

From the Board Room ...

Notes from the Board of Education Meeting: 09/05/02

... informing all

Let's Celebrate!

Good News! School's Open!

Record numbers of children started instruction Tuesday, September 3. Students of all ages thronged to district schools and were met by eager, excited, invigorated staff.

Part of this year's newly implemented professional development component has been to help staff speak with one voice: the voice of increased student achievement with simultaneous bridging of the achievement gap. In multiple sessions before the start of school, all staff were brought up to speed on the district's carefully crafted plans to help everyone meet those stated goals. And, maybe *best* of all, the achievement goals are in perfect harmony with the Strategic Plan.

One voice.

Superintendent's Report. Mr. Deasy reported that all deliverables were met: new buildings were ready, educational and facilities schedules were on target, and food services delivery and transportation went without a hitch. Once again the Superintendent gave ample praise to all dedicated staff who worked through the summer to make sure school got off to a safe and sane start. Special thanks were offered to the custodial crews for their extra sweat-equity and to Ed Services Directors Jarvis Pahl, Chris Rivera, Steven Frankel and Steve Cannell and their support staffs. The Board offered profound thanks, as well.

The Superintendent stated that the District is experiencing enrollment increases in key grades: 2,3 and 5 across the district, 6 thru 8 and 9 and 10 at all high schools. The higher-than-projected enrollment numbers are believed to reflect the following:

the voting block

September 5, 2002

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Board Meetings/ Date

All major agenda items passed,
5-0 with a motion by

Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mrs. Leon-Vazquez

Mrs. Brady, Mr. Jordan *in absentia*,
no abstentions, Student Vote: Aye

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

Agenda Items Pulled by staff:

No. A19 - Call for Nominations: CSBA
Directors-at-Large

Highlights

Jeffery Huls, Lincoln Middle School's Choral Conductor *extraordinaire*, was recognized by the Board upon his receiving the Santa Monica Junior Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year Award for 2001-02. To help in the celebration, former LMS students surprised Mr. Huls by singing one of his favorite tunes, *Rhythm of Life*. The group was accompanied by Darin Goulet. Mr. Huls reminded everyone that SMMUSD was one of the few districts in the nation that so whole-heartedly supported the Fine Arts. "We all teach beauty," he said, "and the award really belongs to everyone here."

The Board also recognized the outstanding social and financial generosity of St. John's Health Center. Dr. David Blake represented St. John's. In remarks, the Superintendent stated that it was only with magnanimous partners such as St. John's that the deplorable gap in funding faced by public education could ever be bridged.

The Board approved a recommendation from the committee to *Restore Barnum Hall!* to file an application for landmark status for Barnum Hall from the City of Santa Monica. The committee is applying for a grant from the Getty Foundation's Preserve LA Trust which requires an official designation. We'll keep you posted.

- 1) very low attrition from 8th to 9th Grade = more continuing students
- 2) a non-traditionally large return to public school from parochial or other private school = more resident students
- 3) an uncharacteristically large increase in home and apartment rentals in Malibu and Santa Monica.

Other News

The Board voted to award the Superintendent a performance bonus of 6.2% or, \$9375. In reflecting on current fiscal constraints, Mr. Deasy respectfully declined the monetary award and instead accepted the Board's verbal assessment of his excellent performance with gratitude and grace.

The Board voted to restructure its regularly scheduled meetings to include a large chunk of time that will be devoted to the discussion of critical issues facing the learning community. The first meeting of the month will agendaize general business and the second meeting will be used for discussion. All meetings are public and everyone is welcome.

9/19 * **Data** and Its Relationship to Bridging the Achievement Gap
10/30 * **Race** and Discipline Task Force
12/19 * **Board** Agenda Management ;
School Improvement Plans (SIPs)
1/23/03 * **Charter** Schools
2/20 * **Institute** for Learning
3/19 * **Standards-based** Instruction
4/17 * **Preliminary** Budget Planning
5/15 * **Budget** Planning

As a cost-saving measure, the Board voted to reduce hard-copy agenda distribution on a pilot basis. The agenda will continue to be distributed to all schools, libraries, and employee bargaining units. This is possible now as the agenda is available "24/7" on the district's website.

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