

Superintendent Russo Announces Retirement

After 38 years in education and head of Santa Ana Unified School District for the past five, Superintendent Jane Russo announced her decision to retire on June 30, 2011. “After reflection and discussion with my family, I have decided to retire in June of 2011 at the end of my 38th year in education and 5th year as your superintendent. This decision is one with which I have struggled, considering leaving the most important, rewarding and impactful job of my career,” Russo said during the Board meeting. The Board will meet in a special session on February 1 to discuss the selection process for new superintendent.



Board Recognition

Children & Families Commission of OC Receives A-B-C-D Award



For years of exemplary service to children and families in Orange County, particularly those of Santa Ana Unified School District, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County was presented with the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award (A-B-C-D). Board Vice President Rob Richardson, left in photo, presents the award to the Commission Executive Director Michael Ruane. In 2009-2010, the Commission allocated more than \$51 million to programs to keep 208,000 children healthy and learning. SAUSD currently benefits from \$1.2 million in Commission grants that fund preschool for 480 children, and provides other staffing support. Additionally, the Commission’s \$7.5

million in contributions facilitated the completion of the new Santa Ana YMCA site which includes a state-of-the-art aquatics center and soccer arena. The joint-use facility, which opened in November of 2010, is adjacent to Segerstrom High School.

Superintendent’s Report

Nathalie Osegueda and Jocelyn Soto, 12th graders from the Chavez High Student Leadership Team, beamed with school pride as they provided insight on student life at Chavez High School. Joining them were peers Annie Uvidia and Joshua Recinos, depicted in the photo at right, to perform a song called “The Climb” about reaching one’s dreams and goals.



Open lottery registration for SAUSD’s eight fundamental schools of choice will soon get underway for the 2011-12 school year. Fundamental school open lottery registration card for kindergarteners and 6th graders may be picked up by parents beginning Monday, January 31, 2011. For High School Fundamental Open Lottery Registration for 9th graders only parents can pick up a registration lottery card beginning Tuesday, February 1.

- The deadline for a registration lottery card pick up and completion for high schools is Tuesday, February 8, by 4:00 p.m.
- The deadline for lottery card pick up and completion for elementary and intermediate is Friday, February 18, by 4:00 p.m.
- For more information, parents are encouraged to call 714-558-5555 or log on to www.sausd.us for key dates and information.

Board Presentations/Approved Agenda Items

- 2010-11 Budget Update: Governor's Proposed Budget, Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes
Michael Bishop, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, gave various scenarios in dealing with the Governor's proposed budget, in the event that cuts to K-12 education are imminent. He laid out the reasons that SAUSD still needs to cut \$31.5 million, despite the promise of Governor Brown to avoid cuts to K-12 education. In essence:
 - The State has not funded \$60 million that had been deferred for payment to SAUSD to help us reduce our deficit
 - Flexibility was extended to SAUSD enabling us to shift monies within our various funds to lessen the impact. This flexibility was temporary.
 - We were granted leeway in implementing Class Size Reduction, further helping our school district to avoid cuts temporarily.

From 2004-05 through 2012-13, SAUSD will have made \$225.2 million in budget cuts. The current State deficit is \$25 billion, which Governor Brown hopes to recoup by a combination of temporary tax extensions to be voted on in an upcoming election and cuts to social services, higher education, corrections and phasing out Redevelopment Agencies. View a copy of the [budget presentation](#).

- **Approval of submission of Part II 2010-11 Consolidated Application for funds to California State Department of Education (Agenda Items 3.0)**
 - Authorizes continued funding for major State and Federal categorical (specific) programs. The Board approved Part I of this annual application on June 22, 2010.
- **Approval of Submission of Renewal Application for After School Education And Safety Program For 2011-14 (Agenda Item 4.0)**
 - Authorizes renewal of the application for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program for 2011-14 to fund local after school education and enrichment programs.
- **Acceptance of the Facilities Master Plan Annual Update (Agenda Item 11.0)**
 - The Master Plan is a roadmap to address the school district's facilities and improvement needs. [view presentation](#).

Employee of the Month

Maria Dolores Sanchez, night lead custodian at Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School, is the January 2011 Employee of the Month. "Maria takes extreme pride in her work, and is particularly concerned with cleanliness," said Principal Cindy Landsiedel. "With every problem, she has a solution. She's shown more initiative and extra effort in her work than anyone I've been acquainted with," Landsiedel commented. Sanchez has been lead custodian at Mendez for 11 years.

For all Board meeting results and presentations refer to the School Board [Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#) section of the school district's website (www.sausd.us). The Board of Education will hold a special study session to discuss the budget and commencing the search for a new superintendent on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at 5:30 p.m.

