

# **Irvine Unified School District**

*Irvine, California*

## **Board of Education Minutes of Continuous Improvement Efforts 1997-98 Workshop April 15, 1997**

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### **Call to Order**

The Workshop Session of the Board of Education was called to order by Acting President Adler at 6:45 p.m., in the District Administration Center, 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA.

### **Roll Call**

#### **Members**

Present: Hank Adler, Jeanne Flint, Karen Preston, Mike Regele

#### **Members**

Absent: Margie Wakeham (excused)

#### **Staff**

Present: Dennis Smith, Superintendent  
Sue Long, Deputy Superintendent, Human Resources  
Paul Reed, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services  
Dean Waldfogel, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction  
Lee Brooks, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

### **Continuous Improvement Efforts Background**

Dean Waldfogel provided background information relative to the Continuous Improvement Efforts process which was instituted in 1986. He advised that the Superintendent's Curriculum Council meets every February for three half-day sessions to review the status of existing directions and achievement data, and draft recommendations for district-wide areas of curriculum emphasis for the upcoming school year. In March the draft recommendations are reviewed by the full cabinet, and then forwarded to the Board of Education for approval in April.

From these identified areas of focus, schools adopt local annual targets (after review by staff and the school site council), including at least two district targets. The two required district targets for the 1997-98 school year are Performance Assessment & Technology. Local school

targets are then submitted in June along with the "End of the Year" report which assesses progress toward the previous year's targets. Targets are also addressed in the appraisal process for both teachers and administrators.

### ***Superintendent's Curriculum Council***

Member Flint asked about the process for selecting members for the Superintendent's Curriculum Council. Dean Waldfogel advised members are selected based on individual expertise and the desire for broad representation. He further advised that all board members are invited to participate each year.

Member Flint requested that the Board consider appointment of a designated representative and that she would be interested in that appointment. (It was further suggested that this be added to the Board Liaison Assignments which are identified at the annual organizational meeting each December.)

### ***Measurement of Progress***

Member Adler expressed concern that the identified Continuous Improvement Efforts are not quantifiable. Dean Waldfogel advised that though we can measure progress toward targets year-to-year, they are not designed as an assessment tool for student learning. He further advised that in order to truly measure progress, tools are needed which can assess not only basic skills but higher level skills as well.

Member Regele defined the Continuous Improvement Efforts as thematic areas of emphasis in an effort to continually improve instruction to ensure students leave the system prepared to take their place in the world.

Dr. Waldfogel provided two examples of former targets which have been successfully addressed, including upper grade science, addressed through the development of the Science Resource Teacher program, and Primary Reading, addressed through CLIP and the Literacy Project. He further noted that in the case of CLIP, student achievement has been able to be measured through the "Running Record" with significant results.

Dr. Waldfogel further advised that staff has been trying to find instrumentation to measure student thinking and problem-solving for a number of years with little success, though significant progress is being made, and he expects schools to begin to be able to measure progress within the next year or two.

The Board also expressed their desire to be kept apprised of the progress of the work being done by Bev Huff and the UCLA Research Team in developing forms of assessment. Dr. Waldfogel reported that the committee is working on a matrix of basic skills augmented by higher level testing and that they are very close to agreement on a full range of measurable outcomes.

Member Preston commented on the importance of follow-up efforts to ensure that teachers are focusing on target areas. Dr. Waldfogel stated that one of the benefits of a varied list of targets is to encompass individual school focus.

***Adjournment***

The Board adjourned to regular session at 7:20 p.m.

Hank Adler  
Acting President

Dennis M. Smith  
Superintendent

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