



IUSD Board Briefs

Highlights from the May 1 Board of Education meeting

Board recognizes young artist from Oak Creek Elementary

The Board of Education recognized Marisa Herrod, an Oak Creek Elementary School fifth-grader whose artwork was selected to be the program cover for this year's Young Master's Art Show at City Hall. Intended to highlight talented young artists, the Young Masters Art Show is sponsored by the Assistance League of Irvine. Beginning May 1, student artwork from the show will be featured on Irvine Community Television Channel 30.

Early Childhood Learning Center update

Staff members Pat Desimone, Merri Jo Hooven, Robin Hunter, Linda Scott-Katz and Michael Slone collaborated on a presentation outlining the programs offered by the Early Childhood Learning Center, which serves preschool-age children and their families at the former Los Naranjos Elementary School site. The presentation highlighted the goals of the ECLC, which promotes social skills, emotional development, early literacy, cognitive development, physical development, health and nutrition.

Trustees declare May 21-25 "Classified School Employees Week"

Board members passed a resolution proclaiming the week of May 21 through May 25 as "Classified School Employees Week" to honor the efforts of secretaries, custodians, paraeducators, bus drivers, maintenance technicians, clerks, food services staff members and other IUSD workers. The state's approximately 230,000 classified employees are annually recognized by local school boards during the third full week in May as a result of a bill adopted by the California Legislature in 1986.

Trustees set collective bargaining process in motion with hearings

The Board took a formal step toward initiating the collective bargaining process between IUSD and its two major employee groups – the California School Employees Association and the Irvine Teachers Association – by giving the public an opportunity to speak about wages and working conditions.

Board clarifies new high school health curriculum requirements

The Board voted to clarify issues related to the new 18-week high school health course it adopted at the April 17 meeting. The 5-unit course will now be required beginning with the class of 2012 instead of the class of 2011, as some members of next year's freshman class had already registered to take the older, abridged health course in summer school. Trustees also affirmed that the total number of units needed to graduate will remain at 215. Moreover, staff will continue to review future curriculum components as well as online and alternative health courses.

Board approves annual review of Continuous Improvement Efforts

The Board approved IUSD's Continuous Improvement Efforts for 2007-08. Recommended by the Curriculum Council, this document is essentially an educational roadmap for schools to follow over the next several years. Areas of focus include curriculum and instruction; content such as English, mathematics, social science and health; and student support. The Board thanked the large number of dedicated staff members who collaborated on this document, which will be used to guide curriculum decisions beginning next year.