



# On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers

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## Board Highlights from AUGUST 2014

Reported By J.J. Campos

### The Sound Of Silence

Just when we were startin' to get comfortable, we hit our first snag, and I'm not one to gossip...but I will. 😊 Never let it be said Board meetings are short on drama and to prove the point, SVFT President Steve McDougall appeared frustrated and stormed out of the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, right after hearing the Board announce the approval of a directorship position. And while one can only speculate, the atmosphere was a little tense. This was further evident at a recent meeting when the



Board asked for comments from organizations (i.e. CSEA/SVFT) and McDougall, seated front and center opened a newspaper, began reading it and well...basically ignored them. "Hello darkness my old friend..." Must' a been some article!

### It's All In The Numbers

But it wasn't all bad. SVFT President did have some good things to say at the previous meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> where he basically congratulated SUHSD Administrators for keeping class sizes in check, although according to McDougall, there were "a few snags". Overall, it was as McDougall put it, a "creamy smooth opening

of school, unlike my golf swing." Board Trustee Lila Cann agreed and noted it was "the smoothest day" they'd ever had. Also, several newly hired Vice Principals (8 in total) were introduced at that meeting which prompted Board Secretary Phil Tabera to ask how many of these Vice Principals were former Salinas Union High School District students. Associate Superintendent Dan Burns replied by stating 6 of those Vice Principals were former students. Tabera was pleased and ended by stating that was a "good job".



### Got Books?

Associate Superintendent Dan Burns gave a report on the Williams Act and was faced with a few questions from Trustee Kathryn Ramirez. Ramirez began her line of questioning by asking "how many times do you go on campus for Williams"? Burns stated that each school site received one visit related to the Williams Act, and that it was overseen by the Monterey County Office of Education. Ramirez' questions appeared to carry a skeptical tone, and she pressed on by stating she thought the District did four visits, to which Burns replied that the District gave four reports to the Board a year, but only one visit was made.

### We Need Bigger Pants

Pardon the comparison but usually, when someone gains weight, one of two things happen: they lose weight or they buy bigger pants 😊. As we've discussed before in prior editions, it's no secret our



District is bursting at the seams, and it's not shrinking anytime soon. Bigger pants it is. Assistant Superintendent Randy Bangs made a presentation describing this growth, and some of its inherent problems, in detail. The problem we currently have is that the number of Extra Period Contracts has been rising to unhealthy levels. As you know, these help fill in and accommodate the growth, but they're meant to be temporary fixes. Trustee Ramirez wanted to know why that was happening. The simple answer given by Bangs was that the market for new teacher hires is as competitive as ever, partly due to the fact that Proposition 30 passed.

**“We go back to Prop 30, as well as LCAP. It makes it more competitive.”**

*Assistant Superintendent Randall Bangs*

Superintendent Tim Vanoli added that teacher college enrollment was declining. This led to a series of tangential comments that eventually brought us to the underlying problem: We have a shortage of teachers. Trustee Tabera and Trustee Ramirez joined the conversation to ask if the District was doing enough to foster relationships between University feeder programs throughout the state. Ultimately, Tabera asked if there might be a “way to funnel students from the USC and CSU systems more effectively?” But then, just then...he got to the heart of the matter and made a bold statement. A statement so bold that it trumped all others. An argument to end all arguments. A statement so piercing, that it cut through the painful veil of where the problem really lies. The mother of all arguments to lay the matter to rest. It was brilliant. It was concise....It was beautiful. Ok, I'll stop. He said...

.....wait for  
it.....

**“Teaching doesn't pay a lot.”**  
No....Way.



## Briefly

**R**OP Director Sharon Albert made a presentation on behalf of Skills USA attesting to the program's great success.

**“We aim to prepare them (students) to be competitors in the global marketplace.”**

**Sharon Albert**

*Director Regional Occupational Center*

Skills USA is an organization that, as the overview on their website indicates, “is serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations and for further education.” Assistant Director of ROP Nancy Renteria received several awards on behalf of students, who happened to be visibly absent from the recognition. One notable student was Isaiah Garcia, who took Gold at the state Mill Cabinetry competition and Trustee Lila Cann asked if students such as Isaiah could be brought back and be recognized before the Board with Renteria answering in the affirmative. Congratulations to all of those who were recognized and to Skills USA, for its outstanding contribution in preparing students locally and nationally.