

# Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1020

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## Board Highlights ~ December 12, 2006

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### Summer school pilot critiqued for safety, time

More than 5000 served by district's program

The four-week summer school, tried out last year for the first time, may not make it past the trial stage.

Although students and many teachers "seemed okay with it," the fence is leaning more toward returning to the five-week session, according to **John Favero** who made the comment after the board meeting. Favero fielded trustees' critical questions of the 2006 summer school. Proposals for 2007 are to be presented to the board in January.

Trustees quizzed the district's director of curriculum about food, safety and management. Some of the questions stemmed from start up difficulties at AHS. The East Salinas school went into summer session with its new principal named only days before the start of school.

Trustees' expressed concerns about a short lunchtime, long lines, poor nutrition and insufficient campus supervision. Trustee **Phillip Tabera** said "Some students were not able to eat because of long lines" and a short lunch break.

Tabera, who said the campus supervision was not sufficient, was joined in the criticism by Trustee **Margaret Serna-Bonetti**, who called for increased funding for campus supervisors.

Serna-Bonetti also said that "AHS had to pretty much wing it on opening day," making reference to management issues.

The time frame of the pilot also came under scrutiny, when Tabera expressed concern for a year of work sandwiched into 20 hours. "I think maybe it's too much for some students . . . It seems like a third semester," he said, calling on the board to fund it as such.

In fielding the questions, Favero told trustees that the buck stopped with school principals. Regardless of who is in charge on site, he said, the "principal is in charge and must plan a program that is viable for the school."

The Trustees, after criticising the insufficient supervision and nutrition, asked if the program made or lost money. Favero said the district's program ended in the black and did have funds available.

More than 5,000 students attended the district's 2006 summer program. Among those students were 2,997 high school students and 1,432 middle school students. Favero told trustees that although the retention rate varied from school to school, the average retention for the district was 70 percent.

Student numbers indicate a 321 student increase at the high school level, while the middle school enrollment decreased by 200 students.

In addition, the YES program at Mt. Toro offered job training and instruction for 110 students. The Migrant Program offered courses for 243 students, and ROP provided job skills training for 587 students.

Seventy-four students completed graduation requirements through the program at AHS.

## Officers selected for coming year

Trustees named officers for the coming year without much fanfare. Trustee **Art Gilbert** was re-elected president over **Kathryn Ramirez** by a vote of 4-3.

Trustee **Lila Cann** went unopposed to become the board's vice president, and Tabera unseated Serna-Bonetti to win clerk of the board by a vote of 5-2. Cann replaced Trustee Jim Reavis.

In the past, the election process has come under criticism. Trustee Kathryn Ramirez has called for rotation of leadership rather than a vote.

## Public hearings, votes take care of business

The board voted unanimously to approve the High Priority School Grant Program at LPMS, the interim budget figures, and an increase in school facilities fees. Trustees also voted unanimously to adopt the Environmental Assessment Report on the new high school site at Rogge Road.

Public hearings on the issues went without comment, as did the board's votes.

LPMS submitted its plan to implement changes aimed at improving student performance. The school is to receive about \$400,000 a year for the next three years.

The district's Chief Financial Officer **James Earhart** submitted a "snapshot of the financial picture for the district" marking the first period of 2006-2007. The positive certification notes that the district can meet its financial obligations for the year and the two subsequent years.

The state issued an inflationary increase in facilities fees for Level 1. The fees are assessed on commercial, industrial and residential development projects in the area. Under the Level 1 provision, the district will collect \$.42 per square foot on commercial/industrial and \$2.63 per square foot on residential.

By adopting the environmental report at the Rogge Road site, the district moves toward the close of escrow on the property selected as the site for a proposed future high school.