



**FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRITO ESCOLAR UNIFICADO DE FONTANA**

Superintendent's Advisory Committee

Comité Consultivo del Superintendente

January 12, 2006/Enero 12, 2006

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions/Bienvenida y Presentaciones – Ms. Olsen-Binks

Everyone was welcomed. New and returning representatives were thanked for attending. Board Member Dr. Piazza was introduced. Dr. Stedry, Deputy Superintendent Business Services, Yolanda Mendoza, Associate Superintendent Human Resources and Dr. Gail Grant, Associate Superintendent Student Support were introduced. Barbara Chavez, President United Steel Workers of America Union, Mr. Dino Luna, fifth grade Palmetto teacher, Tyler Pope, Palmetto student attended on his birthday and his mother Ms. Pope were introduced.

II. Approve Minutes/Aprobación del Acta – Mrs. Julie Ramos

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

Ms. Ramos asked everyone to read the minutes from the November 29, 2005 meeting. Mr. Vaquera, motioned to approve the November 29, 2005 minutes. Raul Lozano seconded the motion. Motion carried.

III. Superintendent/Superintendente Dr. Charles D. Milligan

Dr. Milligan didn't want to take much time since Mr. Otis Greer was here to address the parents about what California Speedway offers community members for fundraising.

IV. California Speedway (Pista de Carreras) - Otis Greer

Mr. Greer wanted the parents to know it was an honor to be with them and was thankful for the opportunity to be at Kaiser High School for Principal for a Day. It was a fantastic experience to meet the students and see all the enthusiasm. Supported by teachers, parents and staff involvement, California Speedway open since 1997 has become a financial powerhouse in the area. Approximately 200 million dollars are earned annually in area hotels, restaurants, businesses for local services. Weekend guests number from 120,000 – 150,000 and participate in the event. The Speedway employs 55 professional staff that work year round. There are 5,000 – 6,000 volunteers and event staff that work driving, provide transportation and prepare food.

Non-profit organizations such as Pop Warner, Baseball, and Soccer team volunteers earn enough to sustain their organization for the year by working the February or September event.

The Speedway is open 350 days with movie shoots, driving school, racing school and other activities. Mr. Greer can be reached at (909)429-5000. He wished the best of luck to students and schools.

V. *Smartboard Presentation –Palmetto Elementary School/ Presentación de pizarrones auxiliares en la enseñanza-aprendizaje/Primaria Palmetto*

Mr. Luna, fifth grade teacher, at Palmetto Elementary school is also a Technology Coach involved in Staff Development throughout the district. Smartboards are used in classrooms in many ways. Mr. Luna demonstrated a United Steaming film clip. He uses them to support the California State Standards and to teach the Open Court Language Arts curriculum. Smartboards are one of the most incredible pieces of technology that can be used to control what he exposes to students. Students respond by touching the board and love using them. Tyler demonstrated how he could touch and drag numbers without using paper and pencil. Each student has his own page which provides a simple way to review what the class is doing. Tyler also demonstrated a basketball math game. When students have to run the mile for Physical Education, they use the Smartboards to see how respiration and the heart work.

Mr. Luna let parents know that the Smartboard was used instead of a whiteboard and is paperless. United Steaming imports videos in the Power Point Presentation he prepares that are related to the unit they are working on. He also uses it as part of the English Language Development curriculum so that students get a visual idea of words they are learning. Lessons can be saved so that students can review them if they were absent which is a valuable reteaching tool.

VI. *Parent Enrollment Letter/ Carta para los Padres sobre Inscripción-Dr. Gail M. Grant*

Dr. Grant shared the letter that would be given to students to return to schools so that principals could prepare their enrollment projections for the next school year. This will enable them to staff appropriately. The information is not being collected for grades 8-12. It will only be used to appropriately staff the schools and maintain student-teacher ratio. Principals would be personalizing the letter to meet the needs at their sites.

She also shared the information on the Mass Enrollment schedule for kindergarten beginning February 14th. Schools are really encouraged to have parents enroll their kindergarten age children any day of their school's week. Schools will be sending their enrollment clerks to work at the Enrollment Center during their scheduled week. Parents are guaranteed they can enroll during that week. The information will be posted at schools in the office windows. Parents were asked to remind their neighbors to enroll their children. Preschool enrollment is different and begins in April. Dr. Grant said parents could call her at 357-5000 extension 7329 if they have questions.

Dr. Milligan stressed the importance of having the correct count in order to receive funds to pay for books and instructional materials. Last year the district lost money when students didn't return to school when it started. He suggested that the schools convey the importance of attendance in their school newsletters, through PTA and School Site Councils.

VII. *New Adopted Calendar – 2006-2008 – / Calendario 2006-2008 Nuevo Aprobado-Dr. Milligan*

Dr. Milligan knows that principals are working hard with parents to make sure their children are in school. We need to do more to get students in school. He encouraged parents to network with other parents to ensure their attendance. The district has Connect Ed to communicate with parents to remind them about School Site Council meetings, tell them about their child's absence or of an emergency situation in the community.

Although he supported what the parents wanted, he had to make the recommendation to leave the calendar as it was based on the budget.

The district is trying to clean up the intra or inter-district transfers. However, the principals are the primary players for figuring the enrollment numbers.

VIII. Consolidated Application for Funding Categorical Aid Programs Part II/Solicitud Consolidada Parte II para Fondos de Ayuda en Programas de Categóricos – Lisa Rivero

Lisa Rivero, Coordinator of Categorical Programs explained that Categorical funds support the core curriculum. General funds pay for the teachers, desks, textbooks, chalkboards, etc. Categorical funds pay for the “above and beyond” instructional materials and services.

The Consolidated Application is a two part application and reporting process used by the California Department of Education to distribute categorical funds from various state and federal programs to schools districts. It documents our district’s participation in State and Federal Programs; identifies the State and Federal Categorical funds which our district is applying. Provides guarantees that our district will comply with the legal requirements of each program. It also certifies that Private Schools within our district boundaries were contacted and identifies those that chose to participate in categorical program funding. She gave a brief overview of each programs’ intent.

Federal Programs:

- Title I, Part A funds are used to provide learning opportunities for low achieving students, so that they can achieve state and district standards in Reading, Language Arts and Math.
- Title II, Part A funds are used for preparing, training and recruiting high quality teachers and principals.
- Title II, Part D funds are used to enhance education through technology through the use of technology in the schools.
- Title II funds are used for limited English proficient students to help them learn English. Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds are used to support programs that prevent violence and illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
- Title V, Part A Innovative funds are used to support district and site efforts to implement educational programs that meet the educational needs of all students.

State Programs:

- Economic Impact Aid/Limited English Program funds are used to develop fluency in English and provide equal opportunities for academic achievement in Reading, Language Arts and Math.
- Tobacco Use Prevention Education funds are used in grades 4 – 8 to aid in the prevention of tobacco use.

Ms. Olsen-Binks explained that the centralized portion provides for the support staff to oversee programs and ensure legal requirements are met. Mini-grants will be offered to sites that don’t receive a lot of funding because they are lower in enrollment. Sites are strongly encouraged to spend their funds on the current year’s students and must meet legal requirements. Not all state and federal programs fund each school or grade level. Funds are restricted and can’t be spent in certain ways.

Dr. Milligan told parents that sites need to spend funds in July, but the federal government doesn't give the money to the district until January and sites can't spend after March, so they don't have a large window of time in which to spend their funds.

IX. Bond Referendum/Referéndum de Bono – Dr. Milligan

Dr. Milligan let everyone know that the preliminary survey results were encouraging. He will request the Board of Education approve the Bond for the June election. The funds will be used for building schools in the north of town and will alleviate the overcrowding in schools in the central and south part of town. Every dime of the bond funds must be accounted for.

X. Questions and Answers/Preguntas y respuestas – Dr. Milligan

Question: Why are transportation costs so high?

Answer: The district can't buy new gasoline busses. A refueling station is not allowed by the EPA. The state of California funds only transportation to and from school for regular education. The state does not provide for athletics or special education. The fees must be charged and are calculated by the cost of the bus, driver and cost of fuel. There is a .42 cent surcharge at this time and will go up and down as does the cost of the fuel.

Question: Why are buses without seat belts?

Answer: The National Safety Board doesn't recommend them. Studies show the higher seats are safer. They can become a weapon for older children. There is no way for a bus driver to enforce their use, since they must pay attention to traffic.

Comment: Students are told C's are not passing by the State.

Reply: The state has a five point system Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic, Far Below Basic that is not related to grades.

Dr. Milligan belongs to an organization, the Urban School Dialogue. They will be addressing the State Board of Education concerning the cost of textbooks. If they are successful, they hope to address other issues.

Question: Can they speed up the process to inform parents if their transfer request is approved?

Answer: The district has to make sure the students that live in the area are guaranteed school attendance. The funding the district receives is based on community home schooling. The district spends a couple of million more in transfers.

Ms. Binks asked for the Live Oak parents to stand and be recognized for the table decorations. Normally student art is displayed but the Live Oak parent group made the Mardi Gras masks. The parent group meets with the administrators to discuss social events, art, literature and other programs to help with student work.

XI. Adjournment/Clausura – Ms. Julie Ramos

Lisa Rodriguez motion to adjourn.

Mike Wubker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.