

BOARD BRIEF

Highlights of the SMFC School Board Meeting
November 19, 2009

Statement from SMETA President: Good evening, Members of the Board of Trustees, District Administrative Staff, Parents, Community Members and Colleagues ~ My name is Phyllis Harris, President of the San Mateo Elementary Teachers' Association.

As you are probably aware, this is the 88th annual American Education Week. Sponsored by our national affiliate, the National Education Association, the AEW spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. This year's theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," reflects NEA's call to America to provide students with "quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century."

Whereas most citizens and state Legislatures would no doubt agree with this proposition, here in California, state budget cuts are devastating our Public Schools and Colleges. More than \$17 billion have been cut from the state education budget in the past two years and K-12 schools have suffered 60% of those cuts. Just yesterday, the Legislative Analyst's Office projected an almost \$21 billion budget problem in the next year and a half. As has happened in the past, school districts and colleges will no doubt carry the burden of budget cuts needed to balance the state budget.

We are fortunate that the communities of San Mateo and Foster City have a long history of supporting our district schools. Our families, community members and businesses recognize their responsibility and role in providing quality education for all our students. Through the passage of Bond and Parcel Tax Measures, we have been able to continue to improve our facilities, hire high quality teachers, and maintain exemplary program.

With your approval tonight of Resolution No 52/08-09, we will once again be able to call upon our parents and community to demonstrate their commitment to our public schools and ensure that the children of San Mateo and Foster City continue to receive an education with which they can "grow, prosper, and achieve." On behalf of the district teachers and other certificated staff, I'd like to thank you for your continued efforts to bring resources into the district that are so desperately needed in our schools.

Statements of Board Members: Colleen Sullivan shared information related to her participation in the recent Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) Training held on November 6, 7, and 11. She complimented the participants and indicated an interest in finding ways to use the training in her role as Trustee.

Jack Coyne addressed the audience at this, his last Board Meeting. He shared his appreciation that he had been given the opportunity to serve and support the community and children of San Mateo and Foster City for the past twenty-four years. It was his honor, Jack shared, to be able to give back to the community by sharing his skills and was proud to be a part of the District. He closed with the statement, "I hope I have served you well."

Statement of Superintendent: Pendery Clark expressed that she felt that the IBB was an invaluable use of attendees' time and that the methodologies and practices learned have the potential to change future bargaining and institutional relationships. Dr. Clark expressed appreciation for the commitment and dedication of the participants.

Action or Information: The Board:

recognized the partnership between Pingliang Lu No. 3 Elementary School and Tianshan No. 1 Elementary School in Shanghai and College Park Elementary School. Diana Hallock, Principal, expressed appreciation for the hospitality demonstrated by the district's schools and magnet staff during the recent visitation by Shanghai principals Lillian Meng and Caroline Zheng.

recognized outgoing Board Members Jack Coyne for his 24 years and Cathy Rincon for her 4 years of services to the students and families of the District.

received information about the 2009-2010 District's elementary and middle schools' Single Plans for Student Achievement. Susan Totaro reviewed the main ideas and general components of the SPSA, described the discussion panels held with principals from similar schools and D.O. personnel, and shared Plans from Baywood and Abbott. Mark Hudak thanked the principals, staffs, and parent groups for preparing the plans to make sure "we are doing everything we can to make sure students are on track for high academic achievement."

received updated information on the Administration's assessment of the Halibut Site as a potential site for a fourth elementary school in Foster City. Micaela Ochoa presented a summary of approved recommendations and reviewed the results of the Limited Opportunities and Constraints Site Assessment conducted on the Halibut Site. Based on the report, the Administration does not recommend

pursuing Halibut, since doing so could result in an expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars for additional studies. The Administration will return with a status update on additional recommendations in March 2010.

approved Resolution No. 52/008-09 "ordering a special all-mail ballot election to be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the question of levying a Qualified Special Tax upon each parcel in the District for educational purposes and establishing the specifications of the election order." Charles Heath, Senior Consultant, reviewed the Parcel Tax Planning Timeline and described key decisions and recommendations which include: a flat rate per parcel tax structure in the amount of \$180.85 per parcel (reflects an increase rate by \$96.00 per parcel from current rate); continuation of the existing Cost of Living Adjustment; continuation of Senior Citizen Exemption; 7 year duration; establishment of a Fiscal Advisory Committee.

Christy Rauch, Chair of SMETA's PAC, reading from the Text of the Ballot Measure, indicated that our members were also supportive of: (a) preserving quality education by attracting and retaining qualified teachers and staff; (b) maintaining school libraries; (c) providing middle school art and music programs; (d) supporting small class sizes; and (e) supporting program which will enhance student achievement. She then announced that SMETA's Governing Council had endorsed the Parcel Tax Measure and had directed the SMETA PAC to assist in the Campaign.

received information on the draft of the First Interim Report for the 2009-10 Fiscal Year.

approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the San Mateo Elementary Teachers' Association (SMETA) and the San Mateo-Foster City School District. Christy Rauch, Chair of SMETA's Bargaining Team, and Joan Rosas, Asst. Superintendent of Human Resources, reported on the history and development of the MOU, indicating that it would extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the two parties until June 2010.

Next meeting: December 10

7:00 p.m.

Board Room, SMFCSD