



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Five Week Campaign nets \$484,955 for Irvine schools

Neda Zaengle, CEO of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, announced that IPSF's ambitious Five Week Campaign had raised \$484,955 to help mitigate the impacts of larger class sizes next year.

Zaengle thanked the entire Irvine community for stepping up to support Irvine's schools, and she shared stories of students who generously donated their own time and money. Among them was Woodbridge High School's Hanna Axene, who was on hand to promote the foundation's upcoming "iJam" event, which will feature live music and entertainment from 2 to 8 p.m. on May 23 at the Irvine High School Stadium.

PTA to speak out against education cuts in Sacramento

Steffanie Early, president of the Irvine Unified Council PTA, told the Board that PTA leaders from across Orange County will be in Sacramento on March 22 and March 23 to urge an end to the devastating cuts to education. A select group of IUSD high school students will participate in a similar PTA-led trip in April.

Early said the Irvine Unified Council PTA will hold its board elections this month, and she added that the organization will also be collecting signatures for a ballot measure that would lower the threshold for the passage of local school funding measures from two-thirds of the vote to 55 percent.

Board closes projected budget gap for 2010-11

Capping months of discussions, the Board reluctantly voted to make a number of budget reductions and adjustments to resolve the projected deficit for the 2010-11 school year.

IUSD entered the evening facing a deficit of approximately \$20 million for 2010-11 as a result of the state's budget crisis, which has already stripped California's schools of \$17 billion over the last two years. The governor's latest proposal threatens another \$2.5 billion worth of cuts for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

To bridge the district's gap between revenue and expenditures, school board members voted to approve a number of measures, including four district-wide furlough days for 2009-10 and eight for 2010-11; increased class-sizes in grades one through three and nine; reductions at the District Office level; the reallocation of categorical dollars from programs that are now flexible as a result of recent legislation; and the use of onetime dollars.

To view the complete list of reductions and adjustments, [click here](#), or visit www.iusd.org/budget_watch.

Though IUSD's budget is not due until June, a number of statutory deadlines – including the submission of the Second Interim Report – require that some decisions be made no later than March. Meanwhile, the next major budget milestone comes in May, when the governor is expected to share the latest fiscal information as part of his "May Revise." Assistant Superintendent Lisa Howell noted that IUSD may need to take additional steps in the months ahead if the state budget picture changes.

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More highlights from the March 16 Board of Education meeting

Board certifies Second Interim Report as ‘positive’

Following the budget reductions and adjustments, board members were able to certify the district’s Second Interim Report as “positive,” meaning IUSD is on target to meet its financial obligations through next year, though another shortfall is expected in 2011-12 if state revenues fail to improve.

The Orange County Superintendent of Schools requires each 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 without corrective action. A negative certification indicates that a district *will not* be able to meet its financial obligations over this period.

The state budget crisis prompted IUSD to file a qualified First Interim Report in November, marking a first for the district.

Board adopts standardized conflict of interest code

Board members adopted a conflict of interest code that supersedes previously adopted codes and amendments.

The Orange County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors requested that all school districts adopt a standard conflict of interest code in accordance with the Fair Political Practices Commission. It is anticipated that standardization of the code will save time and money by minimizing the actions required to keep codes in conformity with the Political Reform Act.

Board ratifies district’s agreement with classified employees

The Board ratified an agreement for 2009-10 with the California School Employees Association’s Chapter 517, which has agreed to four furlough days for the current year. Negotiations will resume for 2010-11.

Board approves settlement with supervisory association

The Board approved a salary and benefits settlement with the Irvine Supervisory Association that includes four furlough days for 2009-10 and eight furlough days for 2010-11.

Coming Up...

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)*
 Tuesday, May 4, 2010 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)

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