



IUSD Board Briefs

Highlights from the Irvine Unified School District's March 4 Board of Education meeting

District pursues strategic plan for the visual and performing arts

Brad Van Patten, IUSD's visual and performing arts coordinator, led a presentation on the district's efforts to craft a visual and performing arts strategic plan through the recently established Arts Advantage committee, which is comprised of teachers, administrators and community leaders.

Committee members Robin Lubitz and Ken Stone also provided information about the developing plan, which will focus on curriculum and instruction, professional development, program support and facilities. The district's efforts are in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Education's Arts Advantage program, which is funded by the County, the Boeing Co. and Bank of America.

Intervention and support program paying behavioral dividends

IUSD psychologist Barbara Kelley discussed the impact of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program on IUSD's 13 participating schools. Though all Irvine schools incorporate lessons promoting positive behavior, Kelley said the PBIS program systemically defines, teaches, models and reinforces proper conduct by offering a common vision tailored to the culture of each site. The net result, she said, has been higher attendance rates and significantly fewer disciplinary cases.

Board authorizes annual release of temporary certificated employees

In a move that allows for staffing flexibility in the face of potentially deep state cuts, the Board voted unanimously to inform temporary certificated employees that they will be released at the end of the current school year.

The action in no way represents a final decision regarding specific program cuts or staffing allocations for 2008-09. Rather, the release of teachers on temporary assignments is a yearly practice in IUSD, as it is in most of the state's districts.

Last year, temporary teachers were quickly rehired. This year, as a result of the state's massive budget deficit, enrollment figures and staff retirements will play a larger role in determining the percentage of temps who will be rehired for 2008-09.

Board certifies Second Interim Report of 2007-08

The Board voted to certify IUSD's Second Interim Report of 2007-08 as "positive," meaning the district is projected to meet its financial obligations through 2009-10.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

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IUSD ... providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision.

Board Briefs (Continued)

The Orange County Superintendent of Schools' Office requires each district to examine and certify its financial condition as "positive," "qualified" or "negative" twice during each fiscal year. A qualified certification indicates that a district *may not* be able to meet its financial obligations for the current year and the next two subsequent years; a negative certification indicates that a district *will not* be able to meet its financial obligations over this period.

Noting the size of the state's budget deficit and its potential impact on California's schools, Deputy Superintendent Vernon Medeiros said IUSD's second interim report was based on the assumption that necessary budget adjustments will be made before a final 2008-09 spending plan is adopted in June. The Governor's most recent budget proposal indicates IUSD will have to bridge a gap of approximately \$12.5 million through a combination of cuts and revenue enhancements.

IUSD's first interim report, approved Dec. 10, was also positive. It reflected the district's financial health as of Oct. 31. The second interim report, indicating the district's health as of Jan. 31, must be submitted to the Orange County Department of Education by March 15.

Board nominates Sharon Wallin for prestigious honor

Board members voted unanimously to nominate fellow trustee Sharon Wallin as a candidate for the Orange County School Boards Association's Marian Bergeson Award for 2008.

Created in 1974, this award annually recognizes those trustees who promote and enhance public education through their governing board service and community efforts. Past IUSD recipients include Lee Sicoli (1983), Mary Ellen Hadley (1993) and Margie Wakeham (1998).

Coming Up:

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, March 18, 2008 in the Board Room*
Tuesday, April 15, 2008 in the Board Room

Special Meeting: *Tuesday, March 25, 2008 in the Board Room*
(Budget Study Session, 4 to 6 p.m.)