



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Westwood Basics students take first place in national contest

The Board of Education recognized four Westwood Basics Plus second-graders who recently won first place in the national ExploraVision Awards.

Joined by their teacher, John Gustafson, and their team mentor, Ninad Chaukkar, the Westwood students took turns at the podium, providing details about their project. Anika Chaukkar, Dhruv Limaye, Rahul Mohankumar and Roshan Mandayam explained that "CTRIC Pathways" envisions cars that are powered by electricity that is transferred wirelessly from specially outfitted lampposts.

The students competed in the K-3 division of the ExploraVision Awards, which was sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association

Board recognizes departing Irvine Teachers Association president

Board members and staff honored the service of Barb Petro, who will step down in July after four years as president of the Irvine Teachers Association.

Terry Walker, IUSD's assistant superintendent of Human Resources, characterized Petro as a "deeply respected and treasured colleague" who has demonstrated exemplary leadership.

Petro, who received a bouquet of flowers, is set to return to the classroom next year as a science teacher at University High School.

Longtime employees praised for service as retirements near

IUSD's Board of Education recognized 46 certificated, classified and administrative employees who are set to retire on or before June 30.

Following brief remarks by the respective presidents of the Irvine Teachers Association and the local chapter of the California School Employees Association, Assistant Superintendent Terry Walker introduced those retirees who were able to personally attend Tuesday night's meeting. Each was praised for their service to IUSD and presented with a small token of the district's gratitude.

The prospective retirees in attendance were: Anthea Balogh, Dennis Calkins, Kathy Calkins, Courtney Constance, Debra Gibbs, Joan Malkin, Janine Martin, Gayla Massey, Carol McKee, Dianne Putman, Karen Reed, Craig Ritter, Donna Stahl, Carolyn Suter, Dennis Taylor, Linda Taylor and June Yoshinari.

IPSF's program director presents an update on the foundation

Meryl Segal, program director for the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, discussed several recent foundation initiatives, including the Innovative Teaching Awards Program (ITAP), which recently issued 25 grants worth a total of \$37,027 to Irvine teachers and counselors; and the Donald Bren Honors Concert, which was held April 28 at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

Segal also said IPSF was close to matching a grant from the City of Irvine, which put up more than \$900,000 to benefit class sizes. Having already generated much of that total, the foundation needs just \$26,000 – or a dollar for every IUSD student – more to leverage the full amount.

(Continued on next page)

More highlights from the May 19 Board of Education meeting:

Segal encouraged parents and community members to help by purchasing a ticket for IPSF's 6th Annual Dream Raffle – the grand prize is \$500,000 and the deadline is June 5 – or by joining The 365 Club, which encourages a donation of one dollar for every day to benefit schools. For more information, visit www.ipsf.net.

Board gets an update on district's efficiency efforts

Mark Sontag, IUSD's coordinator of math, science and GATE, presented an update on IUSD's energy and conservation efforts.

Through March 31, the district had reduced its electrical usage by more than 1.4 million kilowatt-hours, or roughly 8.3 percent, compared to the same 9-month span from the previous year. That represents a savings of \$288,569 – despite a rate increase from Southern California Edison.

Sontag said IUSD's Energy Committee continues to build beneficial strategic partnerships and is moving forward with plans to install solar panels on the roof of Rancho San Joaquin Middle School. The Rancho project, expected to be completed in about nine months, will have the equivalent impact of removing 796 cars from California's highways and could generate \$1.7 million in savings over 25 years.

State budget crisis continues to impact IUSD

Lisa Howell, assistant superintendent of Business Services, offered a brief update on the state budget and its impact on IUSD.

As many expected, a slate of budget propositions on the March 19 ballot was rejected by voters. As a result, the state will need to make additional spending cuts that will likely strip IUSD of another \$2.6 million, if not more, in 2009-10.

Howell cautioned that economic forecasts and information at the state level are changing rapidly. More information will be discussed by the Board at its Budget Study Session on May 26.

Board appoints CIF league representatives for 2009-10

The Board voted to appoint IUSD principals Monica Colunga, Leslie Roach, John Pehrson and Jason Vilorias as 2009-10 league representatives to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

CIF requires districts to annually appoint one representative from each high school. Traditionally, IUSD principals have served in this capacity.

IUSD to renew transportation contract with Durham School Services

The Board authorized Assistant Superintendent Lisa Howell to renew a contract agreement with Durham School Services to continue providing transportation services through June 30, 2014. IUSD will see no increase in fees for the upcoming year.

Coming Up...

Special Meetings: *Tuesday, May 26, 2009 in the Board Room (Budget Study Session)*
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 in the Board Room (Budget/Proposed Stadium EIR)

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, June 2, 2009 in the Board Room*
Tuesday, June 23, 2009 in the Board Room

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