

## **BOARD BRIEF**

Highlights of the SMFC School Board Meeting  
October 15, 2009

**Recognition:** Members of the Board, Administrative staff, and Audience were treated to a preview of the Horrall Magnet School Dance Studio "Grand Opening" on October 17. Following an introduction (and invitation to attend the Opening) by Horrall KTime News anchors, representatives from the school Dance Troupe performed an interpretive dance which delighted those in attendance.

Dr. Joan Rosas, Asst. Superintendent of Human Resources, reported on the success of the District Fall Festival. She thanked committee members and sponsors for their support in celebrating the work we do together as a district staff.

Jean Abeles, Executive Director of **for kids!** Ed Foundation, gave background on the work of the Foundation during the past 20 years and described its tradition of raising funds for all students in all San Mateo-Foster City schools. She reported that over \$2.8 million has been raised by the Foundation since its creation in 1989 and that these monies have traditionally supported district programs in: school libraries/technology; classroom and instructional music; and student counseling services. On behalf of **for kids!** Jean presented to the Board a check in the amount of \$163,000 to support a 4<sup>th</sup> hour of library assistant time and fund 5<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental music.

**Statement of Superintendent:** Dr. Clark congratulated Jean on her presentation and thanked the Foundation for supporting programs for all students. She shared that of the money raised, \$75,000 will be used to hire musician "artists in residence" who will teach instrumental music to interested students at each of the elementary schools. Pendery also reported that the schools have been developing their Single Plan for Student Achievement and that site administrators are currently participating in Panel discussions designed to review and provide input to each school's Plan. SPSAs will be presented to the Board for information at the Nov. 19 Board Meeting and for approval on December 10. Site staff were complimented for their hard work on these Plans. Dr. Clark also complimented Joan Rosas and district staff for the successful participation in the district-wide earthquake drill as part of the statewide "ShakeOut" on October 15.

**Action or Information: The Board:**

**received** information regarding the second Professional Development Day, held on October 2. Susan Totaro, Director of C & I, reported that the day focused on Everyday Math for K-5 staff and on Standards Based Reporting (with added site discussions related to site-specific topics) for middle school staff. With a ranking of 5 being high and 1 being low, evaluation responses were positive (average ranking of 4.2 by elementary staff and a range of 3.7 to 4.3 by middle school staff).

**received** an update on Parcel Tax Timelines and next steps. Micaela Ochoa, Chief Business Officer, reviewed the background of the Parcel Tax as related to recent efforts to address the expiration of the current tax in June 2010. Based on the October 1 update to the Board and positive polling results, the Administration presented the following recommendations:

- Election Type - Mail in Ballot
- Election Date - February 23, 2010
- Tax Structure - Flat Rate per parcel/Continue existing Cost of Living Adjustment/Continue exempting senior citizens
- Tax Rate - Increase current rate by up to \$96.00 per parcel
- Duration - Renew for another 7 years

After discussion, the Board voted to approve the Administration Recommendations.

**received** information regarding the results of the Employee Housing Survey. Joan Rosas reported that 466 district staff participated in the survey, with all employee groups represented. Responses indicated that 187 respondents were interested in renting District built reduced-cost housing and that 74% of those were interested in housing on the College Park site. The Board thanked the District for implementing their request for a new survey and indicated that they would continue to consider the viability of building/owning employee housing.

**meeting adjourned:** 9:00 p.m.

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

<b>Future Meetings:</b>	October 29, 2009	6:00 p.m.	Board Study Session
	November 5, 2009	7:00 p.m.	
	November 19, 2009	7:00 p.m.	