



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Sharon Wallin elected as IUSD's newest Board president

During its annual organizational meeting, the Board of Education voted unanimously to elect Sharon Wallin to a one-year term as president and Sue Kuwabara to a one-year term as clerk. Dr. Gavin Huntley-Fenner, who was president this past year, was honored for his service.

The five-member Board also approved school site liaison assignments, appointed representatives to various committees and established meeting dates through December 2010. The next two regular meetings are scheduled for Jan. 12 and Feb. 2. A Board Study Session on the budget will be held Jan. 19, followed by a Community Forum scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. on Jan. 26.

IPSF board member pledges foundation's support for Irvine schools

Julie Tapp, Vice Chair of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation's Board of Trustees, discussed IPSF's fundraising efforts and urged the public to help guarantee that every Irvine student has an opportunity to succeed.

Tapp specifically encouraged parents to learn more about the foundation's house raffle and "The 365 Club," which seeks a donation equivalent to \$1 per day to support education. For more information, visit www.ipsf.net.

Board continues budget dialog in light of \$15 million deficit

With the ongoing state budget crisis creating a projected shortfall of nearly \$15 million in IUSD, Board members reviewed a preliminary list of proposed budget reductions for 2010-11 and discussed the process that will be used to resolve the deficit in the weeks and months ahead.

Lisa Howell, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, said the state is facing a revenue gap of more than \$20 billion over the next 18 months, and policymakers have not ruled out midyear cuts.

IUSD's Board of Education and staff will once again seek community input as they develop a list of budget adjustments to close the shortfall for the fiscal year that starts July 1. However, Board members and staff acknowledged the deficit is too large to be solved by program cuts alone. The district will therefore work with its representative groups to seek employee contributions, such as furloughs or salary rollbacks, as part of the solution.

Though the final budget for 2010-11 won't be adopted until June, a number of statutory deadlines require IUSD to make many of its fiscal decisions by February. Members of the public will be encouraged to join the discussion through an online survey and at a Community Forum on Jan. 26. In addition, the Board will take part in a special Budget Study Session on January 19. More information will be available in the next "Budget Notebook" publication.

(Continued on next page)

More highlights from the Dec. 8 Board of Education meeting

Board formalizes agreement to utilize solar power at 21 sites

The Board finalized a plan to enter into an agreement with SunEdison and SPG Solar to establish energy-generating solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems at twenty-one sites throughout the district, marking the largest solar deployment for a public school system in California.

The clean, silent renewable energy systems will save the district \$17 million in energy expenses over 20 years based on conservative estimates. Under the terms of the power purchase agreement, the Irvine Unified School District will incur no upfront capital costs. SunEdison will finance, build, operate and maintain the solar power systems, with IUSD purchasing energy at reduced rates that are predictable long-term.

This unique partnership will also make solar PV part of the district's curriculum. Students will utilize Internet-based monitoring of the solar PV system to track solar energy production and consumption in real time. In addition, students will learn how solar panels work and how weather impacts energy production.

Construction is expected to begin at the first site, Rancho San Joaquin Middle School, in the first half of 2010. All 21 sites are projected to be completed within three to four years.

Board members approve first reading of new anti-hazing policy

The Board approved the first reading of a new anti-hazing policy designed to promote responsible and respectful school citizenship.

The county Department of Education has encouraged districts to develop individual disciplinary policies specific to hazing. IUSD defines hazing as "a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a pupil organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective pupil."

Coming Up...

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, January 12, 2010 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)*
Tuesday, February 2, 2010 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)

Special Meetings: *Board Study Session - Budget*
Tuesday, January 19, 2010 in the Board Room (4-6 p.m.)

Community Forum - Budget
Tuesday, January 26, 2010 in the Board Room (7-9 p.m.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

GAVIN HUNTLEY-FENNER, Ph.D. / SUE KUWABARA / CAROLYN McINERNEY / MICHAEL PARHAM / SHARON WALLIN

GWEN E. GROSS, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

LISA HOWELL, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services / CASSIE PARHAM, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services / TERRY WALKER, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

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