

December 5, 2015

School Board Elections Results; New Workshops; Interim Principal Appointed; New Procedures & Protocols for Board Meetings Approved.

By Cindy McCauley, TUHSD Board President

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff;

As the end of 2015 draws to a close and my term of Board President ends on Tuesday night, December 8th, let me share with you some thoughts as well as important updates and information from our most recent meetings.

- First I would like to take this opportunity to THANK the many parents, students, teachers, classified staff, and administrators whom I have met and worked with over the past eight years as a Trustee on the TUHSD Board. It is not just a cliché when I say that this is truly an amazing community who care deeply about public education, student success, and continuous improvement. We may not always agree on the “how” but we almost always agree on “what”, the issues are that need to be addressed. During my tenure I have worked with nine different elected Trustees each of whom brought special experiences, backgrounds, and skills to this Board. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of individuals on behalf of students and the community. I look forward to following the continued successes of our schools as they tackle new challenges.

Election Results & Board Reorganization Celebration on December 8, 2015:

- Congratulations to Leslie Lundgren and Barbara Owens in their successful election to serve on the TUHSD District Board of Trustees for the next four years. Also congratulations goes to Michael Futterman, who was originally appointed to the Board in June of 2014, for his successful bid to finish that term seat over the next two years. The community is fortunate to have such highly qualified individuals who are willing and able to serve on their behalf. I would like also to acknowledge and thank Matt Nagel and Robbie Powelson for their candidacy and interest in joining the Board. I hope that they will continue to find ways to serve students in our district.
- Please join us at the December 8th Board of Trustees meeting at 6:30pm in the District Office for a short reception honoring Bob Walter and myself who will be exiting the Board, immediately followed by the swearing in ceremony at 7pm, administered by County Superintendent Mary Jane Burke, for the three newly elected Board members. In addition the new Board will elect a Board President and Clerk for 2016. I hope to see some of you there.

Board of Trustee Workshops added to Spring 2016 Calendar:

- On November 17, Superintendent Yoshihara recommended and the Board approved the addition of the following five workshops for Spring 2016: Governance Workshop on January 17; Curriculum & Instruction Workshop on February 23; Budget Workshop on March 22; California Interscholastic Federation (Athletic Teams) on April 26; and Strategic Plan Update on May 24. All workshops begin at 5pm in Kreps Conference Room at District Office.

Workshops are a time when the Board has the opportunity to delve deeply into one specific topic unlike a regular meeting where presentations are limited in scope and time. Although only Board members participate in workshops itself, they provide interested community members the opportunity to learn about the topic as well as the direction that the district may be heading. If one of these topics interests you, I encourage you to attend.

Appointment of Interim Principal at Tamalpais High School:

- On October 27th the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. David Brown as the interim principal at Tam High from now until June 2016. The Board thanked and wished Principal Synyard all the best as she becomes the Assistant Superintendent for the Cotati-Rohnert Park School District. The District administration will embark on the search for a permanent replacement after the first of the year. The search will be as open and transparent as possible; more information will be available soon.

New Board Meeting Procedures & Protocols Approved on October 27, 2015:

- NEW: Would you like to join an email list so that you will receive all TUHSD Board of Trustee Board Meeting Agendas? Simply go to the district website: www.tamdistrict.org and click on "Request Board Agendas."
- The Board will begin utilizing Comment Cards for anyone wishing to speak during Public Comment at meetings beginning in January. These voluntary cards are designed to help the Board President know how many people would like to speak during Public Comment, and if there is a specific topic, which the public is interested in so that it may be moved up in the agenda. The cards will also give the administration contact information to follow-up with a speaker about a concern or question they have expressed.
- In order to encourage greater attendance and participation by students, parents and staff, at least one Board meeting per school year will be held on

each of the three comprehensive school sites beginning in the spring 2016. Specific dates will be determined soon.

- Trustee Ford, Trustee Anderson, and Dr. Yoshihara have formed a subcommittee to research the possibility and options available for videotaping future TUHSD Board meetings. A report will be forthcoming soon.
- “Board Communications” has long been a regular agenda item for this district but will now be expanded in scope. Copies of communications whether from letters, flyers, or emails which are sent to the Superintendent and/or a majority of the Board (3 or more members) will now be included in the Board packet and available to the public. After a lot of discussion it was agreed that these communications sometimes do affect Board members decision and opinions on a topic before them. If a majority of the Board has received this information, it is imperative that the public has access to the same information so that the work of the Board is as transparent as possible.