



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

City of Irvine, IUSD are winners in national recycling contest

Joe Hoffman, IUSD's director of Maintenance and Operations, joined Sarah Mills and Angie Burgh from the City of Irvine to present an update on the Cans for Cash City Recycling Challenge.

For the second straight year, IUSD and the City teamed up for the contest, in which similar sized municipalities competed to see which could collect the most aluminum cans throughout the month of October. Hoffman, Mills and Burgh announced that Irvine once again received a \$5,000 award for "Most Innovative Campaign" after collecting nearly 1 million cans. IUSD alone chipped in with 55,802 cans.

Award proceeds will benefit the Irvine Public Schools Foundation and its ongoing commitment to expand recycling programs at Irvine schools.

IPSF's Robinow offers an update on fundraising efforts

Lita Robinow of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation presented a brief update on the foundation's fundraising efforts.

Last year, the City of Irvine offered \$904,000 in matching funds to help IUSD maintain smaller class sizes. Robinow said IPSF has been able to raise \$704,000 of that total, generating more than \$1.4 million for Irvine's schools. She encouraged parents and community members to help IPSF leverage the additional \$200,000 by making a donation, regardless of the size.

Board gets an update on capital projects and funding

Lisa Howell, assistant superintendent of Business Services, presented an update on IUSD's various construction and modernization projects, as well as associated funding sources.

IUSD has a number of projects at various stages, including planned modernization work at multiple sites and a brand new elementary school set to open in the fall of 2009. While funding sources have been identified for each, the State of California has temporarily halted the release of its share of matching dollars as a result of its own cash-flow challenges.

Howell said she anticipates the state will release these funds in the next six to eight months. In the meantime, she said, IUSD has enough capital cash to move forward with all of its near-term projects. Howell also noted that, by law, facilities money may not be intermingled with the district's General Fund budget, which pays for teachers, books and supplies.

Board members formally adopt new policy on bullying

Meeting a new legislative mandate, the Board formally adopted a policy on bullying and cyber-bullying.

School districts in California are required to adopt bullying language this year as a result of Assem-

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More highlights from IUSD's February 3 Board of Education meeting:

bly Bill 86, which amended the Education Code. District policies must explicitly address bullying, whether it occurs person-to-person or by electronic means.

Board adopts service and budget plan for special education

The Board reviewed and adopted the district's service and budget plan for Special Education, meeting a yearly requirement of the Education Code.

These plans must identify expected expenditures and include a description of services, as well as the physical location of the services. In addition, they must demonstrate that all individuals with exceptional needs have access to services and instruction appropriate to their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Board approves purchase and sale agreements for two sites

The Board took another step toward selling two surplus properties by approving the purchase and sale agreements for the Vista Verde and Alderwood campuses.

In December, the Board formally confirmed that William Lyon Homes had submitted the most attractive offer at \$31.1 million for both sites. The figure includes more than \$13 million for Alderwood, located at 2 Alderwood, and more than \$18 million for Vista Verde, which is at 5144 Michelson Drive.

Howell, IUSD's assistant superintendent of Business Services, was authorized by the Board to execute the agreements and to open escrow for each property within 30 to 60 days.

Coming Up...

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009 in the Board Room*
Tuesday, March 3, 2009 in the Board Room

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