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# BOARD NOTES

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## Board of Education Regular Meeting – Thurs., October 20, 2011

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*Board Notes is provided as a public information service from the Office of the Superintendent and is intended to provide an immediate summary of the Board of Education's action and discussion on significant projects and services from the most recent board meeting. Not all items that were listed on the board agenda are included in this report. Please contact the Superintendent's Office (310.450.8338 x70229) with questions about this summary.*

### Upcoming Board Meetings in October & November

- Sat., October 22, 2011, 9:00am (Supt./board retreat @ district office)
- Thurs., November 3, 2011, 6:00pm (regular meeting @ Malibu City Council Chambers)
- Thurs., November 17, 2011, 6:00pm (regular meeting @ district office)

Board agendas and minutes: <http://www.smmusd.org/board/meetings.html>

### Last night, the board took action on the following:

- ☛ The board approved a research project with the University of California for Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Education and Department of Psychology to test hypotheses about the psychosocial benefits of racial/ethnic diversity in urban middle schools. The lead researcher explained what kind of data would be gathered, how it would be gathered, the timeline of the project, outreach methods to John Adams and Lincoln Middle School families, and the process for updating the Board of Education. In response to board member concerns, staff assured the board that this study would not interfere with the district's current work, but would in fact help the district better understand how to make students feel safer at school.
- ☛ The board accepted contributions to the Equity Fund from 2010-11 and approved the allocation of those funds to the school sites for 2011-12. The board further approved staff's recommendation to allocate \$60,000 from the Equity Fund to the Educational Services Department to enhance and strengthen the 2011-12 school year and summer 2012 districtwide initiatives, including Intensive Intervention Summer School (IIS), Connect for Success (for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders), Jump Start to Success (for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders), and the Young Collegians. Additionally, \$80,000 will be kept in reserve to cover any additional costs should the board decide to expand the summer program offerings for 2012.

### Last night, the board discussed the following:

- ☛ The Ed Services staff presented information on the summer school programs that were offered this past summer, including enrollment figures, results from students' pre- and post-assessments, grades received, and survey data. The board asked staff to put together a budget showing additional costs associated with expanding the summer school program offerings for 2012.
- ☛ Santa Monica High School principal Laurel Fretz presented the findings of the recent WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) visit, including results from student, faculty, and parent surveys; classroom observations; student interviews; and

student work collections. Ms. Fretz explained the specific action plans that are being developed and implemented to address the specific findings. She commended Samohi's staff for being so receptive to collaborating and improving their own teaching methods.

**Last night, the board heard public comments on the following:**

- 👉 Roosevelt PTSA leaders shared a recent decision passed by the Roosevelt PTSA supporting the need to address the inequity of fundraising among the school sites. They encouraged the implementation of any change in policy or practice to be vetted through an open and transparent, democratic process.

**Upcoming board items:**

- 👉 Recognize National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students and Semi-Finalists from Malibu High School – *commendation on 11/3/11*
- 👉 Approve District Advisory Committee (DAC) charges for 2011-12 – *action on 11/3/11*
- 👉 Reconstitute the Intercultural DAC, open membership process – *action on 11/3/11*
- 👉 Report on Advanced Placement student achievement data – *discussion on 11/3/11*
- 👉 Proposed revisions to Acceptance of Gifts policy – *discussion on 11/3/11*
- 👉 Budget update – *discussion on 11/3/11*
- 👉 Recognize National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students and Semi-Finalists from Santa Monica High School – *commendation on 11/17/11*
- 👉 2011-12 First Budget Revision – *action on 11/17/11*
- 👉 Approve Technology Use Plan – *action on 11/17/11*
- 👉 Report on District Health Services and Data – *discussion on 11/17/11*
- 👉 Proposed revisions to Acceptance of Gifts policy – *continued discussion on 11/17/11*