

# Eye On The Board

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## Board Highlights from September 2011

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

### District Meets 40 of 41 API Targets

Dr. Bob Martinez, Director of Research/Assessment/Accountability presented the 2011 Accountability Progress Report to the Board on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Martinez congratulated the board, administrators, teachers, and students saying, "Academically, we did a great job this past year." He went on to tell the board that the district met 40 of 41 API targets. Dr. Martinez also announced that "2,626 SUHSD Superstar 2011 pins were given out this year" which is an 8% increase from last year and represents 42% of the total enrollment of 2011.

After Dr. Martinez' presentation, every district high school received a yellow banner for meeting all targets. WMS scored above the statewide performance target of 800 and the other three middle schools received yellow banners for meeting all API targets. LPMS received a blue banner for meeting all targets for five years.

Each school was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the office of CA Assembly member, Luis Alejo.

### SVFT President Addresses the Board Concerning Several Issues

SVFT President, Steve McDougall, addressed the Board on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. He expressed dissatisfaction with the class size issues saying, "We still have some pockets of class size issues here and there. I would have hoped they would be resolved by now...not so much at the middle schools, but definitely at the high schools.

Mr. McDougall also addressed the Board about Six (6) Period Contracts. He said, "I don't know if you know what they are, but they are when a teacher agrees to teach an extra period (6 instead of 5)... they're good for the pocketbook, but not always good for students, as they can lead to teacher exhaustion. At one high school, 1 in 4 teachers (25 people) are on Six Period Contracts. I wonder if it's hurting kids by not having a fresh teacher without time to stop and take a deep breath during the day. These comments may not be popular with some of my brothers and sisters out there, but I think it's about what's good for students."

Lastly, Mr. McDougall addressed evaluations with the Board. He stated that, "The law requires that for teacher evaluations, an administrator must visit them twice in the classroom, at a minimum. Every year, we do the minimum. The contract language is also there (for administrators) to visit and help teachers improve. I would like to have a pledge that if a teacher is struggling, or if you want to have a marginal teacher improve, we should do more than the minimum. Before a teacher is labeled as unsatisfactory, more than the minimum- which consists merely of two visits totaling less than 110 minutes of observation, ought to be put into an evaluation. Again, it's about what's good for students."

At the September 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, SVFT President, Steve McDougall, addressed the Board about the changes taking place at Alternative Education. He stated, "There have been many, and in some instances, overzealous changes in Alternative Education. SVFT wasn't asked about them, and SVFT wants to know about them."

Mr. McDougall also stated that he is against the new Middle School at EAHS, and he hasn't heard of any SVFT members who are in favor of it. He reminded the Board that "the LPMS class size reduction grant (QEIA) is running out in 2014, so classroom space will become available in a couple of years."

While referencing the September incident during an EAHS football game, Mr. McDougall also commented on safety saying, "Safety is paramount to our students and staff...Perhaps, you could review game night management plans. You may want to consider giving more attention to what is happening in parking lots and around the perimeter of contests." He suggested that the Board should consider no "in and out" privileges for anyone, including valedictorians.

## **Salinas Education Center Highlighted**

Randy Bangs, Director ROP/SAS, presented information to the Board about plans for alternative education in the district. He reminded the Board that this is the third year in a three year plan to reorganize alternative education.

Mr. Bangs stated that El Puente has a current enrollment of 296 students (only 12 are middle school students at this time). He stated that "the old model has changed so that students now have class on Mondays for four hours. Tuesday and Thursdays are extra help days. They are looking at beefing up Fridays to help increase ADA and increase safety" by having students in school that day as well.

Mr. Bangs went on to discuss the successes such as the Teen Parent Program, AVENTA (the online credit recovery program, and the high numbers of students enrolled in ROP.

Another school in alternative education highlighted by Mr. Bangs was Mount Toro. He praised the school saying that last year the school showed a 65 point growth in API. He told the Board that although attendance is still a challenge, 87 students received diplomas last year and 108 got their GED.

There are currently 31 students enrolled in one of the new additions to alternative educations, Carr

Lake Community Day School. Mr. Bangs said, "This school is for students expelled from the comprehensive high schools and middle schools."

Another addition to alternative education is AVENTA which is an online learning place. Mr. Bangs stated that the plan is for this to be "a credit recovery school...in place of El Puente." This past summer was a trial run with 194 students and went well.

## **Middle School Task Force Formed and new Middle School at EAHS Shelved**

At the September 27<sup>th</sup> SUHSD school board meeting, the formation of a new Middle School Task Force was announced, effective January 2012.

Trustee Ramirez questioned why SVFT wasn't included on the new task force. Mr. Vanoli then responded that he will work with SVFT to make sure someone from SVFT is represented.

Superintendent Earhart announced the conclusion of the study concerning the proposal of a new middle school at EAHS. He said, "I appreciate your support to check this stuff out. There are a lot of concerns. It seems like this could be a great idea if it was formulated when a new site is built. As of right now, we're going to back off the middle school idea at EAHS.

## **Year End Expulsions Report**

Mike Romero, Director of Pupil Personnel Services presented the Year End Expulsion Referral Report to the Board at the September 13<sup>th</sup> school board meeting. Mr. Romero said, "During the 2010-2011 school year, the Board acted on 83 expulsion cases. We made a real, concerted effort to work with students. He went on to explain that only 10 students were denied readmission and "that was because those students had not completed the mandatory rehabilitation requirements."

## **Board Actions/Resolutions:**

On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, and by a vote of 4-0, (Trustees Larison, Martinez, and Reavis were absent), the Board adopted **Resolution #1-82** (Sufficiency of Standards-Aligned Textbooks/Instructional Materials).

On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, and by a vote of 4-0, (Trustees Larison, Martinez, and Reavis were absent), the Board adopted **Resolution #11-81** (Gann Limit).

On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, and by a vote of 4-0, (Trustees Larison, Martinez, and Reavis were absent), the Board approved the **2010-2011 Unaudited Actuals**.

On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, and by a vote of 4-0, (Trustees Larison, Martinez, and Reavis were absent), the Board adopted **Resolution #11-84** (Annual School Facilities Needs Analysis and Justification Report—Notice of Exemption from CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)).

From a report on Closed Session on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, and by a vote of 6-0, the Board **directed Superintendent Earhart to encourage staff to seriously consider applying for promotional opportunities** as they become available.

Also, from a report on Closed Session on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, and by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to **appoint Diane Hendricks to Associate Superintendent of Human Resources** from June 2011 to June 2012.