



On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers

21 West Laurel Drive Suite #61 Salinas, CA 93906-3434 Telephone: 831.442.8234

E-mail: president@svft.net

Board Highlights from February 2015

Reported By J.J. Campos

Measure B Heros!

At the February 10th Board meeting, SUHSD Superintendent Tim Vanoli took a moment to speak about Measure B and to give thanks to those who played a critical role in it getting passed. He gave each recipient a framed Measure B sign, in honor of their efforts. “It was a marathon, but I would say this is close as you get.” He began by thanking CSEA for their work, their financial contribution, phone



banking, and for taking Saturday (even in the pouring rain!) walks to inform the public of the Bond. He then invited David Doris, VP of SVFT,

“another great partner that gave financial support” as Vanoli put it. “Due to their leadership, we saved money on that campaign, minimized costs because of people like Mr. David Doris.” He also recognized Trustee Eva Marie Martinez, who was Board President at the time, as well as thanking the rest of Board.

Among the many recipients was Michael Romero, who was President of the leadership association, which also contributed financially



to the campaign. Margie Martin, Chair of the Measure B campaign was given special praise. “What a wonderful woman and strong leader in community...she was part of Superintendent’s Round Table, and became chair, began a fundraising arm and secured fundraising mechanisms.

Whatever we do Tim, ‘I want Big Street signs’” Apparently, she did the work of 3 people at the campaign office every night, by setting up signs,

running copies, jumping over buildings, and saving a cat in the process!

Meow indeed! Tim didn’t just sing her praises, he practically screamed them out, and rightfully so. Folks, she got a standing ovation. Martin thanked the administration for all of their help and that of course, it was a challenge. Now Vice President (oops, almost forgot, Vice President/Clerk) Eva Marie Martinez, said it was really hard to thank everyone and she thanked Trustee Patty Padilla-Salsberg for coming up with the idea to recognize those who helped with the measure.

Aha! I knew someone was to blame. But I kid. ☺ It

was really a great moment and Padilla-Salsberg noted she “had a great time working



Measure B Superhero Margie Martin!



with Margie” and thanked her for her leadership. Trustee Carlos Rubio stated that even though he was not involved in the process, he qualified the bond passage as “monumental.” Huge.

SVFT- Don’t Call Us. We’ll Call You.

So SVFT President Steve McDougall couldn’t make the February 10th meeting, so VP David Doris stepped in to relay a message. At the previous meeting held on Jan. 27th McDougall called on the District Board to join with legislators and discuss the Governor’s call for the elimination of state matching funds for school construction. That’s a lot of callin’. Only problem is, not one member from our Board had called back. Trustee Phil Tabera quickly stepped up and said he would gladly go. Doris added that if new schools were to be built, these funds would be needed. “If their construction is not a priority, the Federation has plenty of other work to focus on instead.” Man, talk about dropping a hint!

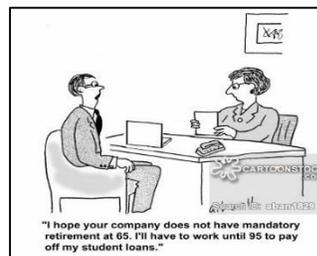
3 Minutes Man!

EAHS instructor and EAHS SVFT Site Representative Alan Rosenberg addressed the Board and before he could say a word, Trustee Martinez reminded him that he only had THREE minutes 😊, to which he replied they could throw him out if he went over. Rosenberg recognized Superintendent Tim Vanoli, Trustee Martinez, Measure B Chair Margie Martin and Trustee Padilla-Salsberg with beautiful plaques handmade by students at Everett Alvarez High School. “What took you so long to congratulate yourself?!” he quipped. “Every phone call I made was for Measure B... If the citizens hadn’t paid for it (Measure B), it would have come from someplace else.”



Déjà vu?

Didn’t we do this already? You may recall that recently the National Steinbeck Center (NSC) asked 13 local agencies, including the SUHSD, to forgive or settle a debt in order for the sale to be approved to CSUMB. Well, it’s not quite, pardon the pun, ‘settled’. All 13 agencies agreed, but the sale hit another wall when the state finance office, fearing that by forgiving the debt, it would set a precedent for other districts throughout the state, opposed the move. And we wouldn’t want that now, would we? Insert sarcasm here _____. Lori Wood of the National Steinbeck Center made a presentation explaining the details and shed some light on a work-around, by authorizing what is known as a “pass through”. In short, the SUHSD would have to authorize that after the completion of the sale, the funds from the now defunct Salinas Redevelopment Agency would be re-routed directly to the N.S.C. They termed it, “retiring the debt”. Man, I wish I could retire mine! Nevertheless, it



seems pretty harmless and the truth of the matter is, there’s a lot at stake as people realize that although the N.S.C. hasn’t been the success everyone expected, losing it would be considered a tremendous loss for the community. Wood pointed out that SUHSD was one of 13, yes, count ‘em, 13 presentations that will have to be made. Several Board members such as Trustee Ramirez asked for wording to be changed from Unified to Union, which does in fact, carry a different significance (Trust Ramirez to catch the details). Lori Wood thanked the Board for their patience with the process. Tabera was quoted as feeling “better about his



decision based on what I've heard. Last time I wasn't as prepared." Wood said she realized the NSC hadn't done a good job of showing how much outreach they did. Nevertheless, time is of the essence, and Wood asked for consideration and a vote as soon as possible. Time's a wastin'!

Fairly Stated

David Randall from Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co. LLP, presented to the Board his firm's findings from their independent audit of the SUHSD's finances.

If you could only see the blank faces, including mine ☺, with respect to all the financial jargon thrown out, you would understand.



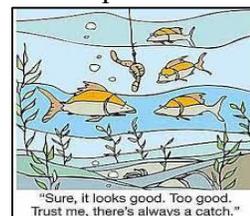
But that's not the point. The point is: All is well. Randall said on numerous occasions that all reports were 'fairly stated'. He went over the INCREDIBLY ☺ interesting report that glossed over fun terms and accounting phrases such as GAAP, Balance sheet Ledgers yada yada. He also went over the General Fund, and generally, everyone looked confused, I mean, that's a lot of numbers! Thank goodness for the good people at Business Services who sort the numbers out. Randall gave kudos to Ana Aguillon and stated "it was wonderful working with her and Graciela." Trustee Ramirez said she was pretty impressed with the detail in the report. "I've never seen one like this in my 11 years on the Board....Terms are all defined, especially for new board members." Trustee Tabera wanted to know how we compared to other Districts. Randall gave a canned response by saying there were all sorts of Districts and that for one our size, everything went smoothly. Great job Business Services!

CSEA Reports

CSEA President Guadalupe Ruiz-Gilpas thanked the board for the recognition CSEA had received at the Feb. 10th meeting concerning Measure B. She reminded

the Board that on the 17th of February, CSEA had ratified a tentative intent to switch from the Monterey Bay Public Employee's Trust to California's Valued Trust. With CVT, she explained, the most expensive plan Managed Care, is one of the least expensive through CVT. Now, if that doesn't get you riled up, I don't know what will. Ruiz-Gilpas said on average, members would save \$250 a month and that the District would pay less, as well! I mean, it's too good to be true. And you know what they say, if it's too good to be true.....It's time to ask a lot of questions!

Let's hope it all works out and that there isn't a 'catch'. She then went on to report that the second negotiation had gone well, and praised Randy Bangs by stating "it's easy to work with him." Easy like Sunday morning? Juuuusst maybe. Click [here](#). ☺



Shhh, Let Me Handle This

Pupil Personnel Services Director Michael Romero addressed the Board to give an overview on a "roadmap of services" that will be offered to SUHSD students. It was a little confusing because it seemed like the Board really gave him a grilling, and we thought it was going to turn out bad. It was either nerves or something else, because after giving his presentation, Romero really wasn't given a chance to speak. Why, you might ask? Because Associate Superintendent Burns



would interject and answer questions we hoped Romero would answer himself. Padilla-Salsberg thanked Mr. Romero for his passion and asked him to give a few examples of trainings that, in his presentation, he said he'd already given. Romero then answered that he had upcoming trainings such as expulsion trainings, and PBIS training.



Padilla-Salsberg looked confused. She asked about trainings he said had ALREADY happened, and didn't get the response she was looking for. At that point, Burns stepped in and assured the Board he had two or three trainings already. Still, he didn't mention them with much detail. Padilla continued by asking Romero how a student who was suicidal would get services. Romero pointed out there was a very simple flow chart that clearly delineated how the suicide referral would take place. Trustee Eva Marie Martinez wanted to see the flow chart but Romero replied he didn't have it with him. Padilla insisted "So I go to a counselor, take a 90 minute referral?" Burns stepped in again and mentioned that a behavior therapist was assigned one day a week to each site to review the needs of students. Padilla continued directing questions at Romero and asked "Do our students also know if there are threats, are our kids prepared?" Romero replied that threat response fell under the PBIS (POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SYSTEM) and stated "yes, it is a key responsibility of safety team."

Tabera's take on the District's implementation of more mental health referrals said it reminded him of the story of the boy who wanted to plug a whole in the wall. Never heard it but I'm sure it's a good one. "The problems you allude to are so comprehensive...I didn't realize how extensive this is...it's a whole 'nother institution, I can't think of a better group of people, especially you Mike,...I can't think of anyone more qualified than you for this position." Lila Cann asked who would be responsible for data input? Romero asked, "which data? Everything overall? Referral suspension data is already being done." At this point, something weird happened because



Burns completely took over and answered questions that we thought it more appropriate Romero could answer. Burns 'stepped' in and said there were multiple pieces of data collection. Again, Cann, "How will Romero have access to that data?" Again, Burns, "you'll see that data next month...it will come through CalPads." Ramirez asked if students would receive help from social worker who is fully qualified, or if it would be from someone who may or may not have a degree. Burns replied (again) "behavior specialists are certified through the county...None are psychiatric social workers." Ramirez then asked if they were working with CAASP and AGAIN!, Burns replied (yes, it got old fast) "we're working with Ashley, who heads PBIS in the county." Ramirez concluded by saying that she saw more to this and that "it could help reduce gang violence."

Ok, so we understand this is a new position with a level of complexity that still needs to get worked out and that Romero is new to the position but still. Why wouldn't Burns let him do the talking? Or was he unprepared? After all, it's his position, right? Perhaps next time, Burns should present instead. If not, hey, everyone deserves a mulligan.

