

Eye On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers
21 West Laurel Drive Suite 61, Salinas, CA 93926-3434
Telephone: 831 -442-8234 ~ Fax: 831 -442-8563 ~ E-mail: presidents@svft.net

Board Highlights from November 2011

Reported by Mary Ellingwood

2010 Census Necessitates Redistricting Plan

At the November 8th meeting, the Board heard a report on a redistricting plan by Dr. Shelley Lapkoff of Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc. The review was initiated because after each decennial census, California Education Code (5019.5) stipulates that jurisdictions, like SUHSD, that elect trustees must evaluate characteristics of the district and adjust boundaries if necessary.

After two meetings, and factoring in all legal requirements, the Redistricting Committee recommended Plan 3 for which the committee members voted unanimously. Plan 3 creates boundaries that balance the population, maintain Hispanic voting strength, and utilize existing major roads.

The plan it is on track to be completed by the March 2012 deadline.

Information on Benchmark Tests Reported to Board

At the November 8th SUHSD Board Meeting, Tim Vanoli, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Benchmark I results. In the report, Mr. Vanoli stated that in California, “the STAR program measures the extent to which mandated content area standards, known as the CST’s are attained. These standards are assessed with criterion-referenced, multiple-choice tests.”

Mr. Vanoli also reported that the SUHSD “has followed the progression of the STAR program and has developed formative assessments to provide teachers information on their students learning of the content standards...these assessments, known as benchmarks, are developed by district content area teachers using the state blueprints to focus on those standards to be assessed during the school year.”

Throughout the district, the Benchmark I results have shown continued growth in the past three years. However, this year the percentages used in calculating performance levels changed from the previous years, making it more difficult to achieve proficiency. Thus, the data reviewed by the board showed general trends of growth across subjects.

Common Core Standards Update

Mr. Vanoli gave the board an impromptu update on the Common Core Standards saying, “We already wrote the scope and sequence for grades 9 and 10. This summer we’ll do grades 7, 8, 11, and 12. Mathematics will be completely different than how we currently deliver mathematics... We’re about 3 years away from rolling out the Common Core Standards.”

Action Items/Resolutions

On a vote of 6-0 (Trustee Martinez absent), the Board approved Redistricting Plan 3.