

# Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers  
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## Board Highlights from September 2010

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

### Performing Arts Center Proves a Gift to the Community

“After so many years of trying to move the mountain...I realized we have to go to the mountain.” Mike Roddy said as he addressed the school board about the new Performing Arts Center at Salinas High School.

Mr. Roddy stated that SHS is doing a great job of accommodating everyone and that “by providing access to the SHS Performing Arts Center, we’re meeting needs of the community.” He continued by saying, “It’s a gift to the students and the community...this is the epitome of collaboration.”

Mr. Roddy, retired EAHS Drama teacher and writer/director, has started an Alumni Troupe here in Salinas with former students who live here in the community. He will be the director of the troupe.

### Student Expulsions Down during 2009-2010

Mr. Romero, principal of Mount Toro, reported to the board that in 2009-2010 student expulsions were down from the last three preceding years.

“In 2009-2010, the board heard 78 expulsion referrals and voted for full expulsion on 56 of them” said Mr. Romero. Most of the referrals occur in November and, then again, in spring. He cited violation of education code #4900 (caused or attempted to cause physical harm to another person) as the highest occurring reason for expulsion referral. The second highest reason for expulsion referral was for brandishing a knife.

Mr. Romero’s report also shows that males tend to be the highest number of students referred. Female referrals has actually gone down. Mr. Romero also stated that “Right now we’re going through a phase of gang issues” referencing an increase in gang-related referrals.

He also stated, “The board is voting to keep students who are expelled in the district rather than sending them out of the county.”

### Consent Items:

The Board approved with a vote of 7-0 to reinstate the five furlough days for teachers (six for administrators) on the 2010-2011 school calendar.

Board Bylaw 9270 “Conflict of Interest” passed with a vote of 7-0

The Board approved the consulting agreement with California Consulting, LLC (vote 7-0)

### Information:

Gary Walter, from a program called Reclaim for the Future, addressed the Board. He wanted to let teachers in the district know that his program provides reclaimed wood and metal free of charge to any school who wants it. Schools can visit their program located at Fort Ord and pick out items they would like to use. 100% Free!