



On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers

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Board Highlights from June-July 2016

Reported By J.J. Campos

While You Were Away

Who doesn't love a double issue, right?! While you were away, a whole lot happened and no, it wasn't necessarily good. If anything, we hope you enjoyed your time off in perpetual bliss (at least eight weeks of it). And surely, the last thing on your mind was what exactly was going on at Board meetings.



We've pancaked this Eye On The Board for you, and now that you've had a chance to settle in and be reminded of the wonderful reality of work, we hope you'll enjoy this latest edition. Welcome back! Onward!

Let Me Remind You....Again.

SVFT President Kati Bassler took the podium and clarified to our Board that, contrary to what they'd like to believe, the cost of new teachers had never been included as part of the salary formula. In short, Bassler dismantled their argument in about....um, 30

seconds. She stated that back in 2012-13, the negotiating team was working with a theoretical formula that SUHSD Associate



Superintendent and then SVFT President Steve McDougall had to put to practice in real world terms. Bassler added, "For the District to use 2012-13, including the cost of new

teacher due to increased enrollment, it's dishonest." She reminded them that they are at impasse and would be entering mediation soon. "We will be at impasse about something that is an application of contract language, that was not the intent. I would appreciate the Board supporting ending negotiations." She then thanked the District for providing 15 years of service on the salary schedule to attract more teachers as part of a Memorandum Of Understanding. "This is evidence that we will honor the salary formula even if it affects current employees." With reference to Summer School, she recommended the District have a clear plan and better communication. Bassler unloaded a little graph towards the end of her comments so that Board members could see that even with a salary increase, our District reserves were healthy. CSEA President Lucy Vega once again stated CSEA's support for teachers, and asked for Board support to "keep teacher retention and keep our kids educated."

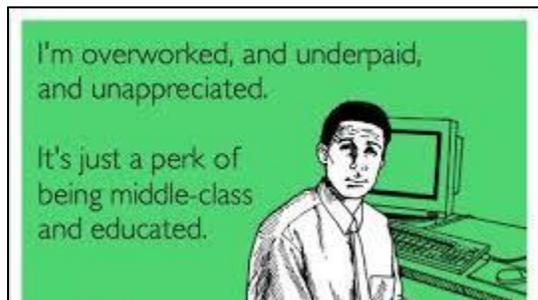


Briefly

Associate Superintendent Randy Bangs informed those in attendance that Alberto Verduzco as had been appointed as Director of Human Resources here at the SUHSD, while EAHS had appointed Ethelvina Sanchez-Vega as its newest Assistant Principal.

Not So Briefly

Jose Luis Alvarado, Dean of the College of Education CSUMB addressed, as he put it, the “well known teacher shortage”. Hmmm, haven’t heard of it. He mentioned that while it was a new program, CSUMB had been producing teachers for years. He insisted the program was expanding and he listed the specifics to our Board. “There is an increase in students who have applied and entered the Credential program.” He acknowledged the CSET exam was a hurdle for students and that more work for CSET prep was underway to



support students, including covering its cost. “The teacher shortage is real and we are one of the highest impacted counties in California. Trustee Lila Cann thanked him while Trustee Sandra Ocampo said she questioned herself on “what wrong are we doing so as to not keep teachers. They leave within the second year. We need to start alliances with you, we need your help.” Trustee Kathryn Ramirez said more modeling was necessary for incoming teachers. She added the long list of exams needed to become a teacher, the CSET, CBEST, and RICA.....MICA...Just kidding, I made that last one up. She insisted the exams being gatekeepers that “keep people of color out of the teaching profession.” Not to mention people. ☺

I Know What You Paid Last Summer

AHS Math Instructor Juan Jose Trujillo had a couple of comments and mentioned that while his message was short, it was to the point. Leave it to math teachers to actually make sense. “My message is short: an increase an hours, should be accompanied by an increase in pay. We should be paid like we were last summer”. You mean work should equal pay??!?! What a concept! Basically, teachers were being shorted 4 lost hours relating to prep time during the summer session. In other news, AHS Instructor and former SVFT phenom Pat Egan, mentioned there was an angst among teachers about the “future in our District and whether or not they can stay.” He added all of the increases in STRS, Health care etc... were makin’ em nervous. In all, he cited the current District Salary Formula as a tool for enticing young teachers to stay. As you might expect, many of the same people who spoke in May addressed the Board yet again to echo the sentiments of all teachers throughout the District seeking that Board honor the Salary Formula as is. Thank you all for your comments!

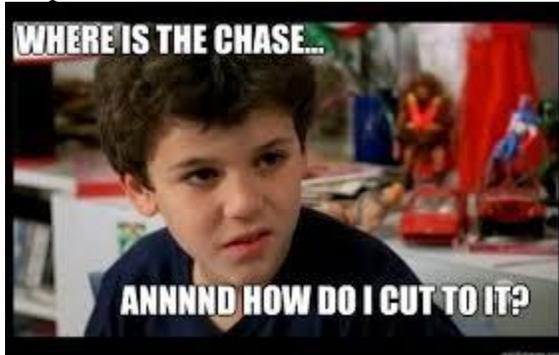
LCAP Overview. Yes, Again.

Associate Superintendent Dan Burns once again overviewed the LCAP progress to the Board. He went a little further in overviewing the educational offerings the District planned for the future and mentioned the effort to add counselors and intervention specialists to help students who were not achieving A-G requirements. One way to achieve this was to add an online component to credit recovery. Trustee Ramirez asked if teachers would be available for follow up for online students and Burns replied in the affirmative that students would have teachers readily available for instruction should online students face any trouble in their online sections. Sounds good to me!



A Penny Saved Is A Million Earned

Barclay's and Orrick Legal Counsel presented the Board the G.O. Savers program, and in short, without subjecting you to a prolonged summary full of numbers you'll forget, I'll keep it short and sweet.



These organizations seek to earn our District's business for the purposes of refunding a previous Bond the District funded back in 2002, Measure F. Refunding is basically the same as refinancing, only it requires lawyers. They presented the opportunity to the Board, and hey, who doesn't love a discount right? If you haven't heard, the Hartnell College District did something similar last year and saved \$175 million dollars. Yes, you read that right. \$175 million smack-a-roos. So yes, the Board was listening 😊 They mentioned some upfront costs that would be shared with several interested parties of the original Bond and Trustee Patty Padilla liked the idea. She asked for clarification on the matter. President of Hartnell College, Dr. Willard Lewallen, who happened to be in attendance, shared his experience and boasted the savings. "The timing is now to do this," said Lewallen. Superintendent Tim Vanoli thanked him for his comments and all Board members commended Hartnell College for their progress.

Say Wha?!

I mean, I love plot twist as much as the next guy, but talk about a bombshell. During her comments, CSEA President Lucy Vega casually stated that said she would miss Associate

Superintendent Dan Burns. Say wha? Ok, so rumor has it, or not, that Burns had accepted a new position as Superintendent at Jefferson Union High School in the Bay Area.



Trustee Ramirez confirmed it by saying, "I thought you were going to be here with us forever." Insert sad face here _____.

Trustee Lila Cann was a little less enthusiastic about the whole thing and told him she gave him a poor reference in the hope that he wouldn't leave. 😊 Now, that's love folks. In short, all Board members thanked him for his service and said he would be missed.

Superintendent Vanoli thanked him for his 25 years of service and that we had "had a great ride. You will be missed...He was my right-hand person." Burns, in turn "shared his appreciation" for everyone he's encountered along his journey. We wish him well and congratulations!

Are We Good? Or Not?

School Services of California (SSC) presented the Board with the results of a budget study session and as you might expect, it is REAAAALLLY good. Why, because reserves are still at unprecedented levels. Still, as you ALSO may know, the Board isn't so sure about handing us out a raise, so SSC was brought in to see just how the numbers look. Trustee Phil Tabera quickly chimed in and alluding to using Fund 17 to give us all a raise, he stated, "Fund 17 will not be there. ...I'll give a one-time raise, if you use one time money for a raise, it will catch up with you." Business Services Director Ana Aguillon had this to say about Fund 17: "It has been set aside for the Measure E



projects.” It is? Trustee Patty Padilla-Salsberg said saving for a rainy day was important and judging by our current water levels, we can all breathe a sigh of relief. ☺ Still, she showed strong support for our teachers. “There is \$16.5 million for the school, I thought there was \$13 million. We have to save money for a rainy day, we need to attract teachers and we have a shortage. I feel strongly the staff will make it work.” Haven’t we always? Trustee Ramirez asked if any districts are giving raises on the assumption that if it goes negative, we’ll work it out. SSC responded, “More than half the districts worked out their problems in that manner. However, the county will want to see some numbers, especially if you have salary increases.” Regardless, Ramirez said the community built school was not staffed and again, that Fund 17 was a one-time program and that the community would be opposed to another tax increase. SSC repeated that Fund 17 bought our District time in

case a deficit appeared. Trustee Tabera said it felt like we’re talking about negotiations. “We’re not going to go there. Unrestricted funds are declining and apparently Salinas is under the reserve

amount compared to other Districts in the state, 14.86% vs 11.1% for the SUHSD.” Trustee Ocampo believed the raise was doable but that we should pursue fact finding. Still, SSC insisted Fact Finding served only as an advisory role. “The buck stops with you”.

Trustee Lila Cann added that “although we have LCAP, we don’t really have local control.” SSC’s reply, “only when the budget cuts need to be made”, which drew laughter from those in attendance. But leave it to Trustee Ramirez to cut to the chase. She simply asked, “Do we have a sound budget?” And in full diplomatic, and politically correct

fashion, SSC responded “Based on the current set of assumptions, yes.” Like I said...., we’re good, right?

