



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Award-winning Nutrition Services duo celebrated by Board

IUSD's director of Nutrition Services and a top staff member were recognized by the Board of Education for earning prestigious national awards this year from the 55,000-member School Nutrition Association (SNA).

Rhonda DeVaux was presented with the Outstanding Director of the Year Award by the nonprofit organization, which represents food service professionals across the country. Anita Karakesisoglu, an account tech/clerk, earned the national Heart of the Program Award. The two were honored in July at the SNA's annual conference.

Board members updated on emergency preparedness efforts

Administrative Services Director Yvonne Dina presented the latest update on IUSD's emergency preparedness plans.

Over the past year, IUSD has taken part in National Incident Management System training, which aligns with the emergency plans of federal, state and local agencies. Dina noted that District Office staff members were preparing to utilize their training at an Oct. 22 table-top coordination exercise facilitated by the Orange County Department of Education, and all district sites were scheduled to participate in The Great Southern California ShakeOut – the largest earthquake preparedness drill in U.S. history – on Nov. 13.

Dina added that IUSD will soon have a new emergency radio system and aerial photos of all district facilities courtesy of grant funding.

AT&T backs innovative mentoring program with donation to IPSF

Jerry Mandel, chief executive officer of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, introduced Carol Tagayun of AT&T, who announced that IUSD was the winner of an AT&T Aspire grant in the amount of \$35,000.

The Aspire program is an initiative of the AT&T Foundation to address high school success, as well as college and workforce readiness. Woodbridge High counselor Melissa Figge explained that the grant will specifically fund a high school peer-mentoring project to assist moderately at-risk students at Woodbridge. This program is intended to serve as a model that could be replicated throughout the district.



Representatives from IUSD and IPSF thank Carol Tagayun, center, of AT&T for a \$35,000 grant that will help fund a unique peer-to-peer mentoring initiative at Woodbridge High School.

(Continued on next page)

More highlights from IUSD's October 21 Board of Education meeting:

University High students talk about the Trojan culture

Kicking off a new series of Board presentations about IUSD's unique schools and programs, University High students joined Principal John Pehrson to share information and perspectives from their school.

Pehrson played a few minutes of a student-produced orientation video and touched briefly on intervention strategies before introducing five of Uni's dynamic student leaders. Tess Nelson, Andy Marten, Michael Tang, Allison White and Becca O'Leary then took turns at the podium to talk about a number of initiatives, including a campaign to boost school spirit, efforts to promote character and a popular speaker series on campus.

Board approves selection of new chief financial officer

Triggering a round of applause, the Board unanimously approved the promotion of Lisa Howell to chief financial officer.

Howell, a 25-year veteran of school finance who has served as IUSD's director of Fiscal Services since 2001, will take over in January for Dr. Vernon Medeiros, who announced in July his decision to retire at the end of this calendar year.

Board discusses modernization plans for Deerfield Elementary

Lloyd Linton, IUSD's director of Facilities Planning and Construction, updated the Board on modernization options for Deerfield Elementary School.

Though the existing floor plan at Deerfield presents some challenges, Linton outlined two proposals that would enclose and enlarge existing classrooms and update other areas of the aging campus. Associated costs could range from \$8.5 million to \$12.6 million, according to Linton, who said the district could access as much as \$2.6 million in state funding, depending on the nature of the work.

Board members will deliberate further at a facilities workshop in November.

Coming Up...

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008 in the Board Room*
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008 in the Board Room

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