

Bard Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **SEPTEMBER 12, 2019** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► Superintendent and Board Recognition

The Superintendent and Board recognized student and staff accomplishments at school sites and the District. The entire list can be found in the agenda packet here: <https://powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2019/09-12-2019-Board-Agenda.pdf>

- **Deborah Seibert**, Bus Driver - Transportation, **Alice Burge**, Student Services Assistant - Adobe Bluffs Elementary School, and **Vickie Norris**, Office Specialist – Facilities, Maintenance and Operations, were recognized as the three District Classified Employees of the Year for 2019.



- **Stephen Whittaker** – Oak Valley Middle School, **Coleen Montgomery** – Rancho Bernardo High School, and **Sarah McCracken** – Midland Elementary School, were recognized as the three District Teachers of the Year for 2019.



- **Eric Hellon** – Chaparral Elementary School, **Ed Oliva** – Twin Peaks Middle School, and **Darlene & Dustin Dunn** – Rancho Bernardo High School, were recognized as the District Volunteers of the Year for 2019.



- The National Parent-Teacher Association recognized **Creekside Elementary School** and the Creekside PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) as a School of Excellence. Creekside is one of only 326 PTAs and

schools nationwide given this distinction. The National PTA recognized Creekside for their “accomplishments in building a strong, effective family-school partnership that is enriching the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.”

- The **Poway Unified School District** was accepted into the League of Innovative Schools, a national coalition of forward-thinking K-12 school districts organized by Digital Promise. PUSD was selected from a competitive national pool of applicants based on its leadership, evidence of results, innovative vision for learning, and commitment to equity and excellence. Digital Promise recognizes school districts that go above and beyond to bridge the gap between learning expectations and outcomes by implementing access to educational technology.

► **Student Board Representative Reports**

New this school year, PUSD wanted to expand student representative reports to include students not just from high schools, but middle and elementary schools as well. This month, we heard reports from Poway, Rancho Bernardo, and Westview High Schools, in addition to Oak Valley Middle School representatives.

- **Lucy Boretto** (Poway HS): Extended welcome to new AP Mr. Gannon Burks, hosted freshman orientation and back to school rally, Start with Hello week with various encouraging and positive activities to encourage students to step outside of their comfort zones, students signed resolution of respect and will continue No Place for Hate activities, opening Titan Connect Center designed by student, Homecoming and spirit week next week, many students participated in Poway Rotary Parade
- **Christina Hartley** (Rancho Bernardo HS): moved back-to-school night earlier, held club rush with over 100 clubs, undefeated girls golf has a record of 116-0 and is on track to pass state record of 117 wins in a row!, held 9-11 flag remembrance for victims, homecoming assembly, game, and dance this weekend, suicide prevention week, Hispanic Heritage month posters, college information meetings, Royal Regiment starting tournament season, Bronco Ambassadors preparing for elementary visits
- **Audrey Tu** (Westview HS): Wolverines kicked off back to school rally just for freshman, then all-school rally, Survivor Westview edition is the homecoming theme, hosted Alarm Clock Pep Rally with KUSI to feature various student groups and sports, will hold Mental Health Week in October
- **Trey Coleman** and **Amon Andrews** (Oak Valley MS): Oak Valley is “Our House,” new administration making an impact, held “Start with Hello” week partnering with Sandy Hook, ASB hand wrote 1,517 personalized notes to each student, Fun Run coming up with obstacle course, Death of a Vampire science mystery fundraiser, St. Baldrick’s raising cancer awareness

► **Public Comments**

The Board heard comments from the public regarding:

- Assembly Bill 272 Cell Phone Ban and AB8 Mental Health Support Bill
- National Arts in Education Week with Poway On Stage, upcoming events including expansion of arts in education with “bus-in” assemblies Oct. 9 Pirate School comedy on bullying
- Celebrating Arts in Education Week, including dance, theater, musical arts, and upcoming band tournaments across PUSD
- Bond feasibility survey, including methodology and questions

► **Bond Feasibility Survey**

From August 13 to August 26, 2019, True North conducted a survey of 1,077 District voters who are likely to participate in the November 2020 election, with a subset also likely to participate in the March 2020 election. The overall results have a statistical margin of error of +/- 3.0%.

A few key findings of the survey include:

- When asked to rate the importance of ten issues, improving the quality of education in local public schools received the highest percentage of respondents indicating that the issue was either extremely or very important (87%)
- Voter support for a proposed \$480 million bond measure in the District ranged between 54% and 57% yes, and 9-13% unsure / undecided, at various stages of the survey. (Needs 55% to pass)
- Presented with a list of 15 projects and improvements that could be funded by the proposed bond, voters were most interested in: repairing or replacing leaky roofs, rusty plumbing, failing sewer lines, and outdated electrical systems where needed; providing modern labs and career training facilities at each high school so students are prepared for college and in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology, robotics, and skilled trades; and providing the classrooms, facilities and technology needed to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering, and technology.

The Board of Education directed staff to move forward in exploring the possibility of a March 2020 bond measure.

► **Ratification of the Poway Federation of Teachers (PFT) – Tentative Agreement**

The Board approved the Tentative Agreement between Poway Unified School District and the Poway Federation of Teachers for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years.

- This includes a 0.5% retroactive, ongoing salary increase effective July 1, 2018, a 1% ongoing salary increase effective July 1, 2019, and a 1.5% ongoing salary increase effective January 1, 2020.
- In addition to the salary increases, an ongoing reduction of one work day beginning in the 2019-20 school year from 188 days to 187 days with no change in salary and beginning in the 2020-2021 school year from 187 days to 186 days with no change in salary.
- Addition of a newly agreed upon and separate Speech and Language Pathologist salary schedule effective July 2019.

► **First Reading: CSBA Board Policy 4119.24, 4219.24, 4319.24**

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) added a new policy in July 2019 on “Maintaining Appropriate Adult-Student Interaction.” The policy has been reviewed by staff and was presented to the Board as a first reading.

► **Approval of the 2018-19 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report**

The Board approved the unaudited actual year-end closing financial report presented by the Finance team to the Board of Education for submission to the County Office of Education. Key financial highlights for FY 2018-19 year-end close are as follows:

- 2018-19 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Entitlement was \$311.3 million, approximately 76% of total revenue. Funded Average Daily Attendance (ADA) was 35,293 and the certified enrollment was 36,450, which equates to an attendance rate of 96.8%.
- General Fund – Unrestricted actual expenditures outpaced revenues by \$3,770,937 in 2018-19.
- General Fund – Restricted actual revenues outpaced expenditures by \$3,320,262 in 2018-19.
- General Fund unaudited ending fund balance is nearly \$60.1 million, reserve level at 11.5%; a decrease from the beginning of the year of \$450,675.
- A total of approximately \$13.2 million of unspent carryover will be added into the 2019-20 budget.

► **Bond Refunding Resolution**

Due to the current low interest rate environment, the Board of Education approved a resolution to provide a second refunding of the initial bonds, 2002 Election, Series A, which will result in the potential savings of \$1.8 to \$2.5 million in future taxes by refunding the bonds associated with SFID – No. 2002-1.

► **Amendment to the Final Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Oak Valley Middle School Classroom Addition**

The final Guaranteed Maximum Price was modified from \$5,070,000 to \$7,497,294. The increase to the Final GMP is due to several factors including: increased scope related to the change from one-story four classroom building to a two-story eight classroom building; additional costs associated with installing four temporary classrooms; additional upgrades to the existing campus to meet Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements as dictated by the Division of the State Architect (DSA); and significant general increases in construction costs.

► **National School Lunch Week**

The Board proclaimed October 14-18, 2019, as National School Lunch Week. This week provides the opportunity to reflect on the critical role the school lunch program plays in promoting the health and well-being of tomorrow's leaders.

► **Public Hearing and Approval of Resolution “Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2019-20”**

The Board approved a resolution determining that Poway Unified School District has sufficient instructional materials for 2019-20.

► **Proposed Adoption of High School and Middle School Science Textbooks – First Reading**

Three flexbooks were presented to the Board of Education tonight for a first reading. The proposed flexbooks have been curated and reviewed by representative teachers and have been found to be in alignment with subject-specific California State Standards. These flexbooks represent our District’s first adoption of Open Education Resources. Pending adoption, each of the texts below will become part of a library of free online digital science resources. A traditional textbook adoption for these three courses would typically cost approximately \$1,420,931. Utilizing Open Educational Resources allows annual updates and results in a cost savings of approximately \$597,831.

► **Resolution Proclaiming 2019 as Dyslexia Awareness Month**

The District is proud to join the California Department of Education and Districts statewide in designating October as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” wherein it commits to providing early assessment and the ongoing interventions needed to support the academic success of all students, including those with Dyslexia.

► **Character Counts! and Red Ribbon Week**

The Board proclaimed October 21-25, 2019 as Character Counts! And Red Ribbon Week for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Prevention. The themes for this year are “Send a Message. Stay Healthy.” for our District’s elementary schools and “Send a Message. Stay Drug Free.” for our District’s middle and high schools.

► **National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

The District is proud to join the California Department of Education and Districts statewide in designating September as “National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.” That commitment includes that the interventions and accommodations determined to be evidence based are available to all students, including those who struggle with mental health issues and may even struggle with suicide ideation. The District is further committed to continuing to research and explore the best practices available to ensure student wellness.

► **District Vision, Mission, and Board Goals & Handbook**

On Thursday, August 22, 2019, the Board of Trustees and Cabinet participated in a Board Workshop to update PUSD’s Vision and Missions statements, as well as the 2019 Board Goals to accurately reflect the depth and breadth of the work occurring in our schools to prepare students for our ever-changing global society.

- The newly adopted vision for PUSD is: “Creating culture and conditions to empower world-class learners.”
- The newly adopted missions statement is: “Inspiring passion and preparing every student to thrive in college, career, and life by providing personalized, rich, and rigorous learning experiences.”
- The Board Goals are as follows:

- Empower student success by ensuring that all learning environments are safe, inclusive, innovative, and equitable.
- Create student-centered learning environments to prepare our students to thrive in college, career, and life.
- Provide high quality professional learning for teachers and staff to promote the culture and conditions that empower world-class learners.
- Engage parents, business, and community partners to foster shared responsibility and accountability in order to deliver personalized, rich, and rigorous learning experiences.
- Invest in facilities and infrastructure to enhance environments that maximize student and staff success.
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility and transparency by aligning resources to meet the diverse and dynamic needs of our students, staff, and community.

► **Future meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2019** in the District Office (6:00 p.m.)

The following regular board meeting dates are scheduled for the remainder of 2019:

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Thursday, December 19, 2019

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