



FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Advisory Committee

October 26, 2005

Minutes

- 1) Welcome and Introductions - Ms. Cali Olsen, Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Cali Olsen, Deputy Superintendent welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Olsen thanked Mrs. Gough's and Ms. Inostroz's classes from Tokay Elementary for providing the table decorations for the meeting. She then introduced Dr. Milligan, Superintendent.

- 2) Approve Minutes

- After the meeting go to the website for the minutes at www.fusd.net

Ms. Ramos asked everyone to read the minutes from the September 20, 2005 meeting.

Ms. Maria Ortiz, Fontana High School motioned to approve the September 20, 2005 minutes with a change to number 10, second paragraph which should have read "Five or six of the schools met their goal."

Mr. Luis Vaquero, Mango Elementary seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

- 3) Elections

Each parent was given a ballot to cast their vote for a chairperson, co-chairperson and secretary. The votes were counted and results were shared.

Ms. Julie Ramos was elected Chairperson.

Mr. Luis Vaquero was elected Co-Chairperson and serves as the Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence.

Ms. Maria Berumen was elected Secretary.

- 4) Superintendent – Charles D. Milligan, Ph.D.

Dr. Milligan remarked that he could not discuss the Bond Referendum after February without presenting the pros and cons. He encouraged everyone to read the initiatives and to vote.

For the last three months the principals have been working on their Single Plans for Student Achievement. It's integral to the decision making process. Every successful business has a plan. The evaluation process of the

effectiveness of each school will be reviewed with the principals over the next month and a half.

Sites address the goals each day. Plans will be modified when the mid-year evaluation is completed. At the end of the year we will see if what we're doing has worked. Sites will be trying things that are inventive, outside of the box and may not work. We should remove obstacles and try different things to make education better for students.

5) Dr. Herbert Fischer, Superintendent – San Bernardino County Office of Education

Dr. Fischer stated the meeting with 150 attendees is a very powerful way to communicate with the Board, Superintendent, Parents and Administrators.

He stated that 90% of the students are in public schools and in his opinion great opportunities exist for children and that Fontana Unified School District is the second largest in the County and one of the largest in the state and sees we're already working together to see students taking advantage of programs.

Kaiser Steel, Santa Fe Railroad, Norton Air Force Base were good employers that provided jobs with retirement but are gone now.

California Steel has highly trained employees. The twenty-first century jobs require a much higher level of proficiency. All children have to take advantage of higher education to take part in the workforce. Digitized jobs are being done outside of the country.

Dr. Fischer's concept says that you have to go to the schoolhouse and be involved in your child's education, meet their teachers and principal. While he was the principal at San Bernardino High School, he never had a child who did not benefit from a parent's involvement in their education.

He complimented Dr. Milligan on engaging a forum that allows parents to participate and to become a better community.

He closed by saying it was very rewarding to see that everyone had taken the time to be together.

6) Calendar Committee – Yolanda Mendoza

Ms. Yolanda Mendoza introduced and thanked all the Calendar Committee members for their work. She let everyone know that they had begun work a year ago, prior to Christmas vacation. Alex Alvarez, Poplar Principal met with different groups and handed out the different calendar options. There is an "Early Start" calendar, a "Status Quo" calendar, and a "Traditional" calendar. Principals will be sent copies of the calendars to show their parents, staff and teachers and provide feedback to Ms. Mendoza in Human Resources.

The committee was comprised of parents, teachers, students, and union representatives.

District Employees:

Vince Harrison, United Steelworkers of America, Almeria Middle School
Grace Arellano, Fontana Teachers Association
Mr. Jennings, Teacher – A. B. Miller High School
Mrs. Bartholomew, Sequoia School

Students:

Alicia Huerta A. B. Miller H. S.
Miguel Calderon, A.B. Miller H. S.
Diana Romo, A. B. Miller H.S.
Crystal Ochoa, A. B. Miller H.S.
Erica Aviles, Kaiser High School
Antoinette Abarca, Fontana High School

Administrators:

Mr. Alvarez, Poplar Elementary School Principal
Dr. Annous, Fontana Middle School Principal
Mr. Andrus, Summit High School Principal

A two-year calendar would be adopted in order to give parents, teachers and staff time to plan vacations.

Mr. Andrus commented that all departments were consulted for conflicts.

Question: Why not try to have something with March and November off like it is now?

Answer: Dr. Milligan shared that having started a new school year 1,800 students lower than last year. It would have meant a loss of \$10-\$12 million dollars to the district. By the time High School began the district was up 71 students. But the district still lost \$700,000 in Average Daily Attendance (ADA). This is only one of the reasons that High School should start early. An early start would help Advanced Placement students, AVID students and students in need of intervention programs. When Middle Schools went on a year round schedule teachers were not available to teach summer school remedial classes that high school students needed. It is difficult for students to show up after Labor Day and schools have been in session for a month. They get too far behind and don't catch up for a semester or at all. Teachers want students to succeed. Teachers want to be in sync and feel it's overwhelmingly positive for all be on the same track and have two years to plan a vacation. So that one child in a family doesn't have to miss school to go on a vacation.

Question: Does Preschool have a separate calendar?

Answer: Preschool will adjust to the calendar chosen.

Questions: What happens when kids that need help and need intersession?

Answer: The district looked at the data and number of students attending. It's difficult to get teachers for interventions when no one is willing to work when Track Four (D) is off. With the early start calendar, there could be an intervention program at Christmas and Saturday school.

Comments: Students presented the calendars to classes and everyone liked it. One positive for the students is that they will have finals before Christmas vacation so they won't have to study. Advanced Placement courses and testing dates are dictated by the state and more students could participate. Summer intervention can help students catch up.

Question: Will there be more school days?

Answer: No, there are not any more school days, but there is a shift in the work year.

Comment: Unfortunately, we won't respond to all of our parents' needs, but hope to respond to the needs of the students. A committee member asked parents to consider the needs of the district and to look at the big picture.

Question: Who decides when a school can go single track?

Answer: The district goal is to get everyone off a multi-track schedule by building more schools. Poplar is moving to single track. There is time to look at the calendars in November before taking the calendars to the Board of Education in December.

Comment: Dr. Milligan believes the district will work collaboratively with the City to provide programs. The district must take the lead and others are waiting to see the changes Fontana makes. He suggested the principals e-mail their questions and concerns to them. He wanted to thank the committee for their work. The Superintendent's Advisory Council will vote for the calendar selection and their consensus will be taken to the Board with his recommendation.

7) Distinguished Schools Nomination/Application

Five elementary schools that receive Title I funds, meet certain criteria, have an API over 730, and met their growth target are eligible to apply for the Distinguished Schools Award. Congratulations to Mango, Shadow Hills, Hemlock, Canyon Crest and Sierra Lakes Elementary Schools. They will be working on their applications.

8) Questions and Answers

Questions and Answers would have to wait until November as there was no remaining time.

9) Adjournment

Mr. Luis Vaquero, Mango Elementary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Edith Saucedo, seconded the motion. Motion carried.