



On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers

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Board Highlights from September 2014

Reported By J.J. Campos

Music Program:



On Key

They say that “The Key To Wisdom Is Knowing” and if there’s one thing SUHSD Instructor Peggy Carroll knows...It’s Music. Just recently, she spoke before the Salinas Union High School District Board to give an enthusiastic and always entertaining presentation on the state of our Music Program District-wide. The overview was quite positive and she emphasized music’s importance by backing it up with some impressive scientific findings. For example, did you know that there is one part of the brain that ONLY music can activate? Iiiiintereesting. Did you also know that music helps increase your math proficiency and can help improve levels of income? Uh-huh. Did you also know that in 1987, I played an incredible rendition of Mary Had A Little Lamb? ‘Weren’t expecting that one were



you? But seriously, she also pointed to a number of musically-related activities that our “artistes” partake in, such as the

Christmas Festival of Lights, which help to enrich our community culturally and sonically.

“Music shapes the way our students view the world....It is not a ‘frill’ subject. Over 300,000 people experienced our student performances.”

Peggy Carroll-WMS Music Instructor

To those unaware, our Music Program was in steep decline right around when the recession hit six years ago, but thanks to recent Board support, it is on the rise, and growing. Carroll did mention there were a few “speed bumps” within the Music Program that needed attention, nothing major really, just that we need um....instruments! ☺ With its growth, she requested support in the purchase of more bass line instruments, for example. Our Board was attentive (with Peggy presenting, how can’t they be?) and Trustee Kathryn Ramirez noted that “despite budget cuts, it was nice to see the Music Program was a success.” Trustee Lila Cann said she was “pleased to see it grow.” Finally, on Carroll’s wish list was the hope of someday seeing each site offer a counselor assigned to work with music students specifically. In the words of R.E.O. Speedwagon (yeah, I’m old)...”Keep On Rollin’ With The Changes!”

Briefly

CSEA President Lupe Ruiz-Gilpas made some comments at the September 23rd Board meeting and personally thanked Assistant Superintendent Randy Bangs for working with CSEA and offering “a wealth of information”. She also made special mention and thanked the Board

for “listening” and adding more clerical staff in the District, in support of student learning.

Even More Briefly-Admins On The Move

A couple of Administrative appointments were made in September. From Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Liliana Barrios will now be Assistant Principal of El Sausal and Washington Middle Schools. Also, from Everett Alvarez High School, Richard Moreno will begin his tenure at Mount Toro High School as Principal. We wish them both much success. **NOTE:** The “Me Too Clause” for Administrators was approved at the September 9th Board meeting, which will match the pay increase Certificated Staff received recently for this school year.

It’s ‘Only’ A Matter Of Time

Mount Toro ELD Specialist Kati Bassler addressed the Board at the September 9th meeting and made the case for a number of minimum days Toro Staff is requesting to “strategically plan interventions and scheduling for students.” Those days were requested well over a year ago and the Board has yet to decide on their fate. Additionally, Bassler reminded the Board that the Registrar for Mount Toro, who incidentally, also serves the El Puente AND Carr Lake programs, doesn’t have a clerk to assist her in her duties. Little help... little help here!



Return of Skills USA

As requested, ROP Director Sharon Albert and Assistant Director Nancy Renteria returned with a couple of

Skills USA winners, in the flesh. Albert, as well as several members of our Board, once again commended these students on their incredible achievement. As noted in our previous EOTB edition, Skills USA is a vocational organization that seeks to prepare students for the “global marketplace.” Notably on hand were SHS Graphic Design instructor James Nichols and Woodshop instructor Chuck Felice. We share a few of these pictures with you today and once again, commend them for the incredible achievement.



'Til Next Time!