



# Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

## **Nutrition Services director discusses consultant's report**

Nutrition Services Director Rhonda DeVaux summarized a report by independent consultant Meg Chesley, who was enlisted in November to evaluate IUSD's food sales program. DeVaux said the consultant concluded that the previous business model of using a la carte sales to subsidize meals no longer works because of recently enacted state legislation. The report included several recommendations for increasing participation and revenue, including implementing tiered meal pricing at the middle and high school levels and establishing colorful restaurant-like settings to make cafeterias more desirable destinations.

## **Board members are updated on emergency preparedness efforts**

Administrative Services Director Yvonne Dina presented an update on IUSD's efforts to bolster emergency preparedness. Led by Dina, the district and its PTA groups have greatly increased collaboration with police and fire authorities, the City's Emergency Management Office and the Orange County Red Cross. In addition, a federal grant worth \$244,000 has enabled IUSD to pay for training and supplies to enhance each school's ability to respond to a disaster, administer first-aid and conduct search and rescue operations.

## **CSEA president thanks district for support of job-shadow program**

Janelle Cranch, president of the local chapter of the Classified School Employees Association (CSEA), presented Superintendent Gwen Gross with a plaque signifying gratitude for the district's support of the Appreciating Classified Employees (ACE) job-shadowing event on May 20. Established by CSEA to recognize the efforts of classified employees, the ACE program paired administrators and Board members with custodians, food service workers, bus drivers and other classified employees.

## **Board is briefed on the state's new algebra I requirement**

Mark Sontag, IUSD's coordinator of math and science, discussed the California Board of Education's recent decision to require all eighth-grade students to take and be assessed in algebra I within three years. Sontag, who had traveled to Sacramento to advocate against the new requirement, said IUSD has traditionally focused on ensuring students are prepared to master the algebra I content rather than pushing for earlier enrollment. The state Board's ruling, he said, will have profound implications on instruction and staffing at IUSD's middle and high schools.

## **Board adopts joint bargaining proposal of ITA and IUSD**

Following a public hearing, the Board of Education adopted a joint proposal of the Irvine Teachers Association and IUSD. This action, which is an annual legal requirement, initiated the bargaining process on several agreed upon articles, including working conditions, evaluation procedures, absences and leaves, and compensation and related benefits.

## **Coming Up...**

*Regular Meetings:*

*Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008 in the Board Room*

*Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008 in the Board Room*

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