

# Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers

21 West Laurel Drive Suite 61, Salinas, CA 93926-3434

Telephone: 831 -442-8234 ~ Fax: 831 -442-8563 ~ E-mail: [presidents@svft.net](mailto:presidents@svft.net)

**Board Highlights from December 8, 2009 and January 12, 2010**

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

## **SUHSD Signs MOU with State in Support of its Bid for Race to the Top Grant**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the SUHSD and the state of California for the Race to the Top Initiative. The signed MOU expresses SUHSD support of the state of California in its pursuit of the Race to the Top grant and its implementation.

At the January 12, 2010 school board meeting, Superintendent Earhart stated that the funding could potentially mean “about a \$1.5 million for the district.” Earhart cautioned that “the money will come with restrictions.”

SVFT co-president Peggy Carroll addressed the board stating that “SVFT will not sign the MOU for the Race to the Top Initiative.” She said, “There are just too many open-ended questions.” She expressed concern about the initiative becoming an unfunded mandate similar to others we’ve seen like No Child Left Behind and the Special Education mandates.

The MOU was submitted prior to board approval due to time constraints making the board vote a formality. However, Trustee Ramirez stated, “I will not be supporting this because of its restrictions. And, for the fact that the money is only one-time but the requirements continue without it.

The board approved the MOU with a 6-1 vote.

## **Board Supports SVFT Request to Keep Job Recruitment Local**

SVFT co-president Peggy Carroll expressed concern about the 2010-2011 Recruitment Calendar. She said, “In this economy, we just can’t fly with recruiting teachers in foreign countries.” She asked the board to reconsider recruiting outside of California (especially in other countries).

Trustee Cann said, “I agree with Ms. Carroll, that we should not be recruiting in other countries.”

Trustee Larison echoed Cann’s statement saying that, “Given the nature of the economy and the number of teachers we have who don’t have jobs or who lost their jobs, how can we recruit outside of our state?”

Trustee Ramirez agreed saying, “We have a responsibility to give CSU and UC graduates a chance.”

Trustee Saénz expressed concern about the success of the Bi-National Recruitment Program and cited monetary concerns as well.

Trustee Tabera said, “We should concentrate on bringing former students back to teach and developing an MOU with surrounding schools for recruitment.”

Due to time constraints, the board voted to approve the Recruitment Calendar, but to look at it at the next meeting and make changes to it given the discussion.

## **Superintendent Earhart Returns from Sacramento with Budget Update**

Superintendent Earhart visited the state capitol on January 12<sup>th</sup> to get an update of the governor's budget proposal.

Mr. Earhart stated that many of the budget details they cover are "big picture kind of things that are relevant to us because, for example, the unemployment rate is 12% statewide, whereas here in Salinas it's about 20%."

Mr. Earhart's visit revealed that the 2010-2011 budget is running about negative \$6 billion and 2011-2012 is about negative \$3 billion. He pointed out that this creates a trickle down effect for us and this year we're running at about \$300 per student less than we were getting in 2008."

Superintendent Earhart reminded the board that, "We've had outside help to stabilize our budget and we've also used some reserves, and made some cuts." He stated this will probably not be enough, but said, "We're working on a budget and will bring it to you in a month."

Mr. Earhart continued saying, "The gloom and doom is not as stressed as last year because they are not targeting education to the extent they were last year." He also notified the board that although there will be a reduction in the revenue limit for administration, there is no longer a difference in apportionments. Earhart pointed out, "Current funding will remain about the same as 2009-2010."

Superintendent Earhart closed his report saying, "District administrations are under attack" by the state because "they are getting involved in Human Resource departments." He said, "They are targeting certificated staff by changing how teacher tenure and lay-off's occur." He expressed frustration with this saying, "They're kind of wearing out the teacher-bashing. Even if you fire one teacher, you still have to hire another one."

## **New Board Member Seated**

Evamaria Martinez became the newest board member on December 8, 2009. She was recently elected from area #5 (East Salinas).

## **Board Members Seated**

Phillip Tabera, Board President  
Cheryl Larison, Board Vice-President  
Patty Saénz, Board Clerk  
Lila Cann, Board Member  
Evamarie Martinez, Board Member\*  
Kathryn Ramirez, Board Member  
Jim Reavis, Board Member