

Eye On The Board

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Reported by Mariann Klinger

Board Highlights September 11, 2007

AYP slips from reach despite effort

While the Adequate Yearly Progress target eludes the district, many of its schools met state and federal targets, 99 percent of students participated in state testing and thousands of them earned superstar pins for achievement.

ESMS students and staff took home a banner – the only school to meet all targets in 2007. The middle school earned banners over six of the past eight years for meeting growth and progress targets.

Using a measurement whereby 100 percent of targets must be met, the district logged in at 92 percent. The district met 33 of 36 AYP criteria. The measuring standard calls for each subgroup of students within the school community to achieve all targets. Frequently English Language Learners do not meet the English and math targets set by state and federal governments.

Concerned that public reports could mark the district and its schools as failures,

Superintendent **Roger Anton** called for recognition of students' continued progress and the hard work of teachers. "We're seeing a dramatic increase over the years with some schools going from 400 to 600 API."

Teachers, he said, have been pushing the envelope and can continue to do so, but should be praised for their successes.

In addition to ESMS, HMS, AHS, and EAHS met AYP targets for state English Language Arts tests last spring. All district subgroups, except for ELL and disabled students met the targets, according to a report by Research Director **Robert Martinez**. In math, along with ESMS, LPMS, AHS, EAHS, NSHS and SHS met the state testing targets. District wide all subgroups met the math targets, he said. Middle school targets for 2007 were set at 24.4 percent proficient in ELA and 26.5 percent in math. At the high school level, 22.3 percent of students needed to demonstrate proficiency in ELA and 20.9 percent in math.

Martinez told trustees that all schools "have shown gains" on the API in 2007, although most did not meet growth targets set by the state.

Schools need a minimum of 590 points on the API chart. Only MTHS falls below the minimum with 541. Currently, the other district schools range from an API of 599 (AHS) to 704 (WMS). Most achieved an API in the mid to high 600s.

Trustees and district officials expressed concern for meeting 2008 targets, which are expected to call for a significant increase in the number of students achieving subject matter proficiency.

The district expects to distribute 4837 superstar pins, nearly 75 percent to students achieving proficient or advanced on the state tests and another 1274 increasing points from the previous year.

At commencement, seniors may wear superstar pins on graduation gowns, according to Associate Superintendent **Tim Vanoli**.

At the end of the month, The Californian is to publish the names of students earning superstar pins at district expense, he added.

Budget balance leaves board spending options

Trustees unanimously approved the accounting of the district's \$83 million 2007-08 budget. Associate Superintendent **James Earhart** told trustees they can expect a revision next month. Earhart also offered the board a final summary of last year's budget, showing an ending balance of \$7,503,584. The unrestricted General Fund balance reflects the 4 percent reserve carried by the district.

The district also holds \$2,388,114 as an undesignated fund balance. Board President **Art Gilbert** tongue-in-cheek advised trustees not to spend the funds too quickly.

At that time Gilbert announced he will not seek reelection. After serving eight years on the board and experiencing serious health problems through the summer, he said it was time to step down.

'Eye' Extra

Year old program keeps members in good health

More than 300 faculty and staff headed for gyms and health improvement programs at MBPET expense last year.

The trust's Well Call program invited individual and family members to lead a healthier life on the healthcare tab, according to Carol Harvel, trust office manager.

Members chose a variety of programs, including gym and YMCA memberships, yoga classes, and weight watchers, she said.

The program reimburses members up to \$300 a year for a wellness program or provider. If a family is covered by the trust, each member of the family gets a \$300 reimbursement – enough to pay for family gym memberships, she added. Those participating in WellCall represent less than one-third of the eligible population. Harvel

speculated that a lack of awareness of the program may account for the low participation. Teachers can join the program by logging on to www.wellcall.com or calling the trust office at 757-1711.

Policies

(Adopted by trustees)

- BP 5119 – Students Expelled from Other Districts
- BP 6142.91 – Reading/Language Arts Instruction
- BP 6145.2 – Athletic Competition
- BP 6164.4 – Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education
- BP 6164.41 – Children with Disabilities Enrolled by their Parents in Private School
- BP 6190 – Evaluation of the Instructional Program