



On The Board

The Salinas Valley Federation of Teachers
 931 Blanco Circle Salinas, CA 93901 Telephone: 831.214.6449
 E-mail: president@svft.net

Table of Contents

Exodus 1
 Board Comments 1
 Behavior Health 2
 RSJHS Construction Updates..... 3
 Wellness Centers/LCAP Update 3

Board Highlights from November 2018

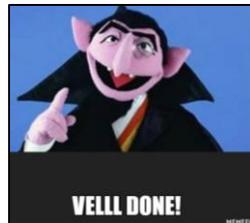
Reported By J.J. Campos

Exodus

“Parting is such sweet sorrow,” said some English guy, right? Well, we’re no exception and saying adieu is never a happy event.

We’re faced with the departure of count ‘em, not one, not two, but THREE Board members! As you may have heard, former EAHS student Anthony Rocha unseated longtime Area 5 Board Member EvaMarie

Martinez, while Lila Cann’s Area 7 seat was filled by Kristina Szaszy-Jones. Trustee Kathryn Ramirez won the Area 3 seat at the Salinas City Elementary District and while she hasn’t resigned from her post in our District, when, and if she does, our District will once again be faced with deciding on how to fill her position. They’ll opt for either



a costly special election or simply appointing someone of their choosing. All three outgoing members have dedicated themselves and provided a great many years of service, and we thank them all for helping to make the SUHSD what it is today. And, we’d like to extend a heartfelt welcome to those new members and asking them as always, to quote Spike Lee.... “Do The Right Thing.”

Board Comments

With nearly half the Board leaving, a frequent topic of late has been the recognition, or lack thereof, of outgoing Board members.

According to Board members, it has historically been an unceremonious departure and well, they have a problem with that. Trustee Padilla-Salsberg shared her feelings on the matter and thought it appropriate Board members be formally recognized for their contributions upon their departure. Trustee Carlos Rubio believed Board members, “come together to move things forward....this is not a high paying job...a lot of hours...we should give them a good send off.” Trustee Phil Tabera agreed. “After 10 years of dedication, they deserve recognition. They’ve passed Bonds,” He touted the improvements to infrastructure as a result of their efforts.” Trustee Ocampo added that if an Amendment was necessary to Board policy to recognize members, she was all for it. Finally, Trustee Ramirez had this to say, “I appreciate there is



no personal politics.... we all sacrifice ...when I say yes to this District, I say no to my children. 15 years. Lila (Cann) has served less time and she gets a resolution. Less time than me and she gets a resolution....We know it's a thankless job.....and to not be thanked is pretty sad.....It's time we get honored. The Board of Supervisors does it. The City Council does it....Even if you lose an election, you get a resolution.” She alluded to Trustee Martinez’ time on the Board, as well as the efforts by everyone else. Trustee Martinez wasn’t present but in absentia, Padilla-Salsberg thanked her for her years of service, as well as thanking Trustee Kathryn Ramirez for service. Ramirez responded by stating she had won her election by “like a landslide.” Trustee Ocampo thanked Ramirez as well and asked she “not to take things personal on the Board.” Trustee Rubio also thanked all outgoing members. In other news, Superintendent Burns said that, get this, SUHSD has a Facebook page. Wait, what



year is this? He thanked Ramirez and agreed with her comments. “This work

is not easy work. We represent the City, and you should have tough conversations. This is important work.”

Behavior Health

Monterey County Behavior Health Services Manager Kacey Rodenbush, along with her team of specialists, paid a visit to our Board and from the looks of it they were extremely well received amidst a sea of smiles. She gave



an overview of her more than 10 years of experience serving students with IEP’s and “later, in 2014 serving students in the general population.”

She added her team of Clinicians were Bilingual, and connected to the issues in our community. One example of that connection was former Alvarez student and Clinician Esmeralda Contreras, who was in attendance. Rodenbush explained that her agency’s (Monterey County Behavioral Health) growing participation in our District stemmed from a \$2.1 million dollar PBIS grant that would help address mental health needs. According to her, it came in part because “At the time, the City of Salinas was one of the most violent places in the country,” underscoring the serious trauma a high number of students are faced with. “Schools simply aren’t equipped to serve these issues, making the partnership all the more valuable. Clinicians in school are one phone call away from reaching access to assist students more quickly.” Less red tape is what it amounts to and what a relief, right? Our students need the help. According to Rodenbush, 840 students had accessed help this year alone and fortunately, the “stigma is being peeled away little by little.” Trustee Tabera sated “there are forces out there trying to force our District, for things I don’t feel comfortable with. They’re down the street on Lincoln. We like to develop and intellectual presence for our students. We’re taking care of their mental health as well as feeding them. I want to take a look at our security, how we secure our buildings....This is an innovative idea (Wellness Centers). I’ve never heard of it.” Rodenbush said she was one of the first to bring them to California and stressed the importance of pooling County Resources with District resources as the best approach to serving students efficiently, and at a lower cost. Trustee Padilla-Salsberg says she likes to see data, and that it was lacking in her presentation. Rodenbush was quick to provide specifics as she pointed out that 120 students were currently being served in the General Ed population and another 91 served in Special Education. She clarified that while the numbers didn’t “sound like a lot, Clinicians are dealing with serious issues. One Clinician



for each school is only able to manage what one person can manage, so while the number seems small, consider us the intensive care unit. One clinician can handle 4 cases per day or so, but it depends.” Tabera recognized the need to for them to take on a small number of cases and institutionalizing Wellness Centers District-wide. Rodenbush said the average Clinician caseload is 20-25 and maintaining their mental well-being was also of utmost importance. Kudos to them all for a support system that has long been overdue.

RSJHS Construction Updates

Aaron Dilbeck of Dilbeck & Sons, a contractor for Rancho San Juan High School commented on a letter sent out by our District regarding quality issues at the Site. According to Dilbeck, the District has withheld \$650,000 recently and holding another \$8 million overall on the project. In reference to a letter to the Board last year, “Burns’ reasons point to a delay and an aggressive schedule, weather.” Dilbeck stated that his company was being unjustly penalized for issues not related with his company’s work such as delays by the architect and severe weather. “We’re being told it’s our fault and for reference Lowe’s was delayed. He handed out packets to Board members detailing his work and touted that his company has delivered thus far and without delays.

Wellness Centers/LCAP Update

SUHSD CBO Ana Aguillon gave an LCAP budget update, mostly illustrating supplemental funds received from the state to build Wellness Centers throughout the District. According to Aguillon, there is a “\$2.9 million ending balance for supplemental concentration funds. \$1 million will be allotted for reading intervention (Read 180), \$586,000 for Wellness Centers.” Trustee Rubio commended the District for the effort and asked if the media was alerted that Wellness Centers were on their way. “I want to see something out there to let people know

what we’re doing.” Can you say, P.I.O.? Aguillon said it takes a year to prep a Wellness Center, put in the order for buildings, etc... and Trustee Padilla-Salsberg wanted to know how NSHS, HMS and EAHS, who would be receiving the first three, got to the top of the list. “How did you choose which schools were chosen first?” Associate Superintendent Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah chimed in and said that a couple of factors played into the decision, such as which schools had the highest number of Tier 3 students, as well as other considerations such as facilities Master Planning. Eventually, all schools in the SUHSD will get one but it will take some time as funds are allotted. Here here.

