

Eye On The Board

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Board Highlights October 25, 2005

Reported by Mariann Klinger

Trustees join teachers in opposing Prop. 75

Trustees unanimously passed a resolution opposing Proposition 75, which seeks to diminish use of union dues for political purposes.

This resolution puts the board on record as opposing all measures, including Propositions 74, 75, and 76, that affect teachers in the coming election. Resolutions regarding the other propositions were approved at earlier meetings.

Sports honor program off to good start

Colorful posters adorn the boardroom, describing features of the district's newly launched athletic program – a program that has drawn the interest of schools across the country.

The program is to be on display at the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association conference in Orlando, Florida.

Jean Ashen, the district's first full-time athletic director, will do the honors, making a presentation on the program, the interest generated by it, and its apparent early success.

"I get emails and calls from districts every day asking about the program," said Ashen, sporting a jacket made for school athletic events.

Ashen went quickly through a power point that told of a filled to capacity training program,

parent response, and student athletes making the grade.

The coaching class is offered at the Salinas Adult School for \$120, and

Ashen said it's full until spring. Other schools and districts in the area

are taking advantage of the opportunity to provide training for their coaches.

It means the district gets to spread the use of a program that calls for the development of good character traits among student athletes, said Associate Superintendent **Alejandro Hogan**.

The program that calls for the pursuit of victory with honor presses for trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship from the district's 1076 student athletes.

Between two-thirds and three-quarters of the student athletes, who signed the contract, made the expected GPA of 2.0 and only one or none an unsatisfactory grade in conduct.

In addition, many parents attended orientation sessions and signed a code of conduct contract for athletic events, she said.

The only glitch on the screen came up when SVFT President **John Nolan** pointed out that teachers aren't getting the first opportunity to be considered for the coaching positions. In the spirit of the Victory with Honor program, the jobs, he said, should be posted with other positions on the union bulletin board at school sites.

Hogan said that coaches weren't represented by the union and therefore, it was suitable to post

the jobs in the local newspaper bypassing the teacher-first rule.

But Nolan said the union did negotiate coaches' stipends and had a memorandum of understanding with the district that stated "all work assignments for extra compensation or release time at any site shall be posted in a visible place in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement."

In her report, Ashen noted that teachers and classified employees make up about 38 percent of the district's coaches. "In Texas every coach is a teacher," but most districts nationally employ only about one-third teacher coaches, she added.

Mt. Toro on top with six-year WASC report

For Mount Toro High School, earning the top accreditation comes almost routinely. Recently, the district's continuation high school received a six-year accreditation – its third since 1993.

The board recognized the accomplishment, praising current and former staff.

Thanking the district for the part it played with a focus on academics, former Principal **Murray Scheckman** noted that the school also met all of its API and AYP targets. "How many continuation schools can say that?" he asked.

Teacher **Patricia Favaloro** was recognized for her work with the WASC report. She wrote all of the past four reports, said Associate Superintendent **Tim Vanoli**.

Consent Agenda

Trustees approved the following by a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Sandra Villarreal-Ocampo was not present for the vote.)

- An increase in per diem rates to \$40 a day for meal reimbursement and a continuance of a temporary mileage increase to .485 per mile. The meal rate goes into effect in November.
- The purchase of a shade structure for the EAHS Aquatic Center from Shade America.
- The job description for the district athletic director, which calls for a teaching credential, an athletic certification and a California drivers' license. The director is paid in accordance with the certificated teacher salary schedule.