



# Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

## **IUSD community encouraged to celebrate Red Ribbon Week**

Board members and others from the community were invited to take part in a slate of activities associated with Red Ribbon Week, which spans Oct. 24 through Nov. 1.

Speaking on behalf of the drug awareness and prevention campaign were Debra Bianchi, executive director of Irvine Community Drug Prevention; retired Irvine Police Sgt. Eric Bianchi; and Nancy Colocino, IUSD's Guidance Resources coordinator.

Established in 1985, Red Ribbon Week stresses "no use of illegal drugs, no illegal use of legal drugs." This year's local campaign is tied to the theme, "Dream, Believe, Achieve, Succeed" and will feature Spirit Day events at schools, a community forum, a popular Pizza Night celebration, a middle school violence prevention conference and a number of other activities. For more information, visit [www.icdp.org](http://www.icdp.org).

## **Trustees praise departing Director of Nutrition Services**

The Board of Education honored Director of Nutrition Services Rhonda DeVaux, who retires this month after more than 33 years in the school nutrition field.

DeVaux, who has been with IUSD since 1995, has been lauded by state and national organizations for taking a lead role in promoting healthy offerings and increased meal participation. In presenting DeVaux with a bouquet of flowers, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Howell also praised her efforts to bring a positive ending balance to IUSD's food service program.

## **Career Link director outlines transition planning program**

Linda O'Neal, director of IUSD's Career Link program, presented a thorough update on her department's efforts to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

Career Link evolved as a result of mandates through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) that call for transition planning for students with special needs. Funded by federal, state and local sources, IUSD's program collaborates with a number of agencies, businesses and community groups to provide critical services including employment preparation, travel training, job coaching, postsecondary education planning and benefits planning and management.

## **Board votes on schedule adjustment for classified position**

The Board voted to reduce the work year of a classified position from 12 months to 11 months, reflecting the needs of that position.

## **Board holds hearing to meet categorical flexibility requirement**

Following a county directive, Board members voted to hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution that paves the way to utilizing some categorical flexibility.

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# More highlights from the Oct. 20 Board of Education meeting

Over the summer, California adopted a budget for 2009-10 that slashed education spending while granting a limited amount of categorical flexibility through 2012-13. The latter move essentially cut the strings on some funds that had been earmarked for ultra-specific purposes. Though eligible funds associated with so-called “Tier III” programs were reduced by nearly 20 percent, districts are now permitted to use the remaining dollars to backfill underfunded priorities.

IUSD is in the process of evaluating how such flexibility could be used to benefit students despite the overall decline in resources. While requirements were largely unknown when IUSD adopted its own budget in June, the Orange County Department of Education has since provided direction, mandating that each district hold a public hearing and report the flexibility expenditures appropriately.

## Coming Up...

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, November 3, 2009 in the Board Room*  
*Tuesday, November 17, 2009 in the Board Room*

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