



FUSD Highlights

BOARD MEETING

APRIL 1, 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

IMPORTANT DATES

FUSD Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
6 pm Regular Board Meeting
John D. Piazza Center

FUSD Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2009
6 pm Regular Board Meeting
John D. Piazza Center

FUSD Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
6 pm Regular Board Meeting
John D. Piazza Center

Memorial Day—Holiday
Monday, May 25, 2009
All FUSD Schools & Offices Closed

Board Bullets

- Summer School Programs were approved at A.B. Miller, Fontana, Kaiser, and Summit High Schools for June 9-July 17, 2009. Summer School Programs for Severely Handicapped, Orthopedically Impaired, Emotionally Disturbed, Early Childhood were also approved.
- FUSD's School Police Dog, K9 Copper, was officially retired from service due to health issues. He was purchased by Officer Dennis Barnett for \$1.

Good Things

K9 Copper Retires from Active Duty

Chief Bob Ratcliffe announced that FUSD's School Police Dog, K9 Copper, needed to retire due to health issues. "But he's fine. He is medicated for his heart condition," Chief Bob assured everyone. He joked that Copper was taking the SERP. "He will be going to live with Officer Dennis Barnett - his new 'Dad.' He is very happy," Chief Bob continued. "And Officer Norma Bautista, who has been Copper's handler for the past two years, will be taking the new puppy that the company is replacing Copper with, for free."

Superintendent Cali Olsen-Binks said, "We're really sad to see him go. But as Chief Bob explained to me, because Copper is a police-trained dog, the only way he would not have to be euthanized is if the Board approved the sale of him for \$1 to someone who is an officer. So, Dennis Barnett, you are my absolute hero, because I never could have never made that recommendation!" Officer Barnett said that he felt it was an honor to be able to take Copper, "especially knowing how important he has been to our district and the community of Fontana."

Categorical Program Monitoring Report

Lisa Rivero - Director of Categorical Programs, Laurie Finucane - Director of Early Education, Gayle Hinazumi - Director of Special Services, Michael Coates - Coordinator of Alternative Education, and Martha Duenas, Coordinator of English Language Learners, presented the findings of the recent Categorical Program Monitoring (CPM) review by the California Department of Education (CDE). The CDE reviewed FUSD's Categorical Programs, Early Education, English Language Learners, Alternative Education, and Special Education Departments for compliance with State and Federal regulations. Overall the District had a very successful review. Out of 130 possible findings, FUSD only had 21. And although the reviewers are not permitted to include praise in their CPM report, the CDE complimented FUSD on our overall quality of instruction, the significant number of students served by our adult school and the overall quality by which they are served, service to our Title I students attending private schools, our supplemental services provided to students attending schools in Program Improvement and our EL Master Plan. In fact, the CDE state that our EL Master Plan was one of the best they had ever seen.



Kaiser Teacher to Teach Best Practices to Teachers in China

A recently enacted law in China requires that students learn English as part of their regular curriculum. Josie Ervin, an EL teacher at Kaiser High School, applied to be an instructor of good instructional practices to teach the teachers in China how to be teachers of the English language. She was one of seventeen people across the United States who was accepted into the program. Superintendent Cali Olsen-Binks said, "It's an honor having someone representing Fontana Unified in China – and the best part is, she is going to teach good teaching practices. We are excited and we want to support her."

Deadline for SERP and 33/34 Plan Extended

Dr. Richard Stedry, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, said that the deadline for the SERP and 33/34 Plan has been extended to May 1, 2009. The reason for this, he explained, was that "we haven't had very much participation at this point. On the SERP, we've only had 6 people sign-up, 4 of which are Certificated and 2 are Classified." He also went on to explain about the Classified SERP, "It is not necessarily one-for-one (save one position for each person retiring) because some of those Classified Employees may be from Food Services (a program that is not funded by the General Fund). However, on the Certificated side, it will be one Certificated retiree saves one lay-off. So, there is some benefit there."

Don't Miss the Annual Boys' and Girls' Club Fundraiser

Board Member Kathy Binks reminded everyone about the upcoming Fontana Boys' and Girls' Club annual fundraiser luncheon, "Out to Lunch!" The event will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 12 noon, at Sons of Italy in Fontana. There will be a great pasta lunch and a musical extravaganza featuring the talents of local civic leaders, all going out on a limb to benefit the programs and services for the youth in Fontana. "Tickets are still available and there are new dancers, including Chief Bob!" said Mrs. Binks.

Fontana Relay For Life to be Held First Weekend in May

Board Member Kathy Binks reminded everyone that the Fontana Relay For Life will be taking place at Fontana High School on Saturday, May 2, 2009. This year's event has been shortened to 12 hours, from 9 am to 9 pm. Come out and raise money for the American Cancer Society!

Update on Son of Board Member Julie Ramos

The son of Board Member Julie Ramos, Adam, has been critically ill and was hospitalized this past week but came home a few days ago. Superintendent Cali Olsen-Binks said that she had received word from Mrs. Ramos that "she wanted to send along to all you her many, many thanks for all the warm thoughts and prayers everyone has been sending Julie's way." Said Mrs. Olsen-Binks, "We need to do everything we can to make sure Adam gets the rest he needs. Everyone wants to visit him, call and text message him, but if you could please refrain from doing that and just give Adam his rest right now, Julie would really appreciate it. She knows how much he is loved. We'll keep you updated."