

BOARD BRIEF

Highlights of the SMFC School Board Meeting
October 1, 2009

Statement of Superintendent: Dr. Clark thanked the for Kids! Foundation for organizing the September 23 Educational Forum. The Forum provided an historical perspective on why control of school financing has moved from local communities to the state and informed the community about what is happening with school funding. Dr. Clark shared that a local Parcel Tax is one way communities can make monetary decisions about their own schools. Pendery announced a "Meet the Candidates Night" will be held in the Board Room on October 8 at 7:00 p.m. for SMFCSD School Board Candidates and at 8:00 p.m. for SMUHSD Candidates. She also announced that a district-wide earthquake drill will be conducted on October 15 as part of the statewide "Great California ShakeOut" program.

Action or Information: The Board:

received information regarding the 2009 Annual Accountability Progress Report. Toni-Sue Passantino and Irv Phillips reviewed terms used in progress reporting and compared district results on federal and state accountability measures over the past two years. They indicated that an in-depth study of district data, factors that "seem to be working" and areas that need "additional attention" would be presented and discussed at a special Board Study session to be held on October 29.

received information on the implementation of the SchoolMessenger Emergency Notification System.

received a progress report on the conceptual design of the current modernization and new constructions projects under Measure L.

received information regarding the district's long-term goal of building a 4th elementary school in the City of Foster City. Micaela Ochoa reviewed the short-term solutions through 2013 that have been put in place and the long-term solutions beyond 2013 that need to be determined. She reported on the previously-discussed options for consideration, including the advantages and disadvantages of each option. In summary, 6 recommendations were presented the Board, which included: 1) Conduct assessment of the Halibut Site; 2) Wait until legal contract on the 15-acre site adjacent to the Government Center is expired in April 2010 in order to purchase 6 of those acres; 3) Engage services of a consultant to provide the District with a list of available Foster City and San Mateo properties on which to build 4th school; 4)

Identify school sites in San Mateo that have additional capacity; 5) Contact City of San Mateo to determine interest in developing a joint Use Agreement on an existing City property that could be developed; 6) Take No Action on making additional building or changes to schedules, calendars, or class size that would make Foster City elementary schools significantly different from San Mateo schools. After much discussion, the Board directed the District to move forward on the recommendations.

received an update on the Parcel Tax timelines and recently completed actions. Results of a recently completed Parcel Tax Feasibility Survey were shared. Consultants indicated that the survey found sufficient support, among likely June and mail ballot 1010 voters, for increasing the expiring school parcel tax by \$96.00 per year for 7 years. They also reported that the ballot question should feature funding needs of highest priority to voters, which included: attracting and retaining quality teachers; enabling the district to recruit and retain qualified, experienced school teachers by paying competitive salaries; keeping school libraries open and accessible to students; supporting middle school arts and music programs. They recommended a timeline which included preparing the Measure for ballot to be brought back to the Board of Trustees for approval at the November 19 meeting. The Board was advised to organize an independent Campaign Committee, seek endorsements, and mobilize volunteers.

received an update on the 2009-2010 Budget.

meeting adjourned: 10:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Phyllis Harris, President, SMETA

Next Meeting: October 15, 2009 7:00 p.m.