



FUSD Highlights

BOARD MEETING

APRIL 15, 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

Saturday, April 25, 2009
District Writing Showcase
Public Viewing: 10 am-12 noon
Truman Middle School

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

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

Monday, May 25, 2009
Memorial Day Holiday
All FUSD schools & offices closed

Board Bullets

- The Board adopted Resolution No. 09-28, recognizing "School Nurse Day" on May 6, 2009.
- The Board approved revisions to the Certificated and Classified Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan (SERP) Resolutions No. 09-16 and 09-19, which decrease the minimum age requirement to 58 by June 30, 2009.
- The Board approved Resolution No. 09-30, recognizing the week of May 10-16, 2009 as National Police Week and Friday, May 15, 2009 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.
- The Board approved the escrow closing costs for the Elementary School No. 29 property which is located at the corner of Alder and Merrill Avenues.
- The following Assistant Principals were approved as the 2009 Summer School Principals: JoAnn Baeten of A.B. Miller High School, Silvana Guerrucci-Pierce of Summit High School, George Matamala of Kaiser High School, and Dr. James Logan of Fontana High School.
- Melissa Bako, a Teacher at Summit High School, was promoted to Athletic Director of Jurupa Hills High School.



Good Things

County History Day Participants Honored

Kimberly MacKinney, Director of Secondary Curriculum, introduced the FUSD students who recently participated in the San Bernardino County History Day competition. "On Saturday, March 24, we had 44 students from Fontana participating with projects. There were over 200 students participating in the competition, from 10 school districts. Our school district won the second most awards in the competition. Upland had the most this year, but we'll get them next year. We were right on their heels with 14 projects that will be moving on to the State History Day competition in Sacramento on April 30," said Ms. MacKinney. The students were called forward and honored with certificates. "And of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our History Coordinators and the support of our parents," continued Ms. MacKinney.





Healthy Weight-Loss Challenge Winners Announced

Claudia Ross of Keenan and Associates, the district's insurance broker, announced the winners of the 2009 Healthy Weight-Loss Challenge. "We have a feeling that the fix is in with the Dawg Pound," said Ms. Ross. That's right, the Dawg Pound has won two years in a row, prompting Ms. Ross to continue, "Next year, Dawg Pound, we may have different eligibility requirements, such as, you must keep your weight off between contests or that you can't have a gain of more than 10%." But this good natured ribbing was all in good fun, because as Ms. Ross stated, "Many of the participants set out to accomplish goals and it was very exciting to hear success stories." The top three winning teams were on hand to accept their prize money, as well as a check for their designated charity. First place team, Dawg Pound, won \$1000 to be divided between their team members and \$1000 for the Children's Service Fund. Second Place team, Fohi's Finest, won \$400 for their team and \$400 for the Fontana Boys and Girls Club. Third Place team, Happy Hour Hooligans, won \$250 for their team and \$250 for the Children's Service Fund. Said Superintendent Cali Olsen-Binks, "We are happy to have this partnership with Keenan and happy to have a lot of fit people."



Fontana Organization of Retired School Employees (FORSE)

Dr. Wayne Ruble, retired FUSD administrator and Board Member, gave the Board an update on the recent FORSE meeting. Said Dr. Ruble, "We met yesterday at the FTA Office and had a good turnout. Former principal Ray Banks, who now lives in Utah, was there and two of our 91 year-olds were present. Thanks to the Fontana School Police for letting Officer Cindy Evaro come and present the Parrot Patrol Program. If you have not seen it, then you are missing a real great program that they are presenting to students throughout the district on safety." Dr. Ruble said that retired Superintendent, Dr. Karen Harshman, and Betty Cable, a retired teacher who was one of the first teachers at Juniper Elementary School, mentioned that this year would be the 50th anniversary of the opening of Juniper and wondered if a celebration was going to be planned. Said Mrs. Olsen-Binks, "Adele Thomas (Principal of Juniper Elementary School) is

nodding her head, 'yes,' Dr. Ruble." More to come on that in the future.

Update from GATE Council Chairperson

Brandy Segal, the Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) Council Chairperson gave an update. "We have elected our Board Members, adopted our Bylaws, listed and distributed GATE roles and responsibilities. We 'TeleParent' our parents so they can come to our meetings. We have 40 plus parents who come consistently and 20 GATE students who come to the meetings." Ms. Segal said that the parents are planning a Parent Pride March in the Fontana Days Parade on May 30th and that more information would be forthcoming. The next GATE Council meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2009 at 6 pm in the John D. Piazza Center.

Kaiser Permanente Makes Donation to Children's Service Fund

Thank you to Kaiser Permanente for making a \$25,000 donation to the Fontana Children's Service Fund. Said Mrs. Olsen-Binks, "This fund is managed by our School Nurses and it is used to get students eyeglasses or assist with whatever needs they may have. This donation comes at a time when we really need it. So, thank you Kaiser!"

FUSD Students Compete in California Association FHA-HERO

Oscar Duenas, Interim Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, announced that the following students competed at the California Association FHA-HERO: Building Strong Leaders for Families, Careers, and Communities on February 7, 2009: Randy Rodriguez – Gold Medal in Culinary Arts Display, Decorated Wedding Cake; Brenda Angulo – Gold Medal in Clothing Construction; and Alisa LeDuff – Honorable Mention, Child Development. They also competed at the State Leadership Meeting in Fresno on March 28-31. Said Mr. Duenas, "Although they did not take any awards at State, the students did an outstanding job."



Kaiser Student Wins Regional AVID Writing Contest

Jennifer Capp, a ninth grade student at Kaiser High School, won first place in the 10th Annual RIMS AVID Write-Off, a timed-essay writing contest that is modeled after the University of California's Analytical Writing Exam. Her essay on technology was judged the best out of 70 entries from students in schools throughout San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Jennifer is one of dozens of talented students involved in the college-preparatory AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program at Kaiser, and she said being involved in AVID has helped her tremendously.

EL Master Plan

Oscar Duenas unveiled the new EL Master Plan which will be used as training manuals for staff. Said Mr. Duenas, "It is going to be a very unique document, because it is going to be really interactive and user-friendly." Mrs. Olsen-Binks agreed, "In other words, it is not just a plan that will sit on the shelf gathering dust. It is a tool that not only our teachers and administrators, but our parents can use."

The EL Master Plan will be available for viewing on our district website.

Adam Ramos

Board Member Julie Ramos wanted to thank everyone for their prayers, concerns and thoughts during her son, Adam's, recent illness. Said Mrs. Ramos, "We went through the most difficult time of our lives and we're still going through it. We still don't have answers. Adam is doing well; he is back in school and is eager to get back to playing baseball—he's not able to do that yet but he wants to." Mrs. Ramos continued by saying, "It was a true blessing to be a part of the Fontana family."

STAR Testing

Mrs. Olsen-Binks announced that STAR testing is underway at our schools. She said, "Every single instructional day counts through the end of the year. There is something in the curriculum world that we call the 'spiral effect' and that is laying a foundation of knowledge – or as the State would call it, 'Content Standards' – and building upon them. Teaching continues, even after testing, all the way through the end of the school year." As a reminder to the parents in our community, Mrs. Olsen-Binks said, "It is really important, not just for your student, but for the District, that our attendance remains high. We need to make sure that we focus on the California State Testing, because it is the tool that Federal government and the State use to measure us by." To help prepare their students for testing, she said "It is very critical to us for students to be well rested, be well fed in the morning, and come to school eager to learn. I would encourage all of our community to remind their students, no matter what grade they are in, that these tests really do matter, not just for them, but for the district as well."