



IUSD Board Briefs

Highlights from the Irvine Unified School District's March 18 Board of Education meeting

IUSD and the City win \$5,000 in the Cans for Cash contest

Joe Hoffman, IUSD's director of Maintenance and Operations, joined Sarah Mills and Angie Burgh from the City of Irvine to present an update on the Cans for Cash City Recycling Challenge that took place in October.

Having teamed up for the national aluminum can recycling competition, the District and the City ultimately collected nearly 900,000 cans. In January, the U.S. Conference of Mayors declared Irvine winner of the "Most Innovative" award, which included a cash prize of \$5,000. Award proceeds will benefit the Irvine Public Schools Foundation and its commitment to expand recycling programs at Irvine schools.

Board updated on the Secondary Writing Project

Language Arts and Social Science Coordinator Jeanie Fritzsche and IUSD teachers Janel Millers, Cathy Turner, Jim Mamer and Jeanne Jelnick discussed the progress of the district's Secondary Writing Project, which is aimed at improving student writing in middle and high school by giving humanities teachers a common set of strategies and expectations.

Since the project was initiated back in 2005, staff has developed instructional tactics, methods to support struggling writers – including English learners – and steps for writing "rubrics," or scoring guides that let students know exactly how their efforts will be evaluated. In addition, release days have enabled educators to keep pace with a new minimum number of comprehensive writing assignments.

Board approves secondary course of study for 2008-09

Meeting an annual requirement of the California Education Code, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2008-09 curriculum for secondary schools in IUSD.

Board authorizes the selection of a financial auditor

By unanimous vote, the board authorized the District to enter into a three-year contract with Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co. for annual auditing services as required by the state Education Code.

Board approves facilities analysis and establishes alternative fees

Board members approved the district's School Facilities Needs Analysis and adopted a recommendation to raise fees on new residential and commercial construction within the district, excluding areas covered by Community Facilities Districts. Level 2 fees, set at \$4.46 per square foot, are now in effect per the state's facilities program guidelines.

(Continued on next page)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

GAVIN HUNTLEY-FENNER, Ph.D. / SUE KUWABARA / CAROLYN McINERNEY / MICHAEL PARHAM / SHARON WALLIN

GWEN E. GROSS, Ph.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

VERNON MEDEIROS, Ed.D., *Deputy Superintendent, Business Services*

CASSIE PARHAM, *Assistant Superintendent, Education Services* / TERRY WALKER, *Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources*

IUSD ... providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision.

