



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

IPSF reflects on Walk to School Day and thanks participants

Debbie Rugani, director of Community Initiatives and Programs for the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, shared photos from IPSF's second annual Walk to School Day, which was held Oct. 15, and thanked the many sponsors, police officers, district staff members and families who made the event possible.

The Irvine Company donates latest installment of \$20 million pledge

The Irvine Company presented IUSD with the latest installment of its pledge of \$20 million over 10 years for enriched curriculum in art, science and music.

Robin Leftwich, vice president of Community Affairs for The Irvine Company, presented a check for \$2 million following staff presentations on art and science and a musical performance by cellist Nicholas Wu, who attends Turtle Rock Elementary School.

Now in its third year, The Irvine Company's Excellence in Education Enrichment Fund generously pays for art, music and science specialists in IUSD's fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms.



Nicholas Wu, a sixth-grader from Turtle Rock Elementary School, performs during a special presentation highlighting the impact of The Irvine Company's commitment to art, music and science.

Woodbridge teacher honored after receiving prestigious accolade

Woodbridge High School math teacher Lori Sase Bechok was honored by the Board after earning a prestigious award.

Mrs. Sase Bechok was recently named a 2008 recipient of the Outstanding Teacher of America Award by the Carlston Family Foundation, which recognizes and rewards exemplary high school teachers. The honor followed an inspiring nomination from a past student, who credited Sase Bechok with boosting her ambition, confidence and academic success. Tim Allen, executive director of the foundation, said other students offered similar praise in subsequent interviews.

The Carlston Family Foundation is contributing \$15,000 in prize money to Sase Bechok, who said she was "completely humbled and overwhelmed" by the award. Woodbridge High will receive an additional \$5,000.

Students share information, perspectives from Irvine High

Continuing a new series of Board presentations about IUSD's unique campuses and programs, students from Irvine High joined Principal Monica Colunga to share information about their school.

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More highlights from IUSD's Nov. 18 Board of Education meeting:

Board members watched a brief video about Irvine High before four student leaders addressed the audience. Alex Gilman, Jennifer Nam, Jennifer Walker and Matt Hoffer took turns to discuss the work of the Student Forum, how freshmen are assisted in their transition from middle school, and Students for Social Responsibility (SSR), a group known for taking on local, national and global causes.

Board members certify First Interim Report of 2008-09

The Board voted to certify IUSD's First Interim Report of 2008-09 as "positive," meaning the district is projected to meet all of its financial obligations through 2010-11.

Dr. Vernon Medeiros, deputy superintendent of Business Services, told Board members that the reductions made last spring have placed the district on solid financial ground. However, IUSD's First Interim Report does not factor in potential midyear cuts, which are considered probable given California's massive budget deficit.

The Orange County Superintendent of Schools requires each school district to examine and certify its financial condition as "positive," "qualified" or "negative" twice during each fiscal year. Positive is the ideal certification, while qualified 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.

The First Interim Report reflects IUSD's financial health as of Oct. 31 and is due at the Orange County Department of Education no later than Dec. 15.

Board member nominated for CSBA's Delegate Assembly

Board member Sue Kuwabara was unanimously nominated for the Delegate Assembly of the California School Boards Association (CSBA), a collaborative organization that brings together more than 1,000 school districts and county offices of education on behalf of the state's children.

As members of CSBA's primary policy-making body, delegates adopt the association's legislative platform, take positions on critical issues, elect officers and directors and adopt changes to bylaws. Delegates also serve as liaisons between board members and regional directors.

If elected by local boards of education within Orange County's Region 15, Kuwabara would begin a fourth two-year term on April 1.

Coming Up...

*Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008 in the Board Room
(All 2009 meeting dates will be scheduled on Dec. 9)*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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