



# On The Board

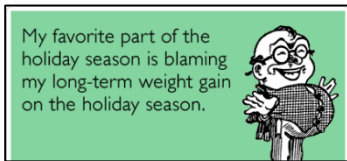
**The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers**  
931 Blanco Circle Salinas, CA 93901 Telephone: 831.214.6449  
E-mail: [president@svft.net](mailto:president@svft.net)

## Board Highlights from December 2015

Reported By J.J. Campos

### Ho Ho Hooold On A Sec! Another Year!?

Can you believe it!?!? Another year! Another journey! Another pant size! And yes, another year of Eye On The Board. Friends, I'm bustin' at the seams,....literally, to tell you



what a great ride this has been, so far. I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for

your words of support. My aim has always been to inform and entertain.....all in the same sentence. If it seemed like a comment was mean spirited or aimed at making fun o' ya', don't worry.....it was. ☺ Buuuut I kid. Thank you truly and in all seriousness, what I write is simply meant to recreate the tone of our Board meetings with a touch of humor. It's like you're there! Only funnier. And your leg doesn't fall asleep. And because I've been a good boy this year, Santa personally set aside another Board meeting for me full of opportunities to comment and joke about. I hope you enjoy this edition and may your Holidays be full of Blessings! See ya' in 2016!

### SVFT UPDATE

SVFT President Kati Bassler took a moment to congratulate newly elected and re-elected Board members for their wins. Additionally, she "looked forward to addressing changes in education and the challenges ahead." Due to

the swearing in of Trustees and due to student presentations and awards, the December 8th meeting was loooooong.



"Almost finished..."

Bassler was impressed that so many teachers stuck around until the end to make themselves heard. I stuck around because they paid me. But I kid....buuuut I don't ☺ "I'm so impressed they're here after their long day and they want their voices heard. They need your help. See you in 2016."

### Why Can't We Be Friends?

Re-Elected and newly elected Board members were sworn in Tuesday night in what was as you might expect, a lovely evening. Why, you might ask? Well, they gave us cake. You had me at hello. Every Board member thanked those in attendance and thanked all 37 constituents who went out and voted this last election. The turnout was incredible! Board



members all had great things to say about attending the most recent California School Boards Association Conference. Trustee Carlos Rubio thanked everyone for having

him there, and said his greatest takeaway from the conference was that “your Board power ceases when the Board meeting ends.” Does it?

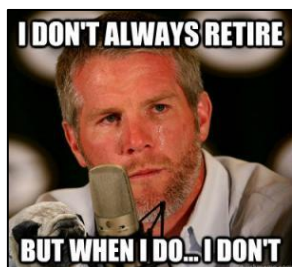
Trustee Kathryn was “honored to be back. Thanks to those who helped on my campaign, especially

teachers.” She gave a shout out to Kati Bassler and her husband Mike Aaroe for the extra special help. She added that she would continue to address the teacher shortage,

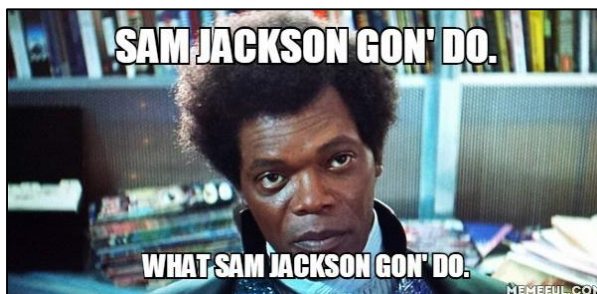
“lobby legislature and eliminate gatekeepers. This shortage will get larger.” Trustee Patty Padilla -Salsberg thanked the community for re-electing her, as well. “I won overwhelmingly and had a lot of support.” Her greatest takeaway from the CSBA conference, “We are one body with seven heads, that’s who we are!” Newly elected Trustee Sandra Ocampo thanked everyone and alluded to the fact she had served on the Board previously for over 16 years. And if you’re wondering why she came back, no

worries, she told us! Apparently, she was bored. “Having nothing to do and being retired, it was time to do something else. Instead of just being home, I can be

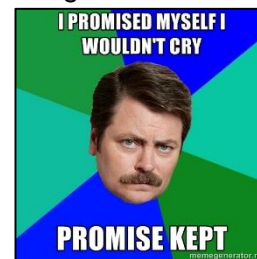
here.” Well, that’s a relief! Good to know she ran for all the right reasons, right? ☺ She very humbly mentioned that upon hearing of her plans to run for her seat, her opponents quickly withdrew. She concluded, “It’s good to be back. We’re family and



have to work as a family and I am willing to work with you and respect your differences with me.” Trustee Phil Tabera commented, “It’s nice to have a complete Board. The election was last month. It’s a new day and as far as Phil is concerned, this is his last term.” I love it when people refer to themselves in the third person...really. He added he didn’t get to go to CSBA because, “Phil had to work.” Well, Phiiiiil also remarked, (nice guy by the way ☺), “I’m (what, no third person?) not racializing this but, this is the first time this Board has had an all Latino majority.” Trustee Martinez stated that as a Board, “We want what is best for our students.” Trustee Lila Cann stated, “It’s been an honor to serve you.....I don’t wanna’ do it



again.” She was kidding of course! Haha! Oooooor was she? Finally, it should be noted that nominations for Officer positions were conducted that evening and AMAZINGLY, it only took one vote per office! Shoot, we didn’t even need a lawyer this time! ☺ Trustee Ramirez was elected unanimously as Board President, while Trustee Padilla-Salsberg won the Vice President’s chair (unanimously), and Trustee Rubio is our new Clerk (ditto). Man, all this gettin’ along stuff is making me teary eyed! Congrats to them all. Here’s looking forward to, as Trustee Tabera’s third person/alter ego put it, “a new day”....minus the lawyers. ☺



# Bah-Humbug....In 3 Minutes Or Less



Tis' the season not to gripe! But, man we just had to! There was lots of activity from individuals wishing to address, yell at, implore, insert your own action verb here

\_\_\_\_\_ our

Board at the December 8th meeting. Interestingly, many teachers and staff members from El Sausal Middle School passionately shamed the District for failing to fill a math position that has adversely affected 150+ students who have had to resort to being taught from a substitute or from a teacher who has in-lieud. As a side note, the Janitor wasn't available to cover or they would have asked him too! Activites Director Sonia Gutierrez asked the Board not to remove her from her position to fill said position as she insisted her current position served an important purpose at ESMS. Counselor Sergio Lopez stated this was "not the first time this has happened at the site....we are halfway through the year and students aren't getting served properly. Why do we have a vacancy? Is there something we could have done?" He cited a lack of clear procedures from the District in filling positions, but as far as he was concerned, El Sausal had done its part in being diligent. He continued, "This is the third year we've had a vacancy in the last five years...this is routine." Math instructor Lorena Ochoa said the practice was "not fair to students," and that teachers were taking on extra workloads to fill in for the class. Now, I'm not one to be a humbugger, but man, I felt depressed. Thanks for ruining it El Sausal! You could have waited until the springtime to address the issue. Then the District could say they'd address it soon, meaning next year. Or was that last year? Sheesh. As if things



couldn't get worse for the Board, enter retired teacher Mary Strathmeyer, a current District substitute who stated that she wasn't given a key for her classroom, which SHE deemed as a safety issue. What a party pooper! The nerve, asking for a key and all that. She asked why she was easily handed keys to secure Chromebooks and not her classroom. Well, I'll answer that one....They're expensive Mary! What a Grinch! As if student safety during a lockdown was a District priority....oooops. Did I do that? ☺ It's all in good fun folks and surely our District will address these issues soon, before La Niña. Finally, yours truly went up to take a moment to shame....I mean, remind our good Board that PBIS is losing its steam. I basically asked them why they're willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on PBIS trainings, yet aren't setting aside some money at each site for incentives?!!! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! While the District asking each school to actively raise funds is not an unreasonable demand, what IS unreasonable is how they just can't seem to find a way to prioritize incentives dollars for a program they so passionately touted. Many sites are becoming disenchanted and I summarized my remarks by stating that if this persists, PBIS WILL fail. You can quote me on that. Wait, I just quoted myself! Weeeeeird. Finally, Teacher Kathleen Hudgens brought some physical evidence to illustrate just how bad the in-lieu crisis has gotten. Seeing as our District supports visuals in our lessons, Hudgens was eager to please. She brought a stack, er, a PILE of in-lieu slips and folks, it was staggering! And that was just the month of November! Surely, the point was driven home once again that we are in for a rough ride when it comes to hiring new teachers and the outlook looks Grinch...I mean grim. But enough of that negative talk! We'll pretend for the moment it's all good and we haven't a care in the world. The New Year is upon us and it is full of opportunities. Opportunities that will see us succeed and sometimes fail, but most of all, an opportunity to persevere. Happy Holidays everyone! See you next year!



"I wish every week was  
the week before  
winter break!"

Said no teacher  
ever.

