

Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers
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Board Highlights October 9, 2007 by Mariann Klinger

Classes likely to average out by February

Class size should average out by February, but for many it still means overcrowded classes through the fall.

In a report to trustees, Associate Superintendent **Alejandro Hogan** said it was a necessary situation given the historical comings and goings of students.

Enrollment numbers may exceed the average in the fall semester, particularly at the high school level, and reach suggested averages by Feb. 1, according to the report.

By way of relief, Hogan's report said that overloading should not exceed the average by more than 10 percent.

Suggested averages for February call for 29 students in general academic classes and 42 in physical education.

And while fewer students move in middle schools, many of the classes exceed the recommended 10 percent. SVFT Co-President **Peggy Carroll** listed class sizes at a middle school, most of which held 34 or more students. "Is that what you want for your middle schools?" she asked.

Figures presented by Hogan show student numbers in high school physical education classes coming in at 45 and above. Other classes range from a low of 16 students, mostly in special education classes to a high of 37 in general academic classes.

Hogan explained that the enrollment process, which began in late March, projected the number of students for each school site while considering historical trends, school choice, inter-district transfers, resignations and retirements.

Middle schools, district remain in PI status

The district and its four middle schools failed to meet the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) standards set by the state and NCLB.

In November the state Board of Education is to meet and decide sanctions for districts in year three of PI.

The district is in its third year as a PI local educational agency (LEA), having failed to meet three of 36 performance criteria.

"It's not fair," said board President **Art Gilbert**.

The district met 33 of the state's requirements, but two of its subgroups, English language learners and students with disabilities did not meet the minimum proficiency targets. Students with disabilities also failed to meet the minimum participation rate set by the state.

ESMS is designated a year one PI school, although the school met its AYP requirements. El Sausal must meet the requirements for a second consecutive year in order to be removed from PI status.

HMS is in year two, LPMS is in year 4 and WMS is in year 5.

All the district's high schools met their AYP requirements. NSHS and ASH were designated PI schools in the past.

Each year AYP targets are to increase until 2013-2014, when all schools must have 100 percent of their students performing at or above proficient level on statewide tests.

The district has put into place a plan to meet the ever increasing performance standards.

Board appoints trustees to seats in Areas 4, 6

Trustees appointed incumbent **Kathryn Ramirez** and **Cheryl Larison** to a four-year term on the board.

Neither candidate was opposed in the coming election.

Ramirez completed her first term as trustee for Area 4 and Larison is to take Trustee Anne Brown's seat for Area 6. The two will serve on the board until 2011.

The new trustees are to take office after a swearing in at the December organizational meeting.

Gilbert's seat is also up for reelection. He announced his decision earlier to step down after serving two full terms.

Trustees to review expulsion process

Trustees plan to re-examine community service hours assigned to expelled students as part of rehabilitation.

In September, some trustees said they believed the community service hour requirement was excessive and kept students from returning to classes.

In addition, they expect to review the expulsion process at a later meeting.

Policies

(First reading)

BP 0520 – Intervention for Underperforming Schools

BP 1113 – District and School Web Sites

BP 1220 – Citizen Advisory Committees

BP 1260 – Educational Foundations

BP 2220 – Administrative Staff Organization

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 mklinger44@yahoo.com or to presidents@svft.net