



IUSD Board Briefs

Highlights from the Irvine Unified School District's April 15 Board of Education meeting

Board recognizes young artist from Deerfield Elementary

The Board of Education recognized Clara Baik, a Deerfield Elementary School sixth-grader whose artwork was selected to be the program cover for this year's Young Masters Art Show at City Hall. Intended to highlight talented young artists, the Young Masters Art Show is sponsored by the Assistance League of Irvine in conjunction with Orange County's Imagination Celebration and IUSD. Beginning April 30, student artwork from the show will be featured on Irvine Community Television Channel 30.

IPSF leaders discuss foundation's future plans

Lita Robinow, chair of the [Irvine Public Schools Foundation](#), introduced President and CEO Jerry Mandel, who was hired in January. Mandel told Board members that the foundation is planning to roll out an aggressive fundraising campaign in the fall that will focus on lowering class sizes in subsequent years.

Board invited to shadow classified employees

Janelle Cranch, president of the local chapter of the California School Employees Association, invited Board members and administrators to shadow the district's support staff as part of the Appreciating Classified Employees (ACE) program on May 20. Cranch also invited the Board to attend a breakfast that week to honor the efforts of secretaries, custodians, paraeducators, bus drivers, maintenance technicians, clerks, food services staff members and other classified workers.



Deerfield sixth-grader Clara Baik is congratulated after her artwork was selected for the program cover of this year's Young Masters Art Show.

Board reluctantly makes budget adjustments in response to state crisis

In response to the state's fiscal crisis, which has resulted in a projected \$12.5 million shortfall for IUSD, the Board approved all but one of the items on staff's recommended [list of budget reductions for 2008-09](#). The exception was item 5b, which would have reduced science instruction in grades four and five. Board members opted instead to preserve 120 minutes of fourth- and fifth-grade science instruction per week, directing staff to utilize one-time funds from an Irvine Ranch Water District reserve account.

IUSD is required to adopt its budget no later than June 30. However, some staffing decisions must be made much sooner to ensure that principals have enough time to strategically and thoughtfully develop the best possible instructional programs for students. Of the cuts made Tuesday evening, approximately \$6.15 million will produce an ongoing savings that could help IUSD weather a multiyear fiscal crisis; the rest – approximately \$6.45 million – comes from one-time funds that will help bridge the gap in 2008-09.

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Parents, staff, community members and the Board previously weighed in on proposed budget adjustments in public meetings and through suggestions submitted online. As a result, class-size reduction caps in the third and ninth grades were spared, and staff rescinded recommendations to trim athletics, media specialists, support for larger classes and the district's popular Secondary Writing Project.

Board votes to increase transportation fee schedule

By unanimous vote, the Board authorized staff to increase the home-to-school transportation fee schedule by 10 percent, bringing IUSD's fees closer to neighboring districts.

Transportation fees increased for student athletes and performers

Responding to rising fuel and busing costs, the Board voted to increase athletic transportation fees to \$245 per student athlete and \$125 per student performer for the 2008-09 school year. The Board noted that the fee schedule had not been increased in the past 16 years, and fees are not required from students who participate in the federal government's free and reduced lunch program.

Board authorizes staff to increase Civic Center Act fee schedule

Board members voted unanimously to approve a 5 percent increase to the existing Civic Center Act fee schedule, which outlines costs for the use of IUSD facilities.

Board authorizes notice of intent to grant easement for Edison

The Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution that provides notice of intent to grant an easement and right-of-way to Southern California Edison, which is looking to supply electrical service to the Irvine Water Ranch District's Cienega Filtration Project adjacent to the Creekside Education Center.

Coming Up:

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, May 6, 2008 in the Board Room*
Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Board Room

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