

***Irvine Unified School District***  
*Irvine, California*

***Board of Education***  
***Minutes of Special Meeting***  
***June 25, 2009***

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***Call to Order***

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Huntley-Fenner at 12:43 p.m., in the District Administration Center, 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, California.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was led by Assistant Superintendent Terry Walker and was followed by a moment of silence.

***Roll Call***

**Members Present:**

Sue Kuwabara, Carolyn McInerney, Mike Parham, Sharon Wallin, Gavin Huntley-Fenner

**Members Absent:**

None

**Staff:**

Gwen Gross, Superintendent of Schools  
Lisa Howell, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
Cassie Parham, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services  
Terry Walker, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources  
Lee Brooks, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

**Other Staff:**

Mary Bevernick, Irene Brady, Jeanie Fritzsche, Ian Hanigan, Lloyd Linton, Lisa Mennes,  
Mark Sontag, Rena Thompson, Brad VanPatten

***Adoption of the Agenda***

On the motion of Member Kuwabara, seconded by Member Parham and carried 5-0, the Board adopted the agenda as presented.

## **District Goals and Future Planning Workshop**

The Board met with Executive Cabinet members in a workshop setting to discuss district goals and future planning.

Board president Huntley-Fenner welcomed those present and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to brainstorm and dialogue about our future and what we envision for our students.

Superintendent Gross summarized the process and anticipated outcomes for the meeting and presented the "Broken String" metaphor.

Assistant Superintendent Walker reviewed the tenets of the interest-based planning process to be followed for the meeting.

The Board reviewed the District's Vision Statement and determined no significant changes were needed.

Assistant Superintendent Cassie Parham summarized the 2009-10 Continuous Improvement Efforts, reviewed by the Curriculum Council on an annual basis, which were determined to be comprehensive, fluid and current. Parham discussed the District's focus on developing Professional Learning Communities and remarked on the positive impacts and outcomes as a result of that effort.

Discussion topics included the following:

- ▶ Homework
- ▶ Communication/Accessibility
- ▶ Adaptability
- ▶ Resilience (student/staff)
- ▶ Differentiated instruction/Transition Focus
- ▶ Expanded Counseling Services
- ▶ Social Responsibility
- ▶ Academic risk
- ▶ Professional risk
- ▶ Early College Program @IVC
- ▶ Academic Competition/Parent Expectations

Board members discussed their individual interests, including:

- ▶ Maintaining academic excellence
- ▶ Nurturing the "whole child"
- ▶ Focus on "each student" vs. every student
- ▶ How best to reach "today's student"
- ▶ How to incorporate technology
- ▶ How to allow for academic risk-taking

The Board contemplated several key questions as shown below, and acknowledged the challenge of providing a quality educational experience within current fiscal constraints.

- ▶ How do we define "education?"
- ▶ How do we reach today's student? (tech savvy; global interest; more focused on human rights)
- ▶ How do we measure success? (macro level) (Must first define "success")
- ▶ Is the Board doing their job?

### ***Adjournment***

There being no further Board of Education business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Gavin Huntley-Fenner, Ph.D.  
Board President

Gwen E. Gross, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools