

From the Board Room ...

Notes from the Board of Education Meeting: 11/07/02

... informing all

Let's Celebrate!

Good News! Awards Abound!

Wonderfully exciting news was delivered by a team of staunch district supporters: Allan Young (Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica), Dee Menzies (Santa Monica Rotary Club), filling in for President Bill Crookston and the Superintendent. Backed with a \$50,000 grant from the Rotary Club, the Boys and Girls Club is going to open a satellite facility on the campus of John Adams Middle School. The program will be modeled after the very successful club at Malibu High School and will concentrate on providing academic support, a technology center, intermural-type activities, arts and outreach programs. The membership will remain \$10/year and, although no scholarships are given, children may work to earn the membership fee. Dominique Holland, also of the Boys and Girls Club, gave a special note of thanks to the principals at all district schools that currently have satellites. Truly a win-win situation for the district and its students. That's rewarding!

Dr. Rita Esquivel accepted a special commendation from the Board to congratulate Adult Education Center graduate Jennifer Rieken. Jennifer placed third in the 2001 GED Outstanding Achievement Award Program. Third in the STATE— that's THIRD out of 48,374 individuals who passed the GED test in 2001. Outstanding!

The Board recognized Malibu parent David Kramer for outstanding generosity. David purchased multiple copies of Maria Shriver's new book, *What's the Matter with Timmy*, for every school site in the district. Thank you, David

Finally, world renown McKinsey & Company has offered a partnership to the district that revolves around development of SMMUSD's performance leadership with the mutual goal of the partnership being a more rapid, complete accomplishment of the

the voting block

November 7, 2002

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Board Meetings/ Date

All major agenda items passed,

6-0 with a motion by

Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mrs. Gottfried

Dr. Jordan *in absentia*,

no abstentions, Student Vote: Aye

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

Highlights

Lise Reilly and a large contingent of the John Adams Middle School family, presented an overview of the school and why it is so successful. In addition, to Principal Reilly, speakers included Flo Benjamin, Rita Reyes, Jonathan Dunn, Francisco Galleon, Stephanie Diaz, Anna Ramirez, Jennifer Duarte and JAMS' PTSA President Candi Lira. To a person each spoke to the merits of the energized, new administration, the new programs, an expanded AVID program – each expressed true pride in the many faces and facets of JAMS. The presentation concluded with a professional quality video made by Assistant Principal Irene Ramos – stunning and wonderfully expressive. The JAMS group definitely helped the Board and audience remember the importance of the tasks before them. Everyone was moved and was grateful.

The district is proceeding with application for a \$6000 NASA Grant that, if received, will enable a group of Santa Monica High School students to participate in the FIRST NASA Robotics Competition. Through the program, reps from NASA, JCL and other corporations team up with high school students to design and build remotely controlled robots, competing with other schools at the completion of the project. Ed Services guru, Chris Rivera, and parent Tiuu Luuk.

The district is also working with the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica to help with the growing traffic/parking problems at the school sites. An update will be provided

overall achievement and equity goals set by the Superintendent and Board. McKinsey & Company, Inc., specializes in assisting clients with identifying, codifying and tackling complex management challenges. Their work will be done *pro bono*. Both the Superintendent and Board are thrilled with this gift. The Consulting Agreement will be brought before the Board for final approval.

Superintendent's Report. Mr. Deasy praised the extraordinary work of the community, parents, students and staff in working for the passage of Measure EE. Regrettably, because the measure did not pass (failing with 61% of the vote—it needed two-thirds) the district is faced with having to make between \$1 and \$2 million in budget reductions (cuts) for the year ending 6/30/02 and between \$5 and \$6 million for 03-04 and subsequent years; these estimates are absent any further State cuts in educational funding. The list of possible mid-year cuts is extensive. The Board directed staff to do the following five things in preparation for the next Board meeting, 11/21/02:

- 1) return with a new parcel tax and deadlines relative to possibly placing it on a future agenda;
- 2) reconvene the 2002 Ad Hoc Parcel Tax Committee;
- 3) send communications to the City Councils of both Malibu and Santa Monica so everyone is straight about what cuts have to be made;
- 4) explore other communities' avenues of taxation/revenue generation for education
- 5) explore the possibilities of increasing the number of permit students and fees for transportation, lunch fees and developers.

Mr. Deasy also indicated that he would be bringing an amendment to the current gift policy to the Board – one that would ensure equity throughout the district.

The next Board of Education Meeting is Thursday, November 21, 2002, at 7 PM. City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica.

