



IN THE KNOW!

Lowell Joint School District

Board of Trustees: Janet B. Averill, Darin W. Barber, Eugene N. Dunford, Gayle K. Rogers, Fred W. Schambeck
Superintendent: Patricia A. Howell, Ed.D.

Highlights of the February 4, 2008, Board of Trustees Meeting

Timely Information from the Board and Superintendent

Dr. Howell shared the Board Room bulletin board was decorated by Melanie Artz, Art teacher; Sheryl Carruth, Band teacher; Lori Miller, drama teacher; and Earnestine Goldstein, Music consultant; from Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School.

Mrs. Kaia David, Macy PTA member, presented a check for \$33,771.41 for the last phase of the playground equipment. Ms. Tara Ryan, Macy Principal, shared that in three years the Macy PTA has donated a little over \$100,000 for the playground equipment at the school. Ms. Ryan also commended Shawn Gatewood, Director of Maintenance and Operations, and the maintenance staff members for their help with the installation of the playground equipment.

Mrs. Averill, Board Clerk, read a quote from George Washington's farewell address.

Dr. Howell introduced Abigail Kjer, 5th grade student from Olita Elementary School; Andrew Bluth, 6th grade student from El Portal Elementary School; and Sophia Suarez, 5th grade student from Meadow Green Elementary School. Abigail and Andrew won the John Greenleaf Whittier Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and District X American History Essay Contest. Sophia was the runner-up for this event. Abigail, Andrew, and Sophia each read their winning "I Spy" essays to the Board of Trustees and was awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement by President Barber.

School Reports

Board Members shared highlights and events occurring at each of the schools.

Adoption of the 2008/09 Student Attendance Calendar

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote, (5-0) to approve the 2008/09 student attendance calendar, and the Superintendent or designee was authorized to execute the necessary documents.

Selection of Textbooks – Social Studies (K-5) and Science (K-7)

The following textbooks were proposed for addition to the District Social Studies curriculum for grades Kindergarten through fifth and the District Science curriculum for grades Kindergarten through seventh for the 2007/08 school year. The textbooks have been reviewed by teachers, and the evaluation forms have been completed. The proposed additions have also been reviewed by the Assistant Principals, Principals, the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, and the Superintendent.

| <u>COURSE</u> | <u>TITLE</u> | <u>PUBLISHER</u> | <u>COPYRIGHT DATE</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| HISTORY/ SOCIAL SCIENCE | | | |
| Grade K, Reflections | Big Book, Our World, Now... | Harcourt | 2007 |
| Grade 1, Reflections | A Child's View | Harcourt | 2007 |
| Grade 2, Reflections | People We Know | Harcourt | 2007 |
| Grade 3, Reflections | Our Communities | Harcourt | 2007 |
| Grade 4, Reflections | California, A Changing State | Harcourt | 2007 |
| Grade 5, Reflections | The United States, Making A New Nation | Harcourt | 2007 |
| SCIENCE | | | |
| Grade K - 3 | California Science | Macmillan/ McGraw-Hill | 2008 |
| Grade 4 - 6 | California Science | Pearson Scott Foresman | 2008 |
| Grade 7 | Focus on Life Science | Prentice Hall | 2008 |

The proposed basic textbooks were approved by unanimous vote, (5-0), and the Superintendent or designee was authorized to execute the necessary documents.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Accepted the donated playground equipment from Macy Elementary School PTA.

Approved consultant agreement with International Printing Museum to provide a Ben Franklin presentation to the 5th grade students of Macy and Jordan Elementary Schools on March 13, 2008.

Approved the 8th grade extended field trip to Washington D.C. from April 4 – 11, 2008.

Approved the disposal of surplus items in the Instructional Materials Center (IMC).

Ratified consultant agreement with Mr. Steven Fauth to provide after-school coaching services for the 2007/08 school year.

Ratified consultant agreement with Mr. Caleb Lawrence to provide after-school coaching services for the 2007/08 school year.

Board Member/ Superintendent Comments

Dr. Howell shared that the Incoming Kindergarten Parent meeting is Tuesday, February 12, 2008, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-use room at Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on March 3, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office.

We're Proud That...

- **El Portal Elementary School** is proud of **Andrew Bluth** for winning first place for the 6th grade “I Spy- Espionage During the American Revolution” essay for the John Greenleaf Whittier Chapter NSDAR and the District level. We are also proud of **Chrissy Tarbell** for receiving the Making the Difference Award passed from Mariana Ybarra for the month of January.
- **Jordan Elementary School** is proud of the 29 students who received Citizen of the Month for February. We would like to thank our student safety committee members for making our school safe. We would like to thank **Andrea Desmond** and **Krista Van Hoogmoed** for being BTSA Support Providers. We would also like to send out a special thanks to all classified staff for their support everyday.
- **Macy Elementary School** continues to celebrate Macy’s 50th Birthday this year. We are proud to announce the kickoff of our “*50’s Friday Days.*” On Fridays, during lunch, the primary and upper graders ‘rock out’ to the music of the 1950’s. Staff dress-up in the ‘*Fashions of the 50’s!*’ and even Elvis has made a dancing and singing appearance during lunch. In two weeks, students will dress as ‘The King’ and be awarded prizes for their attire. Happy 50th Birthday Macy!
- **Meadow Green Elementary School** is proud of fifth-grader, **Sophia Suarez**, runner up in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest, “I Spy – Espionage During the American Revolution.” Meadow Green is also proud of **Lily Nethington**, sixth-grader, who received Honorable Mention at the 4th District PTA Reflections Awards Reception, which was held in January. With almost 12,000 student entries for over 400 schools in Orange County, this was quite an accomplishment.
- **Olita Elementary School** is proud of and sad to say good-bye to **Doris Newell**. After nineteen years as Olita’s Office Manager, Doris is retiring February 12th. We will miss her! We are proud of and grateful to the 133 volunteers that donated 314 hours of service to Olita School during the month of January. We are proud of our students who received Student of the Month and Citizen of the Month honors for December and January. We are proud of our second-grade students who wrote letters to the veterans in the Nursing Home Care Unit and Spinal Cord Injury Ward of the VA Long Beach Healthcare System. Their letters helped to boost the spirits of the hospitalized veterans who were touched by the students’ thoughtfulness.
- **Rancho-Starbuck Junior High School** is proud of 8th grade student, **Shannon Nolte**. Rancho is proud of her accomplishments as she won the District level DAR competition. Her essay, “I Spy- Espionage During the American Revolution: An Untold Story” was chosen over many entries for this honor! Congratulations to 8th grade student, **Sophia Gatsios**, with almost 1,200 entries from 400 schools, Sophia’s entry in the film category won a third place honorable mention.