

## **BOARD BRIEF**

Highlights of the SMFC School Board Meeting  
September 3, 2009

**Statement of Foundation:** Jean Abeles announced the up-coming educational forum, "California's Schools: America's Future" to be held on September 23 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Bayside Theatre. There will be a preview of John Merrow's latest documentary film, to be followed by a panel discussion to answer questions and call public attention to the fact that public schools are not fully funded and the effect this loss of funding has on the educational system in California. Everyone was urged to publicize this event at their schools. Jean also informed the Board that the for kids! Foundation recently had its first meeting. Because at this time contributions are not sufficient to fund the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Music Program, the Foundation will extend the campaign until the end of September.

**Statements of Board Members:** Mark Hudak shared comments and compliments made to him recently by a parent of a student who tested proficient on the 2009 STAR testing. Colleen Sullivan welcomed traditional schools back from summer break.

**Statement of Superintendent:** Dr. Clark reported on the successful opening of the traditional calendar schools and complimented Foster City School (giving a big "Thank You" to the teachers and staff) on having 780 students beginning their year in portable classrooms. She also described the recent event showcasing improvements at Brewer Island. In an update on the August 31 meeting with the Foster City Council, Pendery shared that the Council voted to offer the district the plot of land on Halibut as a potential site for a 4<sup>th</sup> elementary school. More detailed information and a recommendation for next steps will be presented at the Sept. 17 Board meeting.

**Action or Information:** The Board:

**approved** the appointment of Lori Fukumoto as Interim Prevention Services Coordinator. (Congratulations, Lori!)

**recognized** Fiesta Gardens International School Principal Sheila Spieller and teachers Carmen Ortiz, Maria Velenzia, and Kate Rogan for their outstanding presentations at the National Two Way Immersion Conference in Monterey, Calif. during July. They, in turn, thanked the district for its continued support of the FGIS dual language immersion program.

**received** information regarding the 2009 STAR testing results. Toni-Sue Passantino and Irv Phillips gave a presentation on "Closing the Achievement Gap" and noted that in the Spring 2009, 66% of the district's students tested Proficient or Advanced in English/Language Arts and 63% of the students tested Proficient or Advanced in Math. This reflected a gain of 5% and 3% over 2008 levels.

**received** information regarding District Protocols for the Pandemic Flu. Molly Barton reported that the San Mateo County Health Department has requested that each school district have a separate Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and that district staff are in the process of preparing the Protocols which will be distributed to sites and community upon completion.

**heard** additional information regarding the Employee Housing Project. Micaela Ochoa reported that current rental market rates appear to have maintained at the 2007-08 rates. Given that the construction market is favorable, she indicated that the District could afford to go ahead with the project to provide employee housing, without cost to the General Fund. An employee survey, identifying level of employee interest, is being prepared with administration and analysis of results targeted for October. Mark Hudak requested that the survey indicate location of housing unit, in order to better evaluate employee interest.

**received** an update on the 2009-10 Budget and reviewed 2008-09 Draft Unaudited Actual Financial Report. Both will be submitted for approval at the Sept. 17 Board Meeting.

**meeting adjourned:** 8:50 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Phyllis Harris, President, SMETA

**Next Meeting:** September 17, 2009 7:00 p.m.