

# Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers  
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## Board Highlights from November and December, 2011

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

### Parcel Tax Survey Results

SUHSD recently hired *True North Research* to explore the feasibility of passing a parcel tax. The parcel tax would raise money for the school district to offset continuing budget cuts and to keep the Salinas Adult School and ROP open.

For a parcel tax to pass, two-thirds of the voters in an election need to approve it. The survey conducted reached over 400 likely voters in the upcoming November 2012 election. It asked them if they would support a \$79 per year, per parcel tax.

Although the community expressed strong support for education and the SAS and ROP, a majority (55%) of respondents would not support a parcel tax at the proposed level. However, support for the parcel tax measure increased as the monetary commitment decreased. The most frequently cited reason for not supporting the parcel tax was that people are not having an easy time financially right now.

The result of the survey is that a parcel tax is not feasible in the short term. This is due primarily to predicted low voter turnout in 2011 and the tax rate sensitivity limiting the effectiveness of a positive campaign.

### Independent Study Report

There are currently 261 students enrolled in Independent Study. Students enroll in Independent Study for many reasons: health issues, religious beliefs, safety concerns, teen parents, and at-risk behavior, among others.

On average, Independent Study students earn about 22 credits per semester (30 credits per semester are needed to progress toward graduation). Currently, about 10 percent of students are on track for graduation.

Students complete one subject at a time and meet daily with certificated staff for 55 minutes who teach all subjects to their students.

### Board Elects New Officers for 2011

At the December SUHSD Board meeting, the following new officers were elected and installed:

Board President: Trustee Saenz  
Board Vice-President: Trustee Larison  
Board Clerk: Trustee Cann

The Board approved the following committee assignments for 2011:

Adult/Community Education Advisory: Trustee Martinez

Education Foundation Board of Directors:  
Trustee Saenz

Monterey County Schools' Board Association:  
Trustee Ramirez

ROP Executive Board: Trustee Martinez

Sunrise House Board of Directors: Trustee Reavis

City of Salinas Education Committee: Trustee Tabera