



FUSD Highlights

BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Laura Abernathy-Mancha, President
Henry (Gus) Hawthorn, Clerk
Julie A. Ramos, Alternate Clerk
Kathleen (Kathy) Binks, Member
Barbara L. Chavez, Member

ADMINISTRATION

Cali L. Olsen-Binks
Superintendent

Richard A. Stedry, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent
Business Services

Oscar Dueñas
Interim Associate Superintendent
Instructional Services

Yolanda Mendoza
Associate Superintendent
Human Resources

Robert P. Ratcliffe
School Police Chief
School Police Services

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Board Meeting
February 23, 2009 (7 pm)
John D. Piazza Center

District Science Fair
February 28, 2009
Truman Middle School

Regular Board Meeting
March 4, 2009 (6 pm)
John D. Piazza Center

Board Bullets

- The Board adopted Resolution No. 09-13 recognizing March 9-13, 2009 as Adult Education Week.
- The Board adopted Resolution No. 09-14 recognizing February as Black History Month.
- The Board adopted Resolution No. 09-15 declaring March 2-6, 2009 as Week of the School Administrator.
- The Board adopted Resolution No. 09-16 enacting a Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan (SERP) for 2009-10.
- Dr. Stedry presented revised Budget Reduction Scenarios, based on the tentative State budget. The Board discussed options for to cover the anticipated 13.8 million midyear deficit.
- The Board ratified the Tentative Agreement between the Fontana Unified School District and the USW Local 8599 on Articles 10, 14, 16, 30 and 34.
- Melinda Pure (Director of Facilities Planning, Design, Construction), Boundary Review Committee Representatives—Eddie Velasquez and Keith McCarter, along with Tony Ferruzzo, a consultant from Decision Insite, presented information on the attendance boundary alignment process and the proposed boundary changes. A Public Hearing on the recommended boundary changes will be held on March 4.
- The Board appointed Janie Burgo and Luis Vaquera to the City of Fontana Park and Community Services Commission.

Good Things

Eduardo Valencia, a True Fontana Star

Principals Dan Fitzgerald (North Tamarind ES), Adele Thomas (Juniper ES), and Gorge Santiago (Oleander ES) recognized counselor Eduardo Valencia for going above and beyond, not just at his own schools—Juniper and Oleander—but wherever he can be of assistance. When a 4th grade student at Juniper was killed recently, Eduardo was one of the first counselors to reach the site, organizing the



other counselors and getting into the classrooms and responding to the needs of students and staff. Both of Eduardo's principals spoke enthusiastically about how valued he is at their schools for his many contributions. Eduardo said that he felt humbled by their praise but that he would accept this acknowledgement "on behalf of all the counselors in Fontana, because this is just what we do on a daily basis." Thank you, Eduardo, for being a Fontana Star!

Heroes on Campus

One of the most heart-tugging moments of the evening came when Heather Griggs, Principal of A.B. Miller High School, recognized a trio of Fontana Stars at her school. On February 3, the front office received an urgent call that help was needed in room I-9 and that 911 was on the way. Masonry teacher Bob Freeman had lost consciousness, as well as a significant amount of blood, when he was found in his classroom by Johnny Cornejo, a junior. Johnny picked-up shop towels and applied pressure to Mr. Freeman and thankfully grabbed Vernon Matthews, A.B. Miller's Public Services Academy Supervisor, who knew exactly what to do until the paramedics arrived. Larry Van, a Campus Security Office at A.B. Miller, was instrumental in helping Mr. Freeman regain consciousness and making the decisions, not only for Mr. Freeman, but for the 30+ students who were witnessing the scene as it occurred. Said Mrs. Griggs, "If not for the pivotal decisions made by these three gentlemen, we would be looking at a very different outcome for Mr. Freeman. At this moment, Mr. Freeman is out of ICU, recovering nicely, and as his family puts it, starting to cause havoc with his nurses at Kaiser! Gentlemen, A.B. Miller and the Fontana family owe you an incredible gratitude and debt for your services." The three heroes were given a round of applause and they received handshakes and hugs from the Superintendent and Board Members.



NHRA Photography and Video Production Contest



On deck again, Heather Griggs, introduced two A.B. Miller High School students, Jose Aresti and Joshua Mayfield, who recently participated in the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Photography and Video Production contests. Each year, in conjunction with the Automobile Club of Southern California NHRA Finals, the NHRA hosts the Career Opportunities Fair presented by the U.S. Army. Additionally, they host a student photography and video production competition. Joshua Mayfield won first place for his photograph. For the video competition, students shot footage throughout the day of the event, took it back to their school for editing and then submitted their final product. Brenda Lopez, Edwin Martinez, Jose Aresti, and Nathan McCook took second place for their video. Said Mrs. Griggs, "That is what our educational system is all about!

Learning something in the classroom and then making a product that they and we are very, very proud of. Mr. Lee, their teacher, should have a lot of praise for the program that he has developed in just a few short years."

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program

Kelly Allen (Coordinator, Secondary Instruction) introduced AVID Coordinators Jo Shelly King of Fontana High School and Steve Jennings of Summit High School. Ms. King and Mr. Jennings presented information on the district's outstanding AVID Program. Said Ms. King, "There is a real misconception out there about the AVID Program. That is just for the 'smart kids' or the 'not so smart' kids. But, to be honest with you, we're just for kids." Their presentation explained that the mission of AVID is to prepare underachieving students for college eligibility and success by placing them in advanced classes and providing them with tutoring. Board Member BarBara Chavez said two of her children were in AVID (one has since graduated and is in college) and exclaimed, "AVID really works!"

Update on FTA Negotiations

FTA Representatives Tom Kenefick and Wendy Shapard gave an update on contract negotiations between FTA and the District. Said Mr. Kenefick, "Since the last Board Meeting, we have signed tentative agreements for Work Day, Peer Assistance and Reivew. We are now ready to put this agreement to our members for ratification and I firmly believe that we will ratify this agreement."

"Some Things Gotta Change" Fundraiser

Kareem Gongora, a college student and a graduate of the Fontana Unified School District, invited the Board of Education and the community at large to attend an event he is organizing. He has planned a community rummage sale/ bake sale/ car wash/ with performances and games to raise funds for the families of Devon Keeten, Moses Guzman, and Dylan Green. The three boys were students in the Fontana Unified School District and were recently killed in a tragic automobile accident. The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Wayne Ruble Middle School.

Fifth Grade Science Camp

Gorge Santiago, Principal of Oleander Elementary School, said that two weeks ago the fifth graders at his school had the opportunity to attend the Alpine Meadows Science Camp in Big Bear. While at camp, the students learned about geology, ecology, and wildlife, which is all tied to the fifth grade curriculum. It was also a good opportunity for them to learn the importance of working in groups.

Parents Encouraged to "Get Involved"

Luis Vaquera, the Chairperson of the Superintendent's Advisory Council and a member of the Parent Leadership Team, invited parents to get involved in their children's schools. With the current fiscal crisis, the parent involvement is more important than ever before. Mr. Vaquera encouraged parents to view the video on our district website (www.fusd.net) to learn about just some of the ways they can get involved or be of assistance. The video is also available en Español on <http://espanol.fusd.net>. Parents were also encouraged to contact members of the Parent Leadership Team; their names and email addresses are available on the district website, as well.

Academic Decathlon

Congratulations to Fontana's four comprehensive high schools for competing in the 26th annual San Bernardino County Academic Decathlon on January 31 and February 7, 2008. The scholastic competition pitted 41 teams of students from 29 local high schools against one another in 10 academic disciplines. Students at Fontana and Kaiser High Schools received several individual awards, and Jacob Knudson, a senior at Kaiser, placed 3rd overall in the competition. Kaiser High School placed 4th overall in the competition (Go Cats!). Congratulations to all our FUSD Academic Decathlon teams and coaches for their hard work.



Grant Elementary School Hits 800!

Upon receiving the revised API figures, we are happy to report that Grant Elementary School received that one magic point that brought them up to 800! This additional point was given for close attention to enrollment data and updating attendance. Fontana now has two 800 schools: Sierra Lakes and Grant Elementary Schools. And that's just the beginning!