

Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers

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Board Highlights from January 2012

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

Superintendent's Transition Plan

Mr. Earhart, Superintendent of SUHSD, addressed the Board on January 24th with Mr. Vanoli, the Superintendent-elect, at his side. They presented their transition plan for the span of time until Mr. Vanoli takes the helm as the new Superintendent on July 1st.

Together, they presented several items that the two of them will be working on over the next few months. Mr. Earhart informed the board that they will be working on getting a bond together to place for the November 2012 ballot to help finance a fifth high school. He also told the Board that they are continuing to work on a fifth middle school at the original site across from Constitution Avenue and past Boronda Road.

Mr. Earhart informed the Board that the Monterey Bay Public Employee Trust (MBPET) "continues to have issues," and he has appointed Ms. Diane Hendricks to sit on the Trust's Executive Board in the coming months.

The Superintendent also stated that, with the help of Mr. Vanoli, he intends to work on several other issues: Mount Toro's two year accreditation, Music Program Support and Expansion, Salinas Education Center fixes, Hartnell Articulation, and School Safety expansion from NSHS to other sites.

Mr. Earhart told the Board that Mr. Vanoli will make recommendations for open management positions and that "staff allocation and recruitment will potentially be better because we have the pre-registration numbers already thanks to the eschoolPlus system."

In conclusion, Mr. Vanoli added, "Mr. Earhart and I talk on a daily basis and we'll continue to work together over the next six months so all will be smooth when school opens."

SVFT President Outlines Several SVFT Concerns to the Board

On January 10th, Steve McDougall, SVFT President, addressed the SUHSD Board of Trustees. He first offered congratulations to Mr. Vanoli on his appointment as Superintendent. He then stated, "Teaching and Learning in 2012 is not at all like it was 30, 20, 10 years ago. The game and its rules have changed, and for those who have taken on the calling of teaching and leading staffs, are special folks that rarely get the recognition they deserve."

Mr. McDougall continued, "Our students, parents, and staff, and community all deserve world class educational leadership. The Federation is ready, willing, and able to assist in identifying who those world class leaders are and are not." He then concluded with some strong words, "For those that are in our collective way from moving forward, they need to be moved out of the way. For those that are ready to lead us forward, welcome aboard. Now let's get going!"

On January 24th, Steve McDougall, SVFT President, addressed the Board again. He told them that progress at negotiations has been "slow, and it seemed that there was either a hidden agenda and/or a lack of preparedness."

The SVFT President also mentioned the slow progress of the Special Education Task Force, noting that the deadline for their work is March 1, 2012. The SVFT president told the Board that, “Just last night the SVFT Executive Board passed a resolution that asks you, the Board of Trustees, to ensure however you can, that this mission critical task of doing what is right for our Special Needs population is accomplished prior to March 1st in order to allow implementation prior to the start of the next school year.”

Mr. McDougall also informed the Board that, “The SVFT Executive Board has passed a resolution urging the Board to support placing the parcel tax on the November 2012 ballot to augment a program or programs that have lost support or funding in this district.” He reminded the Board that “this November will be a prime opportunity to obtain voter support for this genre of ballot measure.”

The SVFT President said that he is glad that some attention is finally being paid to changes that may need to occur in Alternative Education in the district. He also expressed frustration that it has taken so long for the district to acknowledge this.

Finally, Mr. McDougall again offered the help of the Federation (SVFT) in identifying “world class” leadership to fill administrative positions that are opening up. Mr. McDougall also told the Board that, “The Federation is concerned that there are no other administrative positions being posted at this time. Perhaps they will come in the near future.” Then, he offered assistance in “identifying where leadership is lacking.”

SVFT Members Speak Out

Katharine Bassler, MTHS Teacher, addressed the School Board at the January 24th meeting. Bassler pointed out several issues related to Alternative Education that have been a concern for a while, noting they have also recently become part of a W.A.S.C. recommendations. One of these recommendations is the need for a bell schedule at Mount Toro High School. Teachers at MTHS have

desired a bell schedule for quite a while now and would like a schedule that allows collaboration to be implemented. Bassler told the Board, There has been no implementation thus far because “it has never made it onto the Board agenda” for approval.

Phil Moore, SHS Teacher, spoke to the Board about the necessity of a bond measure in the fall. He said, “We face cut after cut for instruction. In November 2012, we have an election where 67% of the population will vote. We will never have a chance like that again to get a bond measure on the ballot. We need vocational classes and ESL classes for adults. We need ongoing support for the fine arts program.”

Action Items/Resolutions

January 10, 2012:

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Saenz absent), the Board appointed Cheryl Larison to the SUHSD Board of Trustees. Trustee Larison took the Oath of Office after her appointment that night.

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Saenz absent), the Board adopted Resolution#12-01 recognizing February 2012 as Black History Month.

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Saenz absent), the Board approved the School Choice Process for 2012-2013.

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Saenz absent), the Board approved the Superintendent elect’s Employment Agreement with Tim Vanoli effective July 1, 2012.

The Board recognized Yoshiharu “Yo” Azama, NSHS teacher, as National Language Teacher of the Year.

January 24, 2012:

By a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Saenz absent), the Board approved Resolution #12-03 to ratify remuneration, reimbursement, and other benefits to Trustee Patty Saenz who was absent from Board meetings during the month of January due to hospitalization.

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Saenz absent), the Board approved the 2010-2011 Financial Audit Report.