

Eye On The Board

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Board Highlights from August 2010

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

Kindle Study Shows Impact on Reading

Last year, Cynthia Hess (SHS Teacher) and her mathematics students did a sample study on the uses of Kindle in the classroom setting. Ms. Hess and her students reported that Kindle holds much potential for use in the educational setting: gives access to over 600,000 books, holds 1,500 books, 3G wireless access, and is lightweight (10.2 ounces).

The purpose of their experiment was to find out if Amazon Kindle, used in a predominantly ELL classroom, could significantly increase reading proficiency as measured on the STAR reading test. Their experiment showed that Kindle did significantly impact reading scores on the STAR test (when outliers were left in the data).

This year, the Kindle study will continue with a focus on self-selectivity to observe its impact on the study.

Salinas High School Students and Staff Experience Bumpy Start

At the August 24th SUHSD Board Meeting, Phil Moore (SHS Teacher) spoke to the board about some issues at SHS regarding class size and balancing. Mr. Moore stated that, "People are just staring in disbelief because it's the third week of school and we're not even sure who are students are. The changes are being made hourly."

Mr. Moore mentioned that three grievances had already been filed and there were more on the way. He ended saying, "Teacher don't even know how many students we have in our classes."

Trustee Cann said she had visited SHS on the first day of school and it was "utter chaos and I don't understand why. It is not normally like that."

Trustee Larison stated that she also visited SHS on the first day of school. She said, "It was absolute chaos and parents were among the students and there was no order." Ms. Larison continued saying, "As a person who has visited SHS every year, I was shocked at the disorganization."

Superintendent Earhart remarked, "I'm satisfied with the current class size enrollment, (unrestricted funds) but this doesn't address balancing and we're working on that."

Trustee and Board President Philip Tabera ended by saying he noticed the disorder and requested a presentation from administration on this issue.

Board Resolution:

The SUHSD School Board adopted resolution 10-49—urging repeal of Arizona Senate Bill 1070 by a vote of 6-1

Second Reading of Board Policy 1240—volunteer Assistance and Board Policy 4027—Temporary Athletic Team Coaches SUHSD