



## NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – January 21, 2014

At the regular meeting of the Oak Park USD Board of Education on January 21, the Board heard reports and discussed the following:

- School safety update by Dr. Knight – he reported that they were awaiting a quote from a vendor for the purchase and installation of security cameras at all school sites. Also, two types of ID badge kiosks for visitors are continuing to be piloted.

The Board took action and/or approved the following:

- The Board discussed a further ban on plastic water bottles and beverage containers as a result of the issue being brought forward by students at Medea Creek Middle School, and their teacher, Vanessa Heller. The students are known as the ‘hydration heros.’ Part of the debate centered around the concern of potential revenue losses for the OPUSD Child Nutrition program if the sale of such beverages were to be discontinued completely. It is estimated that the losses could be over \$40,000 annual. The Board expressed a concern about the sale, use, and disposal (even recycling) of water bottles due to the negative environmental impact. Additionally, concern was expressed about the social justice component – the belief that fresh, clean, and safe water should be a basic human right around the world and that water is readily available to all of our students in the many hydration stations at the schools. The Board moved to assign the task of developing a plan to the District Wellness Council, who will take up the issue beginning next month.
- The process of conducting a lottery for the selection of new District of Choice students in compliance with the Education Code, was approved by the Board.
- A public lottery was conducted as prescribed by law, where District of Choice applicants were randomly assigned priority numbers for placement in OPUSD for the fall of 2014. Two lotteries were held, one for siblings of current DOC students and one for new students. Results were immediately posted on the OPUSD website and shared with parents who were present.
- An updated Measure R Facilities Master Plan was reviewed and approved. The plan calls for the movement of the replacement of HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) projects to Proposition 39 energy savings program funded by the state to allow sufficient funds to replace the R portable classrooms at Oak Park High School with new modular classrooms.
- An Emergency Repair Authorization was approved for the replacement of the gas lines at Oak Park High School.
- The annual audit of the District’s financial records was shared with the Board by auditor Christy White Associates. The audit included the general operating funds, Measure R, and Measure C6. The District received the highest possible opinion in all three audits, which cited that the financial

statements presented fairly the financial position of each of the District's major funds. The District was also found to be in full compliance with the bond performance requirements for both Measure R and Measure C6. All three audits were free of any findings by the auditor.

- A change to the minimum day schedule at Medea Creek Middle School was approved, moving three days that had been used for STAR testing to the last week of school. The days are not needed for STAR testing as the program is suspended during the state's change to a new testing program.
- The Board approved and accepted with gratitude, the donations from several individuals and corporations, including a \$5000 donation from the Boeing Company to the Oak Park High School Rocket Team.
- A change to the Cum Laude Honors at Graduation program at Oak Park High School was approved at the request of OPHS. The change reduces the weight of third quarter senior grades on the process, which will more truly reflect actual student achievement and should allow more students to be recognized at higher levels.
- A change in the science curriculum, scope and sequence at Oak Park High School was approved. The new course, Foundations of Science will replace the Global Science course in grade 9. The rationale is that the new course will provide a more extensive preparation for students to achieve in higher-level science courses in grades 10-12. It is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.
- The Board approved the use of online courses that meet certain criteria for credit recovery and remediation at Oak Park High School at the request of the school administration.

Policies related to the handling of controversial issues in classrooms, the use of copyrighted materials, the school district budget, and the public bidding process were approved. Policies related to the implementation of the Local Control and Accountability Plan and accountability under the Local Control Funding Formula were tabled until next month when more information is expected to be available about specific issues related to each.