

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting

September 13th, 2006

Spotlight on the Board is a collection of notes taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Pleasant Hill PTAs' School Board liaison, Susan Quinn. They are meant to help parents and staff who are unable to attend the Board meetings on a regular basis to keep informed about the issues and plans affecting the district. These Notes are not endorsed by District 15 or the Board of Education. Below are the highlights from the September "Regular" meeting.

Over 1,000 people were in attendance at the board meeting, including a large number of teachers and CTC representatives.

- 1. 2006-07 Budget approved**
- 2. Preliminary ISAT results presented**
 - a. 86% meets/exceeds in reading**
 - b. 89% meets/exceeds in math**
- 3. Classroom Performance System demonstrated**
- 4. BOE President Carlson's Speech on Contract Negotiations**

Carlson spoke at length, reading from a prepared statement that is largely the same as the press release posted on the district's website (see www.ccsd15.net).

Carlson gave an overview of the negotiations, and noted that people can contact the board via email, addressing the Board at meetings, or by phone, and that there would be a 30 min comment period after she spoke. Carlson spoke about recent negotiations on Monday (9/11), why the board was filing an "unfair labor practice" complaint, why the board froze salaries, and what the board was offering and the CTC counter offering in negotiations. Carlson handed out two documents: one a comparison sheet of salaries of district 15 teachers and neighboring districts and a one a summary of the position of the Board and CTC in the areas of compensation, benefits and retirement. These documents are available at the district website (www.ccsd15.net) and the Pleasant Hill PTA website (www.phpta.org/teacher_contract.htm). ***You can hear Carlson's speech at www.phpta.org/DistrictInfo.htm.***

- 5. CTC President Jan Belzer addresses the Board**

Belzer confirmed that Monday 9/18 the teachers will vote to authorize the intent to strike. She commented that after 14 months of negotiating, progress had been made and some tentative agreements reached. She said it had been 24 years since the CTC has authorized a strike, and that the CTC takes this step only as a last resort, due to unfair and unjust Board positions, putting politics and short term, short sighted positions ahead of the school district the CTC serves. Belzer said the teachers work hard to provide a quality education and provide role models, resulting in the high ISAT scores reported today. She said the teachers have held up their end of the bargain, yet are being frozen on last year's salaries, which is why the CTC is filing an "unfair labor practice" complaint against the district. The CTC wants to do the hard work necessary to settle the contract, so can focus on providing quality education to students of district 15. Belzer said the current situation cannot go on much longer, and the CTC wants to resolve the situation. ***You can hear Belzer's speech at www.phpta.org/DistrictInfo.htm.***

At this point, Jan Belzer stood up and exited the auditorium, along with the CTC supporters with her at the table. The vast majority of teachers in attendance stood to leave as well, requiring a 15 minute break to clear

the room. When the session was reconvened, the remaining Citizens that wanted to address the board spoke.

6. **Citizens Address the Board** – Seven parents addressed the Board, expressing a range of views both in support of the CTC and the Board.

Full Spotlight on the Board notes available at www.phpta.org/DistrictInfo.htm. Spotlight on the Board available via email subscription! SUBSCRIBE to the *Spotlight on the Board* notes via email at <http://www.phpta.org/DistrictInfo.htm>. Next Board meeting is Wednesday, September 27th, 2006, 7 pm at Sundling Jr. High – this is a “Meeting of the Whole” meeting.