

## **BOARD BRIEF**

### Highlights of the SMFC School Board Meeting

November 3, 2011

**Statements of Board Members:** The Trustees each related the activities they had participated in and the schools they had visited during the past two weeks.

**Statement by Superintendent:** Dr. Simms commented on the success of the all staff meeting held on Monday, October 31 at the San Mateo Event Center. She informed the Board that a Director of Technology and a Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction had been hired. The Superintendent also thanked Molly Barton for her help in the successful transfer of Fiesta Gardens to the Knolls campus.

**Action or Information:** The Board

**Approved** all items on the proposed consent agenda.

**Approved** permanent status for a total of 9 certificated staff members.

**Received** information from Susan Totaro and Jared Prolo regarding the status of Standards Based Reporting in the middle schools. Their presentation focused on processing issues that were being addressed as well as how the upcoming Common Core Standards will require changes to our current report cards and reporting process. A lengthy discussion ensued. Board members spoke of their concerns with the current reporting program, Pinnacle, which has been difficult to use and not well received by parents, teachers, or high school counselors. 10 parents and teachers addressed the Board with their reactions to the current process. While recognizing that teaching to the standards is a positive, no one spoke in support of the current reporting program. The Superintendent will collect information from all stakeholders and address the Board at the next meeting, when action will be taken.

**Approved** a new contract for legal services with Kronick, Moskowitz, Tiedemann & Girard.

**Received** information from Steve Mak regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Budget for the 2011/2012 fiscal year. As currently drafted, the budget included an increase in the Reserve for Economic Uncertainty from 3% to 10% and an increase in the GASB 45 actuarial contribution from 2.5% to 3.5%. Janet Chappell and Halimah Mekki spoke to the Board of their concerns regarding these two items given the current unallocated balance of \$22 million.

**Approved** donations made to specific schools by non district community members.

**Future Agenda Items:** Action on Standard Based Report Cards (11/17)

Meeting adjourned: 10:20 PM

Submitted by: Janet Chappell, President, SMETA

Future meetings: November 17, 2011