

# From the Board Room ...

Notes from the Board of Education Meeting: 10/03/02

... informing all

## Let's Celebrate!

### Good News!

#### Theatre Deluxe!

Members of the public and the Board of Education were treated to a wonderful surprise Thursday evening as the very first Board meeting ever was held in the new Malibu High School Auditorium. What a space! Wildly comfortable theatre seating for 366 people, full stage, orchestra pit, sound-proof stage manager's booth, a complete array of proscenium and stage lighting (which will be fully computerized shortly) and, best of all, seemingly flawless acoustics. Lucky MHS/MMS students, lucky district, lucky learning communities.

Dr. Mike Matthews, Principal, welcomed the Board and audience, stating that everyone was entirely delighted with the new facilities. Mike also announced that student Board rep, Christine Hoff, had progressed the farthest any MHS student had, in the Optimist awards program, advancing to Zone 7 status. Chris is a National Merit finalist and a really nice person, as well. Hooray!

Carolyn Diemer, Malibu PTA President, also welcomed meeting participants, stating that the entire school community was off to a great start and was looking forward to a stellar year.

**Superintendent's Report.** Mr. Deasy reported that enrollment is up by 60 students, districtwide; as a result, a few new classes have been opened. Generally, all class numbers have settled at this point, but it is possible that disenrollment can still occur. Concrete numbers should be available by mid-October.

Work on the Board-directed Math initiative is progressing; the Board can

## the voting block

**October 3, 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 with a motion by

Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mrs. Brady  
No abstentions, Student Vote: Aye

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

Agenda Items Pulled: None

### Highlights

Irene Messoloras, Malibu High School Choral Conductor led the Concert Choir in two great numbers: *Weep On Mine Eyes*, by John Bennett and Irving Berlin's *Blue Skies*, arranged by Emerson. The group was tastefully accompanied by Joellen Friedkin and Chris Jude performed a *wazoo!* sax solo. Professional digital filming of the meeting was done by parent volunteer, Gigi Jeffers.

Gracing the entrance to the new auditorium were fabulous charcoal, pen and ink and photography works, representing the talented students of art teachers *extraordinaire* Ilene Blanchard, Anna Lovejoy and Carla Bowman-Smith. Thanks! Malibu for the terrific hospitality.

Cheri Orgel, in reporting on PTA activities, announced that the district's PTA Council has unanimously endorsed Measure EE, voting to donate \$10,000 to the measure's campaign fund. *Woo-hoo!* In other PTA news, Mrs. Orgel announced that the PTA was working closely with the League of Women Voters to sponsor candidate forums. Check with Cheri for any and all PTA info: 310/450-8338 extension 202 – she'll call you back!

Laure Stern, founder and chief spokesperson for the Malibu Youth Foundation, thanked the Board and staff for persevering with the Prop X projects. In her words, the Malibu secondary school campus is most assuredly now a community center, truly a place where all community members may gather in safety and comfort, as well as a wonderful place for focused, inspiration learning.

expect the first update in January, 2003, and the first draft next March.

Enrollment in AP courses is up, especially among students of color. The AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program is fully in place at John Adams Middle School. The AVID program is being successfully modeled by other district schools. A full analysis and report is expected in Spring, 2003.

The Superintendent stated that several media sources had misinterpreted the recently-released CDE data relative to the State's High School Exit Exams; the data compares a cumulative data report to a report using only the passing rates for one quarter, Spring, 2002. The picture is misleading. Efforts are being made at all levels of the statewide educational spectrum to protest the inaccuracy and to insist on standardized, comprehensive data.

Prop X construction is nearing completion at most sites, with MHS having primarily punch-list items remaining; there is major work still being done at JAMS and Samohi.

Scheduled informational community forums for Measure EE are:

10/15-7:30AM	Pt .Dume PTA
10/16- 1:30PM	Commission on Older Americans (Edwards Center)
7:30PM	MHS
10/22-7:00PM	Cabrillo PTA
10/24-7:30AM	Malibu Optimists Club

### **Board Discussion Meeting Dates and Topics:**

**10/17 \* Race and Discipline Task Force Update**  
(Santa Monica City Council Chambers)  
**12/19 \* Board Agenda Management ; School Improvement Plans (SIPs)**  
**1/23/03 \* Charter Schools**  
**2/20 \* Institute for Learning**  
(Santa Monica City Council Chambers)  
**3/19 \* Standards-based Instruction**  
**4/17 \* Preliminary Budget Planning**  
(Santa Monica City Council Chambers)  
**5/15 \* Budget Planning**  
(Santa Monica City Council Chambers)  
**All meetings are public and everyone is welcome.**