



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Longtime employees praised for service as retirements near

IUSD's Board of Education recognized nearly 70 certificated, classified and administrative employees who are set to retire on or before June 30. Terry Walker, assistant superintendent of Human Resources, introduced those who were able to personally attend Tuesday night's meeting and praised them for their service to IUSD. Each was also presented with a small gift as a token of the district's gratitude. The prospective retirees in attendance were: Bill Bryant, Lenora Bryant, Dana Duenzen, Florine Ellerman, Jean Evans, Dennis Gibbs, Sandra Graham, Georgia Jaffe, Jan Maday, Nancy May, Janel Millers, Karen Nelson, Tom Nelson, Patricia Savage, Sheila Tomlin, Marjie Toops, Melodee Zamudio, Jim Grove, Dan Hale, Carolyn Hinmon, Ko-Joan Kao, Tessie Mercer, Carolyn Miller and Jo Ann Glenn.

Deputy superintendent updates IUSD's fiscal outlook

Vernon Medeiros, deputy superintendent of Business Services, presented an IUSD budget update following the May 14 release of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's revised spending plan for 2008-09. While the Governor is calling for more education funding than in his initial January proposal, Medeiros said the latest plan still offers no cost-of-living increases and a 6.5 percent cut to categorical programs. Moreover, the deputy superintendent warned that the Governor's strategies for balancing California's budget are built on shaky revenue assumptions, including a pitch to borrow against future Lottery earnings. More details are set to be discussed during a June 9 Board of Education Study Session.

IPSF shares some good news and makes a pitch for support

Jerry Mandel, chief executive officer of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF), shared the news that the Irvine City Council recently voted to contribute up to \$900,000 in matching funds to help IUSD maintain smaller class-sizes in grades four through 12. IPSF has already committed \$500,000 to leverage some of that funding, but the foundation is seeking an additional \$400,000 in contributions to maximize the City's gift, which was praised by Board members.

Separately, IPSF Chair Lita Robinow presented a check to IUSD for \$35,000. This money, raised through the foundation's innovative Instrument Rental Program, will enable IUSD's elementary schools to provide instructional aide support in music classes.

Trustees designate May 19-23 as "Classified School Employee Week"

Board members passed a resolution proclaiming the week of May 19 through May 23 "Classified School Employee Week" to honor the efforts of secretaries, custodians, paraeducators, bus drivers, maintenance technicians, clerks, food services staff members and other classified workers. Approximately 230,000 employees represented by the California School Employees Association (CSEA) are annually recognized by local school boards during the third full week in May.

