



# 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 September 2016

Reported By J.J. Campos

### This Is How We Roll

Director of ROP Sharon Albert spoke before the Board to give them an overview on how, just exactly, ROP rolls. She gave an overview of the wide gamut of services that ROP, God Bless ‘Em, provides. Folks, ROP is basically our answer to Expensive Technical Schools, only cheaper. And legal. (Can anyone say Heald? Ouch. Too Soon?) For many, it’s the one educational program that makes sense and we’re incredibly lucky to have it. I mean, look at me, I’m an ROP graduate and I turned out alright,....or did I? Anyhow, Albert went



on to describe said services, drawing the interest of Trustee Eva Marie Martinez and Phil Tabera in particular, who asked for clarification on the offerings. Albert touted our ROP program as one of the best in the state. “We strive to achieve the LCAP goal which states all students will graduate college or career ready.” She mentioned there were some changes in the way data is reported to the state and that ROP was examining “gaps and sequences, and multiple entry/exit points.” More



importantly, Albert explained that ROP serves as a vital pathway to a great many career opportunities. There was a bit of an uncomfortable moment when, as Albert gave an example of a positive recent ROP hire in the area of drafting, she was cut off/interrupted by Board President Kathryn Ramirez, who asked her to speed it up. I guess the long night had taken its toll early and although the agenda was daunting, geez, there are ways to do things, and there are ways NOT to do things. ‘Just sayin.



Continuing on, Trustee Eva Marie Martinez asked a few questions about grant money and how ROP obtains it? It’s simple, we beg. Just kidding. We plead. Albert was asked by Trustee Phil Tabera regarding the alignment of careers that actually fit our community. Apparently, he feels more should be done to offer career pathways that match our agricultural landscape. Trustee Carlos Rubio was also curious about ROP monies and how they impact growth. Trustee Sandra Ocampo’s main concern was that while, “so much money is coming in, we need money to help pay student fees for returning students (students who have left the program)....Is there any way to look for grants for Ex-students?” Unfortunately, Albert stated that once a student exited the program, it was beyond ROP’s reach. She did, however, offer alternatives for those students through

programs offered by social services and other agencies. “These programs help avoid barriers.” Finally, Tabera compared Albert’s job, with ROP’s far-reaching tentacles throughout the District, as to one comparable to that of a principal on any given campus. “Maybe we should ask to re-look at salaries for ROP people.” Maybe...juuuuuust maybe. ☺

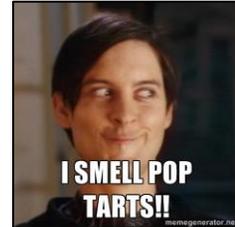
### Is It Cold In Here?

So, for the second uncomfortable moment of the evening, SVFT President Kati Bassler began her statements by referring to the Board’s decision to NOT let her speak before closed session began, despite the fact that Bassler’s intention was simply to, as she put it, “send a message of goodwill.” During Bassler’s comments, Ramirez uncharacteristically interjected, AGAIN, and said that she “had to let the Board know that we are following Board policies that we had gotten away from. If you want to speak for public comment, it has to be during this time.” This caught Bassler totally off guard as well..., that had never happened before. At least not as long as I’ve been reporting. Who knows? Anyhow, Bassler was steadfast and reminded them that her intent was to instill goodwill between the Board and SVFT and she read what she was going to tell them prior to closed session anyway. So there! She spoke about the few victories that have been obtained and once again, referenced Associate



Superintendent Randy Bangs and Business Services Manager Ana Aguillon as key players in said victories. Interestingly, she mentioned that few were properly notified of an upcoming ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training (Active Shooter Response Training), despite the fact that it’s uh, SUUUUPER IMPORTANT. I

mean, it’s not like it hasn’t happened just about EVERYWHERE, right! ☹ Bassler remarked, “You Board members have asked for a plan and this is great. I wonder if anyone else knows this (ALICE Training) is going on? I really appreciate being invited, but understand others want to know what the District’s plan is.” She then updated the Board on upcoming changes to food service throughout the District and that meetings with Christina Varela have continued on. “We have met with Christina to address nutrition and changes in the food we serve will be upcoming.” What?! No more pop tarts!? Say it ‘ain’t so!



### Briefly....Well Not Really.

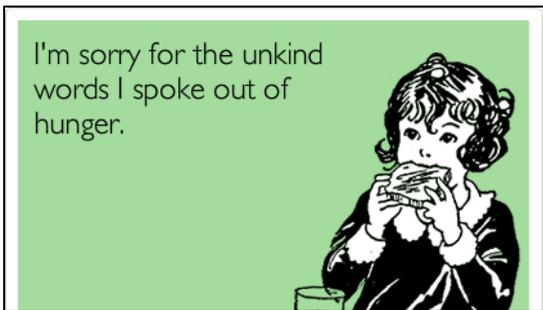
During Board reports, Trustee Martinez mentioned that she in fact, did not get invited to ALICE training, but was happy that it was happening either way. Trustee Ramirez apologized for the late start, but that this was the Board’s meeting out in front of the public and she appreciated people’s patience. We wonder if she knows that we, in turn, um, also appreciate diplomacy? Anyhoo, during his comments, Superintendent Tim Vanoli reminded them about the upcoming ALICE training that they hadn’t heard about. As he put it, the notice was “included in Friday’s letter.” No matter, the good thing is it’s getting done, right? ☺ He then took a moment to introduce Manuel Lopez as La Paz’ newest Assistant Principal. Lopez spoke before the Board and said he was “privileged to be entrusted with such a responsibility.” Later, during public comments, boy did it get hot in the room. Let me explain. Several Alisal parents went up and had grievances they wanted addressed. Like now. First up, Cesar Zuniga commented on the Alisal lunch lines, which were experiencing up to 30 minute delays to serve lunch and as Zuniga pointed out, “to wait 30 minutes for lunch is a concern when all they have is a 40 minute break. I





supporting documentation in the Board packet. “Trustees want more info.” Associate Superintendent Blanca Baltazar, who had made the request, chimed in and said that a student ID was there, but that wasn’t enough for Martinez. Trustee Ramirez gave Baltazar a crash course on the spot on what exactly the Board wanted to see when an item was presented for consideration of approval. Seeking to excuse the mistake, Superintendent Vanoli stepped in and informed them that SELPA typically handled the contracts making the implication that Board members should already know which company would be providing the services. Buuuut, Ramirez quickly dismantled the argument and simply stated that Vanoli, “heed to the needs of Board to get supporting documentation.” And that was that. More **importantly**, Martinez asked if not approving

services would hold up services for the student and unfortunately, the answer was in the affirmative. Not to worry though, the Board gave Baltazar a mulligan, since she’s still a rookie ☺ and they voted in favor of providing the services without interruption. They did, however, ask Baltazar that in the future she include supporting docs and as they say, the rest is history. It’s all gravy baby! Gravy? Hmmm, makin’ me hungry all of a sudden. Till next



time!