



SALINAS VALLEY
FEDERATION OF
T E A C H E R S

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Board Highlights

May 25, 2004

CAHSEE success closes graduation gap

Nearly two-thirds of the district's sophomores passed the California High School exit exam.

The class of 2006 will be the first to see the CAHSEE as a graduation requirement, according to Superintendent-elect **Roger Anton**.

All students, including special education students, must pass the exit exam.

Tenth graders at six high schools took the test for the first time in March. Early results indicate that 65.3 percent of the test takers passed the math portion and 64.4 percent passed the English Language Arts section.

In math, the pass rate ranges from 58 percent at Alisal High School to 75.7 percent at Salinas High. Salinas High also led the district's school in the English portion of the test with a pass rate of 76.3 percent.

Mount Toro's scores came in much lower at 16 percent in math and 25 percent in English.

Students who did not pass the CAHSEE will be able to take it again, according to **Robert Martinez**, director of research for the district. Martinez said students would be able to take the exam five times before graduation. But, he added, if they do not pass the test prior to the projected graduation date, students would not be awarded a diploma.

Martinez said the pass rate had increased over previous years. He speculated that the increase was due to an improved test and teachers teaching to the standard. He said that state expectations would also increase. Next year students must earn a minimum of 380 points in each of the tests in order to be proficient, he said.

Anton said schools are providing special classes and summer school sessions for the students who haven't passed the test. In addition, students are being offered incentives, such as off-campus lunch privileges, if they pass the test, he said. The state also is requiring a 95 percent attendance for the test in order for a school to demonstrate adequate yearly progress. The district, according to early estimates missed the 95 percent attendance by 1.4 percent in English and .6 percent in math. SHS was the only school to meet the requirement.

Staff changes prompt

Meeting set for July

Trustees agreed to hold a second meeting on the fourth Tuesday in July at the request of Anton. The superintendent-elect cited changes in administration as a reason for the meeting.

Trustee **Art Gilbert** noted that vacations might be planned for that time, when the board typically takes a break.

SHS theater set for major overhaul

Completion of the SHS theater project means the drama and music classes can use the stage, but audiences may have to sit on folding chairs – a prospect that made trustees uncomfortable.

After awarding DMC Construction a \$3.1 million contract to renovate the school's performing arts center, trustees looked to the district for an additional \$230,000 for theater seats. "I want it to be useable," said Gilbert, suggesting the extra funding.

Gilbert was responding to renovation plans described by **Karen Luna**, facilities manager.

Luna told the board that the \$3.1 million would get the bare necessities for the long-neglected theater. The contract will take care of heating, air conditioning, electrical work, structural repairs and preparing the building to meet seismic and handicapped requirements, according to Luna.

The theater won't get seats, a public address system, stage lights or a curtain with the allotted money. The bid is already \$1.3 million over the initial

estimate, said Luna. She attributed the increase to a time delay that allowed for increased cost of construction materials.

Adding in the rest of the theater needs would cost another \$1 million, said Associate Superintendent **James Earhart**. He assured trustees that the goal was to create a "first class community theater," but the district may have to look for other funding sources to finish the project.

Right now the district is focusing on the most pressing part of the project. "We need to fix the building so it doesn't fall down," said Anton.

The issue is likely to come up again, as trustees and district administrators search for funding sources. "It's not a bake sale. We will need about \$3 million to \$4 million," said Anton.

Schools offer reports on WASC status

Corrine Price presented the Adult School's third year progress report on its six-year accreditation.

Price, director of the school's program, outlined the plan of action and goals accomplished for trustees.

The school received six-year accreditation for its program with a provision for a three-year progress report.

The report focused on goals already met and a promise to continue building collaborations within the school and with the community, providing staff training, formalizing assessment systems, and establishing a kiosk in the school center.

The kiosk meant to link with the One-Stop Career Center was not

implemented, but an advising committee is expected to analyze the need for it.