

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana set the meeting's tone with a theme of college and career readiness from the early learning stages through the elementary level to high school. Godinez Fundamental High School ASB President Viviana Altamirano gave a brief report on the upcoming College Night event, which will be hosted by Godinez on October 5. Some 80 colleges and universities from across the nation will participate in the Districtwide college fair, and various representatives will conduct workshops on the college admissions process and financial aid. More than 3,000 attended the event last year.



In addition, Superintendent Meléndez congratulated staff members and students of Muir Fundamental Elementary and Thorpe Fundamental Elementary for earning a National Blue Ribbon School Award for excellence in academics. These two schools are among 304 nationally and only four in Orange County to receive this meritorious honor this year. The competitive award recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior, or have made dramatic gains in student achievement, and progress in closing the gaps in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students. This is the third consecutive year that a SAUSD school has earned this national distinction. Middle College High received the award in 2009, followed by Harvey Elementary School in 2010, and now Muir Fundamental Elementary School and Thorpe Fundamental Elementary School in 2011.



**Board Presentations** - To view a copy of the below listed presentations, visit the Board of Education webpage at [www.sausd.us](http://www.sausd.us).

- ◆ **State Testing and Accountability Report (STAR): Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)** – Michelle LePatner, Director of Research and Evaluation, highlighted recent and ongoing academic progress of the District, pointing out significant milestones made over the last few years by many of our schools. For example, Thorpe Fundamental Elementary School skyrocketed 34 points on its API to 901 – the first in SAUSD to reach the 900 level. Several elementary schools increased their API scores by a range of 150 to 190 points over the past five years. Alternative education schools also experienced a huge jump this year with increases in API scores of 78 to 119 points. Forty-five schools made growth in AYP in English language arts this year, while 49 made growth in math. Board President José Alfredo Hernández, J.D., recognized school administrators and teachers in attendance for their continued success in making outstanding improvements in instruction.
- ◆ **SAUSD Budget Update & Historical Perspectives** – Michael Bishop, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, gave a review of the budget and some historical perspectives from past years. Ongoing prudent planning has enabled the school district to remain fiscally solvent, despite a depressed economy. This fiscal responsibility has allowed the District to maintain funding for the Board's priority areas. In addition, the school district's enrollment numbers have been close to projection levels, enabling staff to make any necessary teaching staff adjustments.

## **Board Approvals**

- Approval to call for a public hearing for four Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) waiver applications to the State Board of Education. **(Agenda item 4.0)**
  - These waivers would enable the school district to have flexibility in class size levels, Teacher Experience Index, and Academic Performance Index growth requirements in QEIA-funded schools.
- Approval of application certification for continued participation in Class Size Reduction Operations Funding Program for grades K-3 for 2011-12 school year. **(Agenda Item 6.0)**
  - Board approved the maintenance of the District's Class Size Reduction program for grades K-3.
- Acceptance of actuarial study of Workers' Compensation Program as of June 30, 2011. **(Agenda Item 8.0)**
- Approval of recommendation to implement a pre-tax transportation and parking benefit for employees. **(Agenda Item 11.0)**
  - This item allows the school district to implement a tax-exempt option of the IRS for employees who use commuter highway vehicle transportation and transit passes and qualified parking methods on their way to and from work. Employees would be able to have up to \$230 a month qualify for tax-exemption.
- Approval of memorandum of understanding with California School Employees Association, Chapter 41, for Food 4 Thought. **(Agenda Item 13.0)**
  - This agreement culminates a process that allowed both parties to address contractual concerns regarding the salary schedule for unit members working in Food 4 Thought.
- Approval of memorandum of understanding with Santa Ana Educators' Association for increased instructional time at School Improvement Grant (SIG) transformational schools **(Agenda Item 14.0)**
  - This item approves extending the instructional day by 30 minutes for priority schools identified by the State as persistently low achieving. The affected schools include Century High, Saddleback High, Santa Ana High, Valley High, and Sierra Preparatory Academy. This State and federal requirement satisfies additional requirement intervention and/or enrichment instruction for these schools.



All Board meeting results are available on the Board of Education webpage at [www.sausd.us](http://www.sausd.us). The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 11 at 6 p.m.**

