



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Board hears an overview of the Basic Aid funding model

During a 4 p.m. study session, representatives from School Services of California Inc. presented an overview of IUSD's move into a new funding model known as "Basic Aid."

Ron Bennett, president and CEO of School Services, and Terry Anderson, the firm's senior director of Legislative Services, explained that districts move into the Basic Aid formula when local property taxes surpass the amount of unrestricted dollars they would have received from the state.

The upside to Basic Aid is that a district can receive funding in excess of its state-calculated revenue limit, and growing property taxes generally translate into more revenue. The downside is that property taxes don't always continue to grow. Moreover, long-term forecasts are unreliable and Basic Aid districts don't receive any additional unrestricted funding when enrollment increases.

IPSF board member details fundraising efforts

Julie Tapp, a member of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation's Board of Trustees, discussed IPSF's innovative fundraising efforts and urged the public to help maintain IUSD's standing as one of the top districts in the state.

This year, IPSF is encouraging parents to become members of "The 365 Club" by donating the equivalent of \$1 each day to support education. Tapp also reminded the audience that IPSF has launched its Dream Raffle, featuring all cash prizes and a lower ticket price. For more information, visit www.ipsf.net.

IUSD's business chief presents a financial update

Lisa Howell, IUSD's assistant superintendent of Business Services, presented a brief "State of the Budget" update.

With the Legislature and the Governor agreeing on a combination of spending cuts and tax increases to solve California's \$42 billion shortfall, Howell confirmed that the Irvine Unified School District is projected to be funded as a Basic Aid district in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

As a result, IUSD will receive more unrestricted funding than it would have under the traditional "Revenue Limit" formula; however, IUSD and other districts will see their categorical funding cut by 20 percent through next year. Howell also said IUSD is anticipating a return to the Revenue Limit formula in 2010-11, when it will face a shortfall of approximately \$10 million unless corrective action is taken.

Board votes to initiate collective bargaining talks

Following a public hearing, Board members voted to approve a joint proposal between IUSD and the California School Employees Association, Chapter 517. This action allows the district and its classified employees to initiate the collective bargaining process relative to compensation, health

(Continued on next page)

