

Eye On The Board

Board Highlights August 22, 2006

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Top goals Focus on Academics

Students and teachers can expect a continued emphasis on academics over the next five years. Administrators are to develop a master plan to guide the district that focuses on high standards, curriculum, teaching and staff development.

The master plan is to reflect goals set by the board and approved by a vote of 7-0. The goal package also included fiscal integrity, facilities and board leadership.

Like the state standards, each goal elaborates the details, and the master plan outlines implementation.

Student performance heads the list of goals, emphasizing a need to increase the number of students who achieve at grade level, who attend school regularly, and who graduate. At the same time, the plan should include ways to reduce achievement gaps between student groups.

Board members called for a plan that includes plans for collaboration with teachers and feeder districts, curriculum development, and career technology education.

Goals express concern for the teaching, learning and working environments. For hiring qualified teachers, keeping a close watch on the purse strings, and maintaining equipment and facilities.

Finally, trustees expect to seek training that promotes shared leadership, competency and effective governance at the board level.

Prop. 49 offers Grant funding for After-hours Study

Trustees are to consider implementing a before and after school education program based on Proposition 49 for district middle schools.

Administrators intend to keep abreast of developments as funding issues move through the legislative process. "We expect to review it to see if it's viable for us," said **Tim Vanoli**, associate superintendent of curriculum.

To receive the Prop 49 monies, districts must apply for a state grant capped at \$150,000 and provide 50 percent matching funds. Funds are reimbursed through ADA.

Program designs must feature literacy and educational enrichment components. Programs can feature tutoring and homework assistance and activities that include recreation, prevention, performing arts, music, career awareness and preparation, and other youth development activities.

"We have to make it interesting to the students to keep them at school the extra hours," said Vanoli.

The grant would require a three-year commitment to approved programs and student attendance for two hours before school or three hours after school.

Currently, before and after school programs are offered at La Paz and Washington middle schools. In addition, many of the district high schools offer tutoring and homework assistance after hours.

Community seeks to name new court for tennis coach

Trustees will consider a proposal to name SHS tennis court number one after the late, long-time tennis coach **Dan Emmerson**.

Emmerson, who died last year, was an instructor at the downtown campus.

Rendell Requiro, who heads the committee behind the plan, said the remembrance won broad support within the school community.

Committee members hope to place benches and a plaque at the court to memorialize Emmerson. Trustee Anne Brown suggested that board members might consider naming the entire tennis center for Emmerson.

The SHS tennis court project is part of the district's bond measure work.

Consent Agenda

Trustees approved the following items by a vote of 6-0 (Trustee **Kathryn Ramirez** was absent for the vote).

Before taking the vote, board President **Art Gilbert** called on trustees to resolve questions about consent items prior to the meeting. "Make sure you get your answers ahead of time," he said.

- Granite Construction Company's bid to complete the EAHS tennis court project. The company came in with the lowest bid of \$576,049.
- The Student Teacher 2006-2007 between the district and Cal Poly's Agriculture Department.

Summer Summary

by John Nolan

6/27/06:

The Superintendent got a 4.6 salary increase, as did CSEA and management. But the superintendent's pay adjustment was not retroactive to the beginning of 05-06.

Dan Burns was selected to be principal at Alisal High School, and Claudio Montero went back to his former gig as assistant principal after a stint as a teacher at North Salinas High School.

Gary Karnes pitched going ahead with the bond, citing higher than expected approval ratings. There was extensive debate among the board as to whether or not to proceed.

The budget report acknowledged the biggest increase to public education in the last 22 years—5.92 Cost Of Living Adjustment, with 1.1 equalization. Jim Earhart estimated a 443 ADA loss for the coming school year.

8/8/06:

Ernesto Garcia was selected to be another assistant principal at AHS. Susano Marquez was

chosen as interim assistant principal there as well. Paul Brennan was selected to be an assistant principal at Harden Middle School. Angela Hesse was selected to be activities director at Salinas High School.

I reported that we were making progress on working out retention of rotating schedules at Harden Middle School and El Sausal Middle School, and that the reports from summer school were bad, and that I appreciated the support from board members at the Anti-Arnold rally at Arnold Schwarzenegger's re-election campaign stop at SHS.

The board on a motion by Trustee Ramirez, voted 4-2 to not accept taking the Measure B bond to a vote. Trustees Reavis and Serna-Bonetti dissented.

Each of the middle schools lost a secretary due to lay-offs; same at SHS.

The board debated the topic of limits on travel expenses for educational purposes. Trustee Phillip Tabera reminded the board that insufficient training and educational development among the board was a criticism from the grand jury investigation.

8/22/06:

Trustee Reavis referred to a copy of an MST-14, as he pointedly criticized the District for excessive class sizes, "How long will it take to level them out?" he asked the superintendent. Trustee Gilbert asserted that it's a problem that couldn't be solved at the meeting; that it's up to the contract.

Trustee Ramirez reported that she had been shoved outside the meeting by Trustee Serna-Bonetti.

No one responded to a public hearing for adequacy of textbooks.

ESMS teacher Richard Cranston thanked the board for last year's contract settlement, explaining since they heard his concerns during the last school year, he felt it was only right that he thank them as well.

Trustee Tabera asked for a report from legal staff regarding the process for censure of a board member. He expressed concern regarding incidents of physical abuse, harassment of employees, and inappropriate conduct at school functions.

Trustee Cann requested a report on summer school, citing concerns that had been brought to her. Trustee Brown said she wanted the report to be honest.

Teachers' Letter Forum

Teachers are invited to send letters-to-the-editor style comments or questions about newsletter topics or other concerns of general interest to the SVFT membership.

Letters will be printed on a space available basis. Letter writers should include a name and phone number with any submission.

All letter writers must be identified. Letters may be edited for space considerations. Letters can be sent by email to mklinger@salinas.k12.ca.us or to jdolan@sbcglobal.net

Special Announcement On Behalf of Hartnell Faculty: the Board Across the Street

By Phil Moore

The Hartnell College Faculty Association has asked us to inform you that a strike is quite likely at Hartnell College during the next two weeks. Hartnell faculty are the lowest paid community college instructors in the entire state of California and have worked for 2 years without a settlement. An independent arbitrator chosen by both sides ruled that the faculty should get a 4% increase in compensation. After previously agreeing to abide by the findings of the fact-finding process, the board reneged and rejected the fact-finding recommendations!

We strongly urge you to honor their picket line. We realize this is a challenge for adjunct faculty and substitutes, but only solidarity between educators will ensure that any of us will be able to maintain fair compensation and working conditions.

The Hartnell faculty has asked us to support a picket and candlelight vigil at their next board meeting, on **Tuesday, September 12th, 6pm**. It will be right across the street from our board room, in the inner quad area of Hartnell college.

Also, the teachers will meet Friday, 9/8, at room M-12, to picket at a location to be announced.

They will Meet on Saturday, 9/9, from 8am to 2pm, at the farmer's market to write letters. They will also meet the same day for the same purpose at the Harden Ranch Target from 10am to 2pm.

Please write letters to the editor of both newspapers urging public support for the teachers.

Also, if you know any board members on the Hartnell Board, please talk to them and lobby them to support the teachers. Right now, they only have two votes!

Lastly, SVFT is collecting emergency strike fund pledges for Hartnell Faculty if needed. If you might be willing to pledge money in support of the strike fund, tear off the slip below and return it to the box of one of your SVFT building representatives.

I pledge \$_____ (if needed) to
the Hartnell – SVFT Strike Fund.

Name:

Signature: