

# Eye On The Board

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## Board Highlights from October 2011

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

### Board Hears Report on BTSA Program

At the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Gloria Hill, BTSA Coordinator, gave a Board presentation highlighting the districts Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program (BTSA). BTSA is a 2-year program that allows new teachers to use an action research system to reflect on their teaching using the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP).

Ms. Hill told the Board that “BTSA revolves around the philosophy of Plan, Teach, Reflect, and Apply.” This year there are just over 60 teachers enrolled in the BTSA program with 47 veteran teachers who support them. Support providers work one-on-one with the new teachers daily.

“This year, BTSA is incorporating professional development seminars from experts in the field of teaching.” said Hill, which is something new for the program. Hill ended by reflecting on how much BTSA has grown. Since she first started in 2007, BTSA has grown from 32 teachers to 61 new teachers in 2012.

### Report on District-Wide Protocols for Bullying

At the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Mike Romero, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, presented a report on district-wide protocols for bullying. Mr. Romero reported that “the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) was the reference point for developing the bullying

protocol.” The administrative team he assembled also reviewed California law and California Education Code as it developed the protocol.

Mr. Romero told the Board that all administrators were trained in the protocol at the start of the school year. He also stated that, “the new district forms have been provided to all sites, and they are on the SUHSD web site.” The new forms require administrators to act within 48 hours once a form is submitted.

After Mr. Romero finished his presentation, several trustees had questions and comments. Trustee Ramirez stated that, “My son has been bullied so this subject is very near and dear to my heart. I want to know that you have a plan for following through on this so students don’t fall through the cracks... It is very hard for a student to come forward because of the “you’re a rat” culture if you tell someone.

Mr. Romero responded that, “We have provided guidance and now the sites need to go back and follow through.”

Trustee Martinez expressed the importance of this type of collaboration and asked, “Is this information being given to all classes?”

Mr. Romero responded that it was.

Trustee Tabera added that it is difficult for many kids to come forward and commented that he would “like to see gang involvement documented as a kind of bullying, or harassment” because he sees gang involvement as a form of bullying.

## **Suspension/Expulsion Process Reviewed by Board**

The entire suspension and expulsion process was presented to the Board by Mike Romero at the October 25<sup>th</sup> SUHSD School Board meeting.

Mr. Romero stated that “Education Code #48900-48926 lays out the entire procedure from suspension to expulsion.” He added that SUHSD “has a zero-tolerance policy.”

Mr. Romero said, “When a student commits an offense, an administrator investigates with the help of the student because we have to allow the student who is charged to present their side...”

He continued presenting the entire suspension/expulsion process. Then, near the end of his presentation, Mr. Romero said, “The Behavior Review Committee (BRC) is not mandated by California Education Code. It is not a legal proceeding, and it is strictly a SUHSD process. Its purpose is to provide information to the principal.

He also told the Board that, “When an expelled student returns to school where there is a victim, the previously expelled student is placed at a different site.”

After the presentation, Trustee Cann stated, “I would like to see a way that students, who are waiting expulsion, can continue to go to school because that’s how we lose our students (and ADA).”

Mr. Romero said that “the district is looking for ways for students to be able to do work.” He added, “We cannot require teachers to provide homework to suspended students--that’s Ed. Code.”

Trustee Tabera wanted to know what happens when a student is 18 years old and older.

Mr. Romero responded that, “Compulsory education is from 4-18 years old, but we have to ask ourselves if we want a student who has committed a crime to continue on our campuses if they are 18 years old or older.”

Trustee Martinez wanted to know if the new online learning program “AVENTA is available for use by students who are suspended or waiting for expulsion?” Mr. Romero said that the district is looking at it and understands there is a need.

## **DELAC Committee Makes Recommendations**

The District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) led by Blanca Baltazar, Director of English Learners/Migrant Education made its recommendations to the Board. The recommendations follow:

ELAC should be involved in staff recognition, more Instructional Aides should be hired for content classes, professional development in cultural proficiency and pedagogy needed, principals should attend all ELAC meetings, provide more summer school classes, and provide academic curricular nights.

## **Action Items/Resolutions:**

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Larison absent), the Board adopted Resolution #11-83 to revoke the registration of Methyl Iodide for licensed use in California. Afterward, Trustee Tabera requested that a copy of the resolution be sent to schools around the valley.

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Larison absent), the Board approved receipt and allocation of Tier III funds.

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Larison absent), the Board adopted Resolution #22-87 to establish Inter-fund Transfers of Restricted Funds.

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Larison absent), the Board approved the 2012 Summer School Session.