

## **BOARD BRIEF**

Highlights of the SMFC School Board Meeting  
March 4, 2010

**Statement from SMETA President:** On behalf of our members, I would like to begin my talk with a few thank-yous. First, I thank the Board for its foresight and courage on Nov. 19, when it made the decision to place a measure before the voters that would renew and expand the expiring Parcel Tax...definitely a difficult proposition during these perilous economic and political times.

I would like to thank all the members of the Measure A Campaign committee for their willingness to take on roles that allowed us to navigate a complex campaign strategy, which included financing, endorsements, voter contact and fun. I want to thank the hundreds of callers...certificated, classified, principals, D.O. staff, parents and students for their enthusiasm, energy, and powers of persuasion during the 33 evenings of phone-banking. It was an unforgettable experience to be in a room of callers, winning votes for our children. And, most importantly, I want to thank the voters of San Mateo and Foster City for their recognition that a community's greatest resource is its children; and their willingness to, once again, support quality education in our schools.

As you are no-doubt aware, today, March 4, has been a momentous day for education. Today is the day that thousands of people, from pre-school teachers to college professors, decided to "Stand Up for Schools". All over America educators and parents and students have joined together in a national day of action to speak out against the budget cuts to public education that are decimating learning opportunities for an entire generation of children.

We began that conversation with our community at 4:00 p.m. on January 3, when we made our first Measure A phone call. We continued the conversation in the hundreds of flyers and mailers distributed, letters to the editor written, Facebook comments posted, and thousands of additional phone calls made. We raised the alarm and our voters responded. We are among the fortunate.

Other communities, however, are not as lucky. They are unable to raise taxes locally and are dependent on state budgets to fund their schools. It is incumbent on all of us, on behalf of all children, to continue to carry the message sent today...we must "stand up **to**" those who feel it is okay to cut education budgets. We must "stand up **for**" our schools and argue for adequate funding. Today is just the beginning of that fight.

**Statements of Board Members:** All Board Members thanked the Measure A Committee, staff and parent volunteers, and community for their support and passage of the Measure A Parcel Tax. Mark Hudak expressed that our success has been carefully watched throughout California and other districts will look to us for guidance and leadership. In the words of Colleen Sullivan, "Everyone who did anything" is thanked for the successful outcome of Measure A.

**Statement of Superintendent:** Dr. Clark also thanked those who helped with Measure A and invited committee members and volunteers to attend a reception at the Board Meeting on March 18. Appreciation was also expressed to the schools for posting banners on March 4, thanking the community for passing Measure A and Standing up for Schools in observation of the national day of action. Dr. Clark shared that Distinguished School Validation Teams recently visited Meadow Heights and Baywood Schools. Abbott Middle School and Baywood were congratulated for their selection as Kent Award Recipients. Beresford, Fiesta Gardens, and Brewer Island Schools were recognized for their recent community service projects including raising funds for Doctors without Borders and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Dr. Clark also announced that California was not among those chosen to move forward in the Race to the Top funding competition, however, that in the attempt to compete, the Legislature had passed two bills, either of which could have a devastating effect on public schools.

**Action or Information: The Board:**

**recognized** Kendal Wan, a third grade student from Highlands, for his donation to the for kids! Ed Foundation. Jean Abeles, introduced Kendal and thanked him for his contribution.

**passed** a Resolution marking the week of March 7-13 as Week of School Administrator.

**approved** the Administration's recommendation that Baywood kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students remain on site during the 2010-2011 school year, rather than move classes to Knolls School during the implementation of school construction projects.

**approved** the Local Education Agency Plan Addendum. Toni-Sue Passantino, Irv Phillips, Suzi Riley and Susan Totaro presented information regarding the Local Education Agency Plan (LEAP) and Addendum, which is required when a district is assigned Program Improvement status. The focus of the Addendum needs to address only those areas in which the District did not meet AYP targets: the four student subgroups who did not reach the AYP target in mathematics - Hispanic, Pacific Islander, Socio-economically Disadvantaged, and English Learners. The Addendum to the LEAP indicates that the District will continue to implement ten LEAP mathematics strategies, Every Day Math (K-5) and Holt (6-8) instructional programs, RtI and GLAD strategies.

**received** an update to the February 4<sup>th</sup> report about the Baywood LGLI/Classroom Building. New designs were presented.

**approved** the schematic design for the proposed modernization and new construction at Foster City School.

**received** an update on the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Parcel Tax Results. Micaela Ochoa, Chief Business Official, reviewed the history of Measure A and the outcome of the election. She reported that of the 21,944 ballots cast, 14,689 were Yes votes, and 7,238 were No votes, resulting in a 67% approval, meeting the 2/3 requirement. The County Elections Office indicates that they are in the process of certifying the vote and should be completed by March 23.

**received** a draft Second Interim Report for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year. Steve Mak, Director of Fiscal Services and Micaela Ochoa presented background on Interim Reports, explained 2008-09 Audit Adjustments, and provided a Recap on the Governor's January Budget Proposal. They shared that based on State education finance experts' projections, the District projected \$3.5 million reduction would grow to about \$4.2 million.

**received** an update on the 2010-2011 Budget Development Process. Micaela reported that she would present a list of Revenue Enhancements to the next meeting.

**approved** Resolution 10/09-10 to decrease the number of Certificated Employees due to a reduction in particular kinds of services. Joan Rosas, Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources, reported that, since the Elections Office had not yet certified the Measure A vote, the approval of this action was required because of the District's current fiscal projections and legally required noticing timelines. She indicated that when the election was certified, some notices could be rescinded, however, not all positions would be covered by Measure A funding. Those positions funded with categorical funds would still require noticing, due to the uncertainty of those monies. After lengthy discussion, the Board reluctantly voted to approve the Resolution, however, committed to contacting the Elections Office in person and writing, requesting that they expedite the certification process in an effort to minimize harm to District employees.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:00 p.m.

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

**Next Meeting:** March 18 7:00 p.m.