



Board Briefs

Highlights from this week's Board of Education meeting

Board members commend the 2008 Classified Employees of the Year

The Irvine Unified School District's Board of Education recognized the following 2008 Classified Employees of the Year: Grace Bennett, a guidance assistant in IUSD's Guidance Resources office; Marie Keller, a campus control assistant at Irvine High School; Jenna Kurtenacker, an administrative secretary in the Education Services department; Rebecca "Becky" Lopez, a dispatcher in the Transportation Department; and Sal Manzo, the head custodian at Deerfield Elementary School. All five received special plaques and cash awards courtesy of the California School Employees Association (CSEA) and local sponsors.

Service of student Board members acknowledged

Student trustees Madison Murphy, Jacob Choi, Claire Kim and Anderson Shih were also recognized with keepsake plaques and words of appreciation at their final meeting of the 2007-08 school year.

Board recognizes two CIF championship teams from IUSD

Members of the University High School boys' tennis team and the Woodbridge High School girls' track team were in attendance to receive recognition for winning CIF championship honors in their respective divisions. Athletes and coaches received special certificates from Cassie Parham, assistant superintendent of Education Services.

PTA president spotlights the work of IUSD volunteers

Kim Axene, president of the Irvine Unified Council PTA, shared the accomplishments of the local PTA coalition, which increased its membership to 12,366 members in 2008. According to Axene, PTA volunteers in Irvine contributed more than 253,000 hours of service to IUSD schools this year. That equates to a monetary donation of approximately \$2 million, using the current minimize wage rate. In addition, Irvine's PTA and PTSA groups contributed another \$2.9 million in funds to pay for programs, events and materials.

Axene added that the Irvine Unified Council PTA recently gave \$1,000 to the Irvine Public Schools Foundation in an effort to leverage matching funds offered by the City of Irvine. A half-dozen school PTAs have since followed suit, contributing an additional \$7,500.

Board updated on the Supplemental Counseling Program

Lynn Kaminsky, a counselor at South Lake Middle School, and Natalie Hamilton, a counselor from Northwood High School, delivered a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate how funds from the state's Supplemental Counseling Program are being used to augment IUSD's existing support services for students in grades seven through 12. With the additional dollars authorized by Assembly Bill 1802, IUSD has lowered student-to-counselor ratios and taken a more proactive approach to counseling services. Moreover, district counselors are linking their practices more purposely to the academic, social and career development of IUSD's students.

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More highlights from IUSD's June 3 Board of Education meeting:

IPSF is 'off and running' to supplement funds from the City of Irvine

Debbie Rugani, director of Community Initiatives and Programs for the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, said the foundation has "hit the ground running" in its efforts to leverage matching funds offered by the City of Irvine.

With the state budget crisis prompting cuts locally, city officials have offered to contribute as much as \$900,000 in matching funds to help IUSD maintain smaller class sizes. That means for every dollar raised, the City will kick in an additional dollar, potentially generating as much as \$1.8 million. IPSF has already committed \$500,000 to the cause and is looking to raise the balance of \$400,000 by Aug. 31. Rugani acknowledged several groups that recently made generous donations, including the Irvine Unified Council PTA, several site PTAs, Bethel Korean Church and the Irvine Korean Parents Association.

Coming Up...

Regular Meetings: *Tuesday, June 24, 2008 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)*
Tuesday, July 15, 2008 in the Board Room (7 p.m.)

Study Sessions: *Monday, June 9, 2008 in the Board Room (2:45 p.m.)*

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