board meeting dates were approved for 2019:

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Thursday, August 8, 2019

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Thursday, December 12, 19, 2019

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