

Special Presentation of an SAUSD Court Ruling Win

Superintendent Jane Russo and legal counsel recapped an important court ruling win for SAUSD. On May 2, Riverside Superior Court Judge Dallas Holmes ruled that Kirk Montgomery Employee Benefits Services (KMEBS) wrongfully concealed commission payments and ordered the company to pay back \$2.4 million received over three years. Currently the school district is pursuing the money and associated interest as a result of the ruling.



The presentation described how the firm maneuvered through this process to manipulate the payment of millions of dollars in hidden commissions by advocating that the school district move from self-insurance to Blue Cross coverage. By doing so, KMEBS opened the door for their commissions, taking months to settle from that point on contract language that would govern commissions.

A lengthy cover up and elusiveness on the part of KMEBS ensued, leading to siphoning off of millions of dollars in unauthorized commissions. Once SAUSD gained proof of what had occurred, it dropped KMEBS as its consultants.

The Board of Education expressed its pleasure in the ruling and reiterated the need to ensure that every education dollar is spent wisely and appropriately, especially in these tough financial times. Members pledged to demand that all consultants meet high standards for integrity and transparency in the way they conduct business on behalf of the school district. More information about the case is accessible at www.sausd.us.

Difference Makers Recognized – The Board of Education recognized difference makers scholars — one from each high school. The seniors each received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce for making a difference as leaders at their school or in their communities. Difference makers scholars, pictured below with the Board of Education and Superintendent, include:



- 1.) Ruth Madrid, Century High
- 2.) Joshua Recinos, Chavez High
- 3.) Casey Clayson, Godinez Fundamental High
- 4.) Andrew Ayala, Lorin Griset Academy
- 5.) Samira Meza, Middle College High
- 6.) Erika Fuentes, Saddleback High
- 7.) Angelica Martinez, Santa Ana High
- 8.) Vannie Luong, Segerstrom High and
- 9.) Jessica Gandara, Valley High

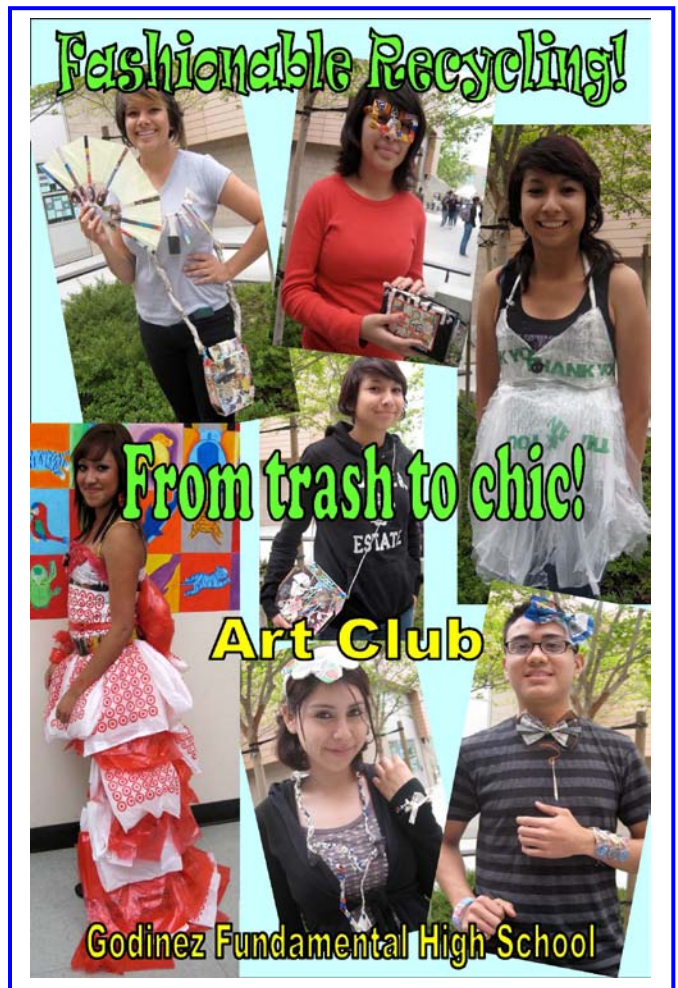
TrashArt Promotes Eco-Friendly Messages –

Superintendent Russo commended the work of students who used their creativity to turn recyclable materials and re-used trash such as trash bags, newspaper, and wire hangers into art in the SAUSD trash-art Earth Day contest, sponsored by the Facilities Department. The art will be displayed on the Facilities website and at the County of Orange Green Fair art walk on May 19. Top winners include:

- ◆ Mrs. Dunn's 4th grade class at Lincoln Elementary for "the butterflies"
- ◆ Godinez Fundamental High School's Art Club won the 2nd place for "the fashion." The club is also a finalist in the county-wide Muzeo TrashARTist Challenge.
- ◆ Ms. Dyer's 6th grade class at Lathrop Intermediate took 3rd place for its entry "biome dolls," on a world map.

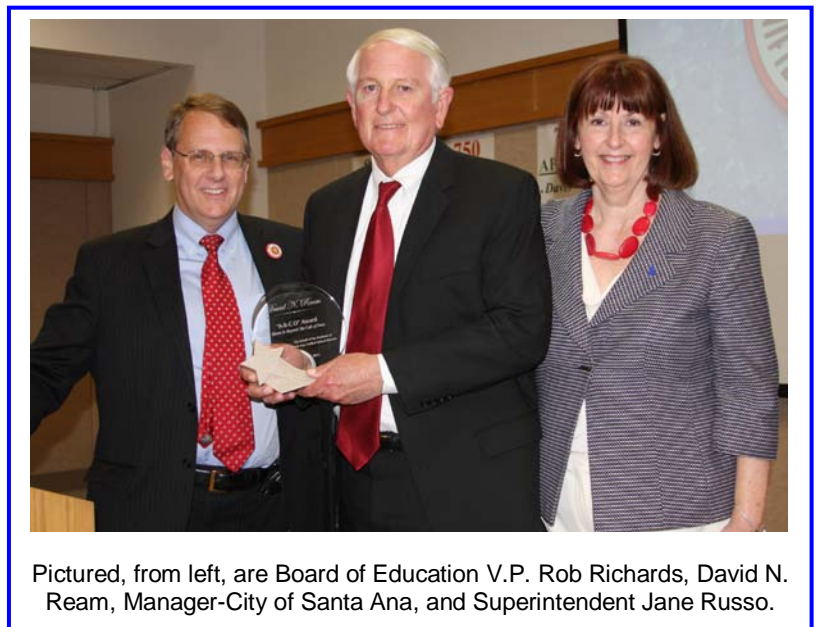
Board Approvals

- **Approval of Community Access Agreement Pilot at Roosevelt and Walker Elementary Schools for the 2011-12 School Year** – The Board approved a Community Access Agreement between SAUSD and Latino Health Access for the 2011-2012 school year to open the grounds of Roosevelt Elementary School on weekends for use as a community park for a one-year pilot. **(Agenda Item 3.0)**
- **Approval of Submission of Form J-7 for K-3 Class Size Reduction Report of Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2010-11 (Agenda Item 4.0)** This item gains Board approval of the K-3 Class Size Reduction Report for Enrollment for fiscal year 2010-11, as the Board has made maintaining smaller class sizes a District priority. The District is required to submit to the California Department of Education Form J-7, which reports the number of classes in grades K-3 that participate in the CSR program.
- **Approval of Cancellation of 2011 High School Summer School Program (Agenda Item 8.0)** The Board voted to cancel the traditional credit recovery/intervention summer school at all six comprehensive high schools. Instead of the traditional model, the four transformational high schools including Century High, Saddleback High, Santa Ana High and Valley High School will be offering credit recovery classes through their summer extended learning program funded through their School Improvement Grants. These four schools will also offer enrichment classes. Students at Segerstrom High School and Godinez Fundamental High School will be offered credit recovery opportunities via the Bridge Program partnership with Santa Ana College. In addition, all SAUSD high school students needing credit recovery will have access to needed classes through the Graduate Success Program at Santa Ana College. These summer learning opportunities begin as early as June 23 and end on July 29, 2011.



- **Authorization to Obtain Requests for Proposals for Professional Fundraising and Sponsorship Services Districtwide (Agenda Item 12.0)** This item was brought forth due to the State's current fiscal crisis. Working with a professional fundraising and sponsorship services company could enable the District to provide additional financial support by creating opportunities for the involvement of our community and business partners.
- **Approval to Advertise for Membership to the Bond Oversight Committee (Agenda Item 13.0)** The agenda item allows the Facilities Department to advertise to fill five Bond Oversight Committee positions that are opening up due to expired terms. The new appointees will serve beginning in September 2011.
- **Adoption of Resolution No. 10/11-2880 – Proclaiming May 15-21, 2011, As National Police Week** In recognition of the pivotal role the SAUSD school police department plays in providing for the welfare and safety of our school community. (Agenda Item 23.0)

David N. Ream Receives the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award – For his ongoing support to the Santa Ana Unified School District during his illustrious tenure as Manager for the City of Santa Ana, Mr. David N. Ream received the Superintendent's Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award (ABCD). SAUSD has had no other finer liaison and advocate than Mr. Ream. He has headed major joint initiatives with our school district and played a pivotal role in supporting the Santa Ana School District with virtually every new school project since the late 1980's. His support and coordination of the development of several projects ensured that students and staff had well built and maintained facilities.



Pictured, from left, are Board of Education V.P. Rob Richards, David N. Ream, Manager-City of Santa Ana, and Superintendent Jane Russo.

Most notable is the highly visible joint-use facility with Godinez Fundamental High School adjacent to Centennial Park. Mr. Ream's support and guidance of the joint-use of Centennial Park for the eventual development of Godinez Fundamental High School in the mid 2000s began a new commitment by the City of Santa Ana to our school district.

Mr. Ream also played a role in the Willard Intermediate Park Project for which the State Department of Parks and Recreation recently awarded \$4.4 million in Proposition 84 Grant funding when complete. This project will create a marvelous recreation and athletic field for Willard Intermediate and the Willard community. This project will coincide with the complete remodeling of Willard Intermediate and the elimination of all of the portables on site.

For all Board meeting results and presentations refer to the School Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes section of the school district's website ([Board webpage](#)).

The next regularly scheduled **Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011.**