



On The Board

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Board Highlights from FEBRUARY 2018

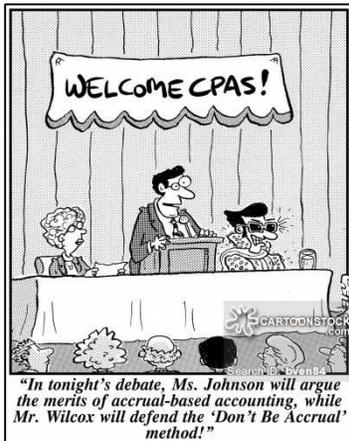
Reported By Juan Jose Campos

The Numbers Look Good

Independent Auditor David Randall, who performed an audit for our District for fiscal year 2017, gave an overview of financial statements, balance sheets, debits, credits, you name it. There were the usual blank stares among those in attendance as he

threw out accounting term after accounting term that I have my suspicions few understand. But that's accounting for 'ya. Trustee Kathryn Ramirez asked

about ASB programs and if his firm audited how each one handles money. Randall said his firm always recommended money be handled in tandem and gave an example on how to use a log for school games. Ramirez was more interested in the concession aspect of each game and again, Randall said "there should be a form or a log to track sales." SUHSD CBO Ana Aguillon said they had cash count forms with dual verification at every site. Still, Ramirez wanted to know why kids (students) aren't counting the money. Aguillon rebutted and stated students were, in fact, involved and counted money with their

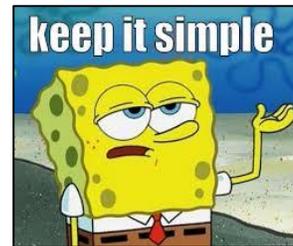


advisors. Trustee Padilla-Salsberg simply wanted to know if SUHSD's "reporting is improving." Randall assuaged her concern by commenting that it was. "People are looking, people care." Aguillon added that schools were receiving trainings and commended Washington Middle School, for example, as a prime example of a school who handled its accounting well and didn't have any audit findings. Trustee Evamarie Martinez said she had some concerns, but that "Aguillon assured me there are processes in place and we're improving." Trustee Sandra Ocampo asked specifically if we were doing better comparatively. Again, Randall assured the Board that we were on the right track and later presented the Measure M and Measure B audit findings. In regards to Measure B and all of the drama surrounding Rancho San Juan High School, Ramirez wanted, for the record, for Randall to answer: "Does this audit of Measure B show

gross negligence of spending." Randall's response was fierce, wordy and well-crafted. "No."

So there you have it.

Nothin' to see here and apparently, we've been good little boys and girls. Ramirez was satisfied with his answer. So much so, that she shared that she would be sending the recording of his response to the local news station. Let's hope they can squeeze it in.



Look Ma', No Teeth!

Mt. Toro High School Counselor Melissa Gonzalez addressed our Board by sharing that SVFT had a couple of comments regarding PBIS, and what she termed as “institutional concerns, including blatant disrespect of members during instructional time with little consequences, and in some cases, no follow up at all.”



PBIS. Can you say, no teeth?

Board Correspondence

Superintendent Dan Burns let the Board know that a report on the progress at Rancho San Juan High School was forthcoming. By then, he remarked, a mascot will have been selected. He also took a moment to remember El Sausal Community Liasion Dolores Losoya, who passed away suddenly and Patricia Peterman, Career Tech at North Salinas who recently passed away, also. May they both rest in peace.



Individuals Address The Board

There was strong disagreement from Salinas High instructors and students from Salinas High School over the District’s proposal to embrace Integrated Science courses throughout the District. Instructor Philip Deutschle, for instance, questioned whether it was wise to have instructors teach in areas “they aren’t passionate about”. He asked if it was a good idea to have an Earth Science instructor teach a Biology course and plead with the Board to find a compromise. He proposed the District adopt a two year sequence avoiding the Integrated Science component. “Any science teacher can teach those topics, students can receive a Bio class from someone who hasn’t taken biology. We support a two course model. There’s no justification for integration and we support Next Generation Science. The only rationale given for this change was that it was a

response to a changing world. We are encouraging you to give us an opportunity to give a full proposal.” James Johnson, a parent, also disagreed with District’s direction and integration, especially courses would be taught by someone who doesn’t have the passion for it. “It doesn’t make sense. If I was a football coach you asked me to teach basketball, the team wouldn’t do good. Passion and teaching go hand in hand.” Mr. Johnson added that having highly qualified individuals teaching the appropriate subject matter gave, “students certainty and confidence.” Mariela Rodriguez, a Senior at Salinas High School said, “I believe incorporating Integrated Science discredits teachers who are qualified to teach their subject.” Bonnie Hutts a parent of a former SHS student, agreed that Integrated Science was a bad move. Another parent, Jill Rose, spoke about passion. “It is really important students have teachers who are passionate about the subjects they teach.”

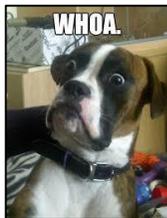
In other news, at the meeting on February 28th, former SVFT President Kati Bassler chastised the Board, SUHSD administrators, and anyone else who had something to do with the fact that we have still not addressed the Salary Formula. According to Bassler, we were promised this two years ago, and so far, silence. “I have worked in the District for 20 years, taught PR, Health, chaired WASC



committees and too many to mention here. I respect each and every one of you Board members. I am voicing my frustration with this Board and Administration in discussing the salary formula that in August 2017 would settle salary. The Federation wanted to work with the District to address the teacher shortage crisis but when Tim Vanoli was contacted on March 21, 2017, Blanca Baltazar and Bangs, said nothing. I brought a calculation to begin the discussion, and Vanoli made a comment about the ongoing



STRS concern. The Federation suspended it (the conversation regarding the salary formula) in order to plan for goals and the District has delayed it. Now it wants to negotiate 17-18. We just finished 16-17 negotiations. There was no leadership despite the fact I recommended a budget line item for savings, and yet, here we are and it is so unfortunate.” Deja-Vu....all over again.



A Housing Of Ideas

ROP is proud to announce an upcoming building that will house a number of CTE programs. ROP Director Ivonne Glenn presented the Board with the CTE lab structure and she said that a couple of Board members had asked what this new building’s purpose would be. She illustrated via a PowerPoint Presentation several new pathways ROP offers, and how the CTE labs will fit into the program. 20 ROP students were on hand, some in scrubs and others in



fire prevention gear. They each gave testimonials to the wonderful job shadowing and career opportunities at ROP. Again, as a product of ROP

myself, I can attest to its wonderfulness. Is that a word? 😊 Congrats to the folks at ROP!

Real Quick

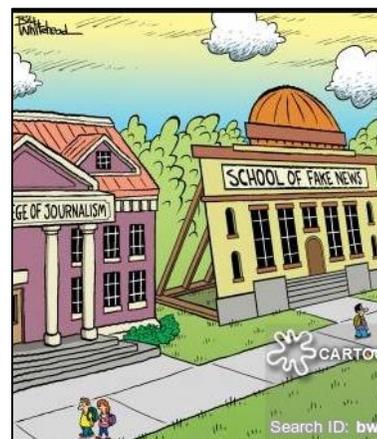
Welcome to SUHSD’s new Interim Human Resources Director Dr. Marilyn Cook. We wish you much success.

What’s In A Message

Tom Delapp, founder of the Rocklin Education Excellence Foundation, stopped by to give our Board an overview of his organization’s services that aim to improve school communication. It’s been a hot topic for a couple of Board members such as Trustee Kathryn Ramirez, who in the past has

pushed for a PR position to help improve communication between the SUHSD and our community. After much debate, it sounds like it’s a step in the right direction, but we’ll let you decide. Delapp said his firm’s mission was to “increase communications capability for schools across the country.” Rocklin boasts 450 schools across the state it currently represents. Steven Nichols, Executive VP at Rocklin, addressed the Board as well and noted that today’s communication is “not a one-to-many model, but very horizontal. It is a many-to-many social model. You can’t quite identify where news is being created. If we (the District) aren’t our own wire service, we are leaving it to chance on how we (the District) are perceived.” He added on the need to educate the public on just how we’re

educating. Kind of like a plumber showing how he plumbs....hmmm. Bad analogy but you get what I’m sayin’ right? He continued, “We ask schools to research, prepare lesson plan, choose best practices, test and then evaluate. Communication should be viewed the



same way. The process should include intentionality.” He emphasized controlling the information about ourselves and while he conceded our District already having a communication system, it simply needed to be capitalized on. More interestingly, Nichols pointed out better communication being one of our LCAP goals. “Branding is important.” Trustee Tabera wasn’t entirely convinced and asked quite matter of factly that if his firm was in Rocklin, California, “How are we supposed to get to you Superintendent Burns cited his experience in Daly City where his former District had “a relationship with Rocklin. They were pretty responsive.” Delapp minimized the issue and respectfully disagreed. Pointing to the 450+

schools he has worked with, he boasted being there soon after shootings and other events occurred at sites his firm represents. “We can be here if need be, distance was not a problem.” Tabera retorted, “This town is not Rocklin.” Again, Nichols said they were readily available in times of crises. Burns reminded the Board that branding and communication is something the Board was looking for and that the ultimate goal is to hire our own PR personnel, but implied that hiring Rocklin would help educate and ease whoever the District chose to hire into the position. DeLapp countered their services would be tailored to SUHSD’s needs. “We are working with schools preparing for walkouts, and a variety of situations.” Trustee Carlos Rubio said while he liked what he heard, “My biggest concern is if you have so many accounts, how do you divvy us up? Where do we fit in? We’re account 451. Where will you find the time?” Nichols was undeterred and mentioned that Rocklin’s scope of work, while robust, has a lot of leverage and expertise at its disposal. “A good consultant doesn’t expect to work for more than a year.” From the looks of it, that seemed to be more to the Board’s liking so long as it was taken from a consulting standpoint. Burns reiterated “the goal is to seek out consulting assistance which will lead to an Internal, Full-time employee.” Trustee Sandra Ocampo said she looked forward to their services because as a District, “We’re not being transparent. What you offer is very clear.” Trustee Ramirez thanked the firm for their presentation. “I hope you can give us guidance as to what our role as Board members is. Messaging is very important.” Trustee Patty Padilla-Salsberg agreed. “There is too much negative information. We need to disseminate positive information.”

It’s Official! Sort Of.

Ok, so the folks at Rancho San Juan High School have decided on a mascot...sort of...The name they’ve gone with is The Trailblazers. Their future principal Anthony

Hinton, said “The committee sided with Trailblazers because it represented the spirit of the community. 74% of the committee was on board with the name. We’re hiring a company that helps with branding and uniformity.” He showed several drawings some with a mean looking horse, another with a horse, kind of like the Pony Express, only cooler and the other like the Pony Express horse, sans the rider. Trustee Ramirez thanked Hinton for his suggestions and asked that he keep color in mind. As an example, she stated, “It’s hard to find the right color of blue for north high. Tabera liked it and wanted a Rancho Vaquero type of idea. “The Rancho San Juan you showed doesn’t look like a vaquero.” Burns asked the Board for a consensus and the Board agreed to move forward with that name. Whew. That’s a relief! Now onto more pressing matters.....like finishing the school. ☺

