



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Superintendent's evaluation leads to a contract extension

Following approval of the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation for 2009-10, the Board of Education unanimously approved a contract extension for IUSD Superintendent Gwen Gross, effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013.

Board honors club for providing dental care to local kids

Marcia Noonan, IUSD's coordinator of Health Services, recognized the Irvine Spectrum Rotary Club for its efforts to ensure Irvine students have access to dental care.

For years, the club has offered free dental care for elementary students in conjunction with Dental Care for Children, a nonprofit founded by Dr. Charles Tozzer. The Rotary Club also runs a free dental screening clinic each year for all new kindergarten students, enabling IUSD to meet a recent state requirement. Board members honored Tozzer, an honorary club member, as well as Past President Ray Sanford and current President Mody Gorsky.



IUSD Health Services Coordinator Marcia Noonan (left) and Board of Education President Sharon Wallin (right) honor Mody Gorsky, Dr. Charles Tozzer and Ray Sanford of the Irvine Spectrum Rotary Club, which provides access to dental care for students in Irvine.

Board meets three visiting principals from Shanghai

Lauren Sipelis, IUSD's director of Elementary Education, introduced three principals who are visiting Irvine schools from Shanghai.

Ms. Lu, Mr. Qipang and Ms. Xin are shadowing principals in IUSD for six weeks through a program created by the California School Boards Association and funded by the Shanghai Education Commission. In exchange, Irvine principals will have an opportunity to visit Shanghai in the spring or fall of 2011.

Sipelis introduced the visiting principals along with their host families and host principals. A fourth visitor, Mr. Huang, who is director of the Shanghai Youth Activity Center, will arrive at a later date.

PTA thanks basketball league, focuses on advocacy

Steffanie Early, president of the Irvine Unified Council PTA, thanked the Irvine Youth Basketball League for donating funding and equipment – including hundreds of basketballs recently distributed to IUSD classrooms.

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More highlights from the Oct. 19 Board of Education meeting

Early noted that Oct 23. through Oct. 31 is Red Ribbon Week, and that Thursday, Oct. 28 mark's this year's Walk to School Day. In addition, she said, PTA groups are focused on advocacy this month as they urge voters to head to the polls on Nov. 2.

IPSF continues its push for class-size support funds

Jeff Larsen, chair of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, said his organization remains focused on leveraging matching funds from the City of Irvine, which has pledged as much as \$875,200 for class-size support. IPSF has collected more than \$500,000 of that total, and the foundation has until Dec. 31 to raise the balance.

IPSF's Wendy Bokota also praised the Irvine Youth Basketball League and SoCal Elite Sports for each donating \$1,000. These contributions, combined with the City match, translate into a total donation of \$4,000. Bokota introduced former IYBL board member Dan Chiemelski, who thanked Irvine schools for supporting his program.

District finance chief outlines state budget and local impacts

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Howell presented an update on the new state budget and its impact on the Irvine Unified School District.

California's spending plan, which was adopted exactly 100 days late on Oct. 8, reversed a 3.86 percent cut and a negative cost-of-living adjustment for school districts. However, the governor also vetoed critical funding for child care and special education programs that will impact schools and districts.

Perhaps most concerning, the state budget for 2010-11 is built on shaky and exceedingly optimistic revenue assumptions, and that means mid-year cuts in Sacramento are likely. Because of this, IUSD's financial picture is subject to change. But even based on worst-case scenarios, the district is still projecting positive ending balances in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

In December, the Board is expected to approve IUSD's First Interim Report with the ideal "positive" certification, meaning Irvine Unified is projected to meet its financial obligations without additional reductions.

Coming Up...

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)*
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)

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