

Eye On The Board

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Board Highlights from January, 2011

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

Board Considers Special Education Changes

Diane Hendricks presented information to the board regarding the MCOE program transfers. The presentation was part of a plan to take back special education students from the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE).

Ms. Hendricks told the board that SELPA's "were created to ensure a full program to special education students and that MCOE has an unusually high number of special education classes when compared to other counties in the state." She said, "the district has 1050 students being educated in the mild/moderate level... 124 of which can be transferred back to the district at a savings of over \$4 million."

Superintendent Earhart stated, "We actually break even doing this when we account for the chargeback." He also said that, "We'll need more special education teachers, but students will be mainstreamed into classes, mostly placing students within the social context rather than necessarily mainstream classes."

Trustee Saenz and Trustee Cann asked if the district needs to hire more teachers. Ms. Hendricks responded that, "We will need 11 teachers and 34 classified aides to work with the students."

Under the planned program changes, Ms. Hendricks made it clear that the district will not be obligated to become a regional program. She also stated that the county has projected a chargeback of \$6 million for this year and \$4 million for next year at a total savings of about \$4 million. She concluded stating that, "We'll need to keep the program at current levels to

break even, but, hopefully, we'll see more savings in the future."

PARS Retirement Incentive for Adult School

Mr. Reggie Smith from the Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) made a presentation to the SUHSD school board regarding the possibility of an early retirement incentive for the Salinas Adult School certificated employees. He stated that, "The plan is projected to save the district about \$179,000 in 2011-2012 and about \$951,000 or more over the next five years."

After the presentation, and during the presentation by employee organizations, SVFT co-President, Peggy Carroll, stated that she "hoped that the administration will sit down with SVFT regarding PARS."

Subsequently, on a motion by Trustee Tabera, seconded by Trustee Reavis, and a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Martinez was absent), the board adopted Resolution #11-02—Adult School Retirement.

Planned Dissolution of SAS Continues

Mr. Randy Bangs, Director of ROP and SAS, gave a presentation to the school board about the continued reduction plan for ROP and SAS.

He continued saying that, “Certificated reductions have been avoided up to this point. However, we’re at the point where further reductions are necessary.” This is caused by recent state funding cuts to adult education across the state.

The SAS lost 18 positions during the 2010-2011 school year and the planned dissolution of the SAS for 2011-2012 includes reducing the SAS by 16 full-time teachers. The planned reductions include part-time teachers. The current reduction proposal does not include the PARS retirement incentive.

In Other News:

The school board appointed Chris Perez , Payroll Technician, as management trustee to the Monterey Bay Public Employee Trust (MBPET).

During a presentation to the board regarding District Benchmark scores, Assistant Superintendent Vanoli stated that we’re approaching a time, probably 2013, when we have common core standards and the Benchmarks come from the state and are taken online.

Superintendent Earhart presented Board Policy 7310—Naming of Facility. He asked the board to send names of community members from the areas they serve who wish to serve on a committee to name the new EAHS Agricultural Science Complex.