

# From the Board Room ...

Notes from the Board of Education Meeting: 6/27/02

... informing all

## Let's Celebrate!

**A**wards, commendations and special recognitions abounded Thursday, June 27, 2002, the last Board of Education meeting of the school year.

**Twenty six graduating Samohi Seniors** received triple accolades from Governor Davis, Delaine Eastin and Cruz Bustamante, in honor of completing their entire SMMUSD education (K-12) as dual immersion students – that means all classes (Physics and Calculus, too!) were taught in English and Spanish. We are the first district in the Nation to make and fulfill such a momentous commitment to student success in the bi-lingual area. Congratulations to all!

**The Samohi Music Program** received a special award from the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS are the folks who do the Grammys) – the award, recognizing Samohi as a Grammy Signature School, is for promoting and maintaining an outstanding music program and stellar musical performances. It was presented to Tom Whaley, who thanked the Samohi team: Chris Schwabe, Terry Sakow, Chris Rhodes and Carl Hammer. We're certain at least 76 trombones led this great parade ... Hats off!

**Finally, three staff members** were recognized for outstanding service to students and leadership throughout the district. Mary Hirt,

## the voting block

**June 27, 2002**

for a complete agenda log on to [www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org)

**Board Meetings/ Date**

All major agenda items passed, 7-0 (unanimously) with a motion by Mrs. Gottfried, second by Mr. Pratt, with no abstentions.

(Items A.25 forward passed by 6-0 vote, Mrs. Brady *in absentia*)

*Copies of all documents are available in the Office of the Superintendent*

### Appointments

**Henry Harris - Principal**  
Lincoln Middle School

Other vital decisions or announcements:

+ **Superintendent's Report** - 60+ Parents, children and community members from a newly formed group, Mothers for Justice, came before the Board with an ardent request that district policies regarding student discipline be reviewed and possibly amended. Their request stems from stated and perceived disciplinary injustice toward members of their families. The Board thanked the parents for their courage and dignity. The Superintendent concurred, stating that investigations would be made and a task force formed to address these challenges, it is hoped before the start of school in September.

+ **MOU**. It was reported out at the opening of the Special Meeting, 6/28/02, that the Memo of Understanding Related to Student Support Specialists at Samohi Between SMMUSD and SMMCTA was unanimously approved, 6-0, with Boardmember Brady *in absentia*.

+ **LEAF**. The Board approved receipt of a \$750,000 grant from the CDE to assess, develop and implement a model nutrition/physical activity program at the district's middle schools, 2002-2004. *Woo-who!*

received the CAHPERD award as California Outstanding Physical Education Educator, Chris Corliss received the CAHPERD award as Southern District Outstanding Administrator and Jesus Vaca was presented the California School Leadership Award.

### Important Items Voted On by the Board

#### Major Action Taken

Final Budget Approval	(6/27/02)
All Tier 1 & 2 Cuts	(6/27/02)
Strategic Plan Approval	(6/27/02)
Parcel Tax Approval	(6/27/02)
Language Arts Texts	(6/27/02)

#### On-line:

*On the homepage:* School Accountability Report Cards for all Schools and the District

*Under I Want to Know About:*  
*Important Dates:*  
School Calendar- 2002-03

*Please check the district website for important updates and contact numbers, [www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org)*

+ **School Accountability Report Cards**  
The final SARC was presented by Michael Hill. This "report card" is for the entire district. It contains demographic comparisons between Santa Monica, LA County and the State as well as specific statistics for discrete schools. It (as well as all other School Accountability Report Cards) is on the web – according to Mr. Hill, there have been over 8200 hits on the SARC link since it was established in late March.

#### Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, August 8, 2002, 7 PM,  
District Offices.