

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
125 East Bidwell Street
Folsom, California 95630

November 16, 2006

MINUTES

Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Mills Middle School
Cafetorium
10439 Coloma Road
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Teresa A. Stanley, President
Edward Short, Vice President
Sara Myers, Clerk
Richard Shaw, Member
Mary McCormick, Member
Kendra Stanley, Student Member

November 16, 2006

Board members present: Teresa Stanley, Richard Shaw, Edward Short, Mary McCormick, Sara Myers, and Student Member Kendra Stanley (Ms. Stanley arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

5:00 p.m. – Open Session

CALL TO ORDER (Held in Room 41)

President Stanley announced items to be discussed in closed session.

5:05 p.m. – Closed Session

(Held in Room 41)

6:00 p.m. – Open Meeting

(Held in Cafetorium)

Meeting convened at 6:05. President Stanley called the meeting to order. Trustee Sara Myers led the flag salute. Deputy Superintendent Debbie Bettencourt stood in for Superintendent Godwin who was absent this evening.

REPORTING OUT CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

Deputy Superintendent Bettencourt asked Assistant Superintendent Lawrence Brubaker to report out on routine action taken in closed session regarding certificated and classified personnel.

Mr. Brubaker also reported that Elsie Webber, Attendance and Due Process Administrative Assistant II, is retiring in December with 13 years of service to the District.

PERSONNEL MATTERS (Approved in Closed Session)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

MYERS/SHORT MOVED TO APPROVE routine certificated personnel items.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFICATED CHANGE OF STATUS

In accordance with the District Policy 4116.1 and the California Education Code 44919, certificated employees may be designated temporary if, among other reasons, they are replacements for probationary or tenured employees on leave of absence or who have been furloughed into categorical programs.

The employees listed are in excess of the number of employees needed as replacements for probationary or tenured employees and are recommended to be reclassified as probationary employees, effective for the date specified below in accordance with legal provisions:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PROBATIONARY DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>
Angelica Miklos	08/09/05	Theodore Judah Elementary

CERTIFICATED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- Meredith Brown (*revision*), Teacher (#203139, #990598), Theodore Judah/Sandra J. Gallardo Elementary Schools. From: 08/10/06 through 11/02/06; To: 08/10/06 through 10/31/06.

CERTIFICATED VOLUNTARY REDUCTION IN ASSIGNMENT

- Julie Headrick, Teacher (#990185), Natoma Station Elementary School. From: 100%; To: 40%. Effective: 12/02/06.

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

MYERS/McCORMICK MOVED TO APPROVE routine classified personnel items.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT

- Magdalena Avalos (replacement) Bilingual Instructional Assistant (#207598), Mills Middle, 3.5 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL10/Step A. Effective: 11/8/06
- Karol Castillo (new position/second position) School Clerk-Elementary (#207111), Navigator Elem., 1 hour daily/10 months, Range CL12/Step D. Effective: 11/1/06
- Annalyn DeLaCruz (replacement) Health Assistant (#201138), Mather Heights Elem., 2 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL10/Step A. Effective: 10/31/06
- Robyn Lane (replacement) School Clerk-Secondary (#202571), Cordova High, 8 hours daily/11 months, Range CL12/Step D. Effective: 11/3/06
- Catrina Peterson (new position) Computer Instructional Assistant (#207112), Mather Heights Elem., 3 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL12/Step A. Effective: 10/30/06
- Karalyn Rynearson (new position) Special Education Instructional Assistant (#207055), Oak Chan Elem., 3 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL10/Step A. Effective: 10/26/06
- Mary Roy (replacement/second position) School Clerk-Elementary (#204103), Blanche Sprentz Elem., 2.5 hours daily/10 months, Range CL12/Step E. Effective: 11/1/06
- Jennifer Vanek (replacement) Special Education Instructional Assistant (#990887), Rancho Cordova Elem., 6 hours daily/9.5 months, Range CL10/Step C. Effective: 11/1/06

CLASSIFIED REASSIGNMENT

- Sheila Ayres (replacement) Health Assistant (#206572), Blanche Sprentz Elem., from 1.7 hours daily to 2 hours daily. Effective: 11/1/06
- Mindy Dyce (replacement) from Food Services Office Technician (#200116), 6 hours daily, Range CL22 to Help Desk Technician (#201318), 4 hours daily, Range CL25 and Administrative Assistant III (#206662), 4 hours daily, Range CL23. Effective: 11/1/06
- Joan Galdemez (hours increase/growth) Computer Instructional Assistant (#207110), Empire Oaks Elem., From 17.25 hours weekly to 19.5 hours weekly. Effective: 10/1/06
- Dottie Coughlin (new position) from Snack Bar Worker (#990757), Cordova High, 3 hours daily, Range CL05 to IASA Parent/Assistant Coordinator (#207113), Mills Middle. 3.9 hours daily, Range CL10. Effective: 11/1/06
- Mary Roy (hours decrease) Parent Assistant Coord. (#207599) Blanche Sprentz Elem., from 19.5 hours per week to 10 hours per week. Effective: 11/7/06

- Julie Scott (hours increase) Special Education Instructional Assistant (#206667), Cordova High from 6 hours daily to 6.5 hours daily. Effective: 9/6/06
- Lauren Silva (reclassification/title change) from Instructional Assistant for the Physically Impaired (#207003) to Licensed Vocational Nurse. Effective: 8/18/06
- Misty Spaeth (hours increase) Student Care Center Assistant (#206581), Cordova Meadows Elem., from 2 hours daily to 3 hours daily. Effective: 11/1/06

RATIFY RESIGNATION AND FIX LAST DATE OF EMPLOYMENT

- Valinda Nelson, Special Education Instructional Assistant (#266649), Cordova High, reason: personal. Effective: 10/31/06
- Daria Stark, Education Instructional Assistant (#990843), Empire Oaks Elem., reason: personal. Effective: 8/2/06 (revised date)

TERMINATION OF PROBATIONARY STATUS

- Donna Esparza, Food Service Worker I (#203167), Mitchell Middle. Effective: 10/27/06

CLASSIFIED RETIREMENT

- Elsie Webber, Administrative Assistant II (#990945), Attendance & Due Process Office. Effective: 12/29/06
Elsie was hired as a Library Clerk at Mills Middle School on August 30, 1993. In August of 1994, she moved to Attendance & Due Process as a Clerk Typist I. She was reclassified to a Clerk Typist II for that department in March of 1998. In October of 2000, she became the Administrative Assistant II in that department. Elsie will retire with thirteen years of service to the District.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- **Intel Volunteer Matching Grant Program** – Leroy Tripette, Heather McGowan
Deputy Superintendent Bettencourt introduced Public Relations Assistant Heather McGowan. Ms. McGowan introduced Leroy Tripette, Education Manager for Intel. Mr. Tripette reviewed the volunteer grant program that allows Intel employees to invest in volunteering in the community. For every 20 hours volunteers spend in classrooms or on projects such as campus beautification, Intel matches that time with \$200. Mr. Tripette presented President Stanley with a check for \$197,000.

President Stanley thanked Mr. Tripette and Intel for their contributions to the District and said we are honored to have them as a partner.

- **SMUD Energy Incentive Program** – Mike Hammond
Mr. Hammond introduced Isaac Cotton, Manager of Commercial Services for SMUD. Mr. Cotton thanked the District, Mr. Hammond, and Matt Washburn for their participation in the energy conservation program. Through retrofitting of existing schools, White Rock and Cordova Lane Elementary Schools, and methods used in construction of Navigator Elementary, 150,000 kilowatt hours were saved. He presented President Stanley with a check for \$50,120.

Trustees thanked Mr. Cotton and SMUD and commented on how much could be saved if all schools in the District were involved.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SHORT/MYERS MOVED TO ADOPT the agenda with a request from Ms. Stanley that the Board President's Statement be moved to after Item 0607-105 Charter School Petition.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

0607-100 - Public Participation

Conrade Mayer, Rancho Cordova resident

- Thanked Ms. Bettencourt, Mr. Washburn, and Mr. Hammond for listening to members of the Measure B Oversight Committee and going forward with Measure N on the November ballot. He also thanked members of the committee.
- Wished Sara Myers a wonderful retirement and thanked her for her eight years of dedication to the students, communities, and the District.

Donna Burnett, District counselor

- Introduced herself as a new half-time lead counselor for the District.
- Reported on activities in which District counselors are involved, including the creation of a guide book for late-arriving, high school refugee students. The guide was put together by Cordova High counselor Cindy Evans and is printed in Russian with plans to print in Spanish in the future.

0607-101 - REPORTS OF DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

Student Advisory Board – Kendra Stanley

- Ms. Stanley not in attendance at this time.

PTA/PTO Council – President Laura Ruby:

- No report.

California School Employees Association – President Pat Wilhoyte:

- No report.

Folsom Cordova Education Association – President Barbara Brydon:

- No report.

Folsom Cordova Administrators Association – President Eddi Rains:

- Reported that District administrators are reflecting and taking a proactive stance, looking at the relevance and rigor of our programs, and establishing strong relationships in our problem-solving approaches and teams. The goal is that every student shall succeed.

AGENDA CONSENT ITEMS

MYERS/SHORT MOVED TO APPROVE agenda consent items with the exception of 0607-104 D. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

0607-102 - Administrative Matters

A. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2006

0607-103 - Business Matters

- A. Accept Donations: To Acknowledge Receipt of Donations to the District
- B. Warrants and Payroll: Monthly Ratification
- C. Approve Change Order No. 7: Vista del Lago High School
- D. Approve the Sale of Surplus/Obsolete Furniture and Equipment
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 11-16-06-16: Approve 2006-07 CDE Infant Toddler Resource Contract No. CCAP-6288 Project No. 34-6733-00-6

0607-104 – Instructional Matters

A. Expulsion Panel Recommendations: Case Numbers: 0607-16(S) and 0607-17(S)

0607-16(S)

Expel through the end of the spring semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; suspend expulsion order; student is to attend Walnutwood High School through the end of the spring semester of the 2006-2007 academic year (parent and student voluntarily agreed to this program); individual student counseling to address assaultive behavior, anger management, coping skills, and decision-making skills.

0607-17(S)

Expel through the end of the spring semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; student is to seek educational options through his district of residence (Sacramento City Unified School District); if student establishes residency in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, student is to attend the Sacramento County Community School or an accredited educational program outside of the District through the end of spring semester of the 2006-2007 academic year; upon his reinstatement, if student has established residency in the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, student must successfully complete at least one semester at the Mather Youth Academy in order to be considered for return to a comprehensive program of the FCUSD; individual student counseling to address assaultive behavior, anger management, and decision-making skills.

- B. Approve Master Contracts for Nonpublic School Placement and Approve Individual Service Agreements for Specific Students
- C. Approve Confirmation of Candidate for Community Advisory Committee for Sacramento County SELPA
- D. See below.

0607-104 D Approve Extended Educational Field Trip Request: Folsom High School Jazz Students to Attend Festival at Sea Jazz Cruise, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Baja Mexico

Ms. Stanley pulled this item to point out to the Board that this trip is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, but does include one school day. She is concerned that students may miss a final exam(s) on that day, and hopes that the rest of the faculty at Folsom High will be forgiving of those students and find another day for them to make up missed final(s).

STANLEY/MYERS MOVED TO APPROVE Item 0607-104 D.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC HEARING

0607-105 – Charter School Petition – Walden Charter School

President Stanley opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.

Dr. Vickie Boyd, Walden Waldorf Methods Charter School

- Thanked the Board for the “shove” given last spring when they first petitioned for their Charter. They have spent the last 14 months making a model charter.

Bonnie River-Bento, co-director of Waldorf Charter in Petaluma

- Spoke of the Charter in Petaluma, which has over 200 students.
- Walden Method Charters are in almost every free country in the world; there are seven in Northern California.
- This is a developmental approach to education which appeals to parents, and parents are highly involved.
- Students write their own texts.
- The first two hours each day are for academics; the rest of the day is academics integrated with the arts.

Steve Hoschler, former elementary teacher in Sacramento County

- Feels there are misconceptions about the Waldorf movement, and they are not just a “flash in the pan.” They are here to stay.
- Wanted the Board to know that Waldorf is standards-based delivered in an alternate form.
- They picked our District because they believe, as FCUSD does, in delivering an excellent educational product.

Public Hearing closed at 6:47 p.m.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT

President Stanley spoke of Trustee Sara Myers who is retiring from the Board. She commended Ms. Myers for her tireless public service during eight years on the Board of FCUSD and eight years on the Folsom City Council. She described Ms. Myers as being professional, courteous, involved, well-read and well-studied, and always a vocal advocate for kids, the District, and school boards. She is direct, and you know where she stands.

President Stanley presented Ms. Myers with a plaque and a piece of original artwork by Annlyn Huang, an AP art student who graduated from Folsom High last year.

Ms. McCormick

- Thanked Ms. Myers for her dedication and service and, on a personal note, for sharing her knowledge and experience with her.

Mr. Shaw

- Thanked Ms. Myers for her years of service and said it was a pleasure to serve with her.

Mr. Short

- Recognized Ms. Myers for all her years of dedication; her heart is always in the right place.

Ms. Bettencourt

- Thanked Ms. Myers on behalf of classified and certificated staff for always keeping students first.

Ms. Myers said she was honored to be here surrounded by faces that evoke a sense of family. Thanked all for the gifts, support, and guidance. She is very proud to have been a part of this family for eight years. Members of her real family were present and were introduced.

Ms. Myers’ speech is included as an attachment to these minutes.

Meeting recessed at 7:04 p.m. for a reception honoring Ms. Myers.

Meeting reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

0607-106 – Approve Date of Annual Organizational Meeting: The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District Board of Trustees is set for Thursday, December 14, 2006, 6:00 p.m., Folsom High School, Folsom, California

SHORT/MYERS MOVED TO APPROVE the annual organizational meeting of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District to be held on Thursday, December 14, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at Folsom High School, Folsom, California

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

0607-107 – 2007 California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly Nominations

Deputy Superintendent Bettencourt announced that there will be four openings for the CSBA Delegate Assembly in the Sacramento County Sub-region 6b.

MYERS/McCORMICK NOMINATED Mr. Shaw. Mr. Shaw accepted the nomination.

STANLEY/MYERS NOMINATED Mr. Short. Ms. Stanley said that since FCUSD is one of the larger districts in the region, she feels two candidates should be nominated. If it looks like there are enough nominees in the region that one of the two might be bumped, Mr. Short has agreed to withdraw.

BOTH MOTIONS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

0607-108 – Approve Plan for Joint Coordination between the City of Rancho Cordova and the Folsom Cordova Unified School District for the Implementation of Measure N, a School Facilities Bond

Ms. Bettencourt explained that Measure N passed at almost 70%. In order to further a cooperative relationship with Rancho Cordova, at a meeting between the District and City, a plan was derived to involve the City Council and community in playing a bigger part in maximizing the use of the fund from Measure N.

Craig Osborn, Measure B Oversight Committee Chairperson

- Thanked the Board for placing faith in the community by going forward with Measure N.
- Thinks the proposal for the partnership looks fantastic and will build on successes we've had on the prior two bonds.
- As a point of clarification, #1 of the four items of the plan indicates that "the Governing Board welcomes and will accept the nominations from the City Council" (regarding nominations for candidates to be a part of the Bond Oversight Committee). Feels this is misleading and thinks the word "accept" should be removed.

MYERS/SHORT MOVED TO APPROVE the plan for joint coordination between the City of Rancho Cordova and the Folsom Cordova Unified School District for implementation of Measure N, a school facilities bond, with the removal of the word "accept" as indicated above. The partnership will be advisory in nature.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

Ms. Stanley thanked Mr. Osborn and Mr. Mayer "who embody the spirit of the community."

0607-109 – Authorization to Enter into a Contract for a Rapid Phone Messaging System

Ms. Bettencourt explained the need to communicate quickly with parents in emergency situations and to communicate instructional information. She explained that for the first year of the contract, funding from Intel for recycling has been held in reserve for this expenditure.

Ms. McCormick

- Would this be just for school sites, or will there be something at the district level?

Mr. Short

- Can we use money from the security grant we just received?

Mr. Shaw

- Asked for a definition of the word “period” in the fiscal impact section of the agenda item.

Ms. Stanley

- Asked what kind of information would be supplied to the company. Also asked if there is a way to identify incoming calls so parents know they are from the District.

Ms. Bettencourt replied to the questions:

- We are buying an off-site service. It can be used by schools, staffs, or district-wide with approval by the Superintendent or designee.
- Homeland Security Grant funds might be used, but we would have to make changes to the grant.
- The “period” referred to is from July 1 through June 30.
- Information would be uploaded from our student information system, SASIxp. Believes calls would not be identified because hundreds of lines are used to get the calls out in a limited amount of time. We may ask parents to identify numbers they want to be used in case of emergencies.

Ms. Bettencourt indicated that Public Relations Assistant Heather McGowan and Director of Education Technical Information Systems Kelly Calhoun are researching protocols for information disseminated through the system. Management, Cabinet, and the Executive Council will review those protocols.

Mr. Short

- After staff reviews, will the Board have a chance to look at the protocols?

Ms. Bettencourt

- Information regarding protocols will most likely be published in a document, similar to the Superintendent’s Friday review.

MYERS/McCORMICK MOVED TO AUTHORIZE the District to enter into a contract with NTI Corporation for a Rapid Phone Messaging System that will enable the District to disseminate in a timely manner reliable information about events and/or rumors that may cause concern for the safety of students.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, including Advisory

DISCUSSION

0607-110 – Proposed Dates, Times, and Places of Regular Board Meetings for January 2007 – December 2007

Trustees will review and take action in December to set the 2007 dates. Ms. Bettencourt pointed out that January 4 is part of Winter Break.

Ms. Stanley

- April 5 is in the middle of Spring Break. Thinks meetings should be changed to April 12 and April 26, and May 10 and May 24. That will keep us on track for the rest of the year.

Mr. Shaw can’t be here for the January 4, 2007, and wondered if that date might be changed.

Ms. Stanley expressed concern about the affect changes might have on staff and asked Ms. Bettencourt to confer with staff for input.

REPORTS

0607-111 – Reports to the Board of Education

A. Deputy Superintendent Bettencourt

- Is pleased the Superintendent was able to take some well-deserved time off.
- Thanked Conrade Mayer, Craig Osborn, and the steering committee. We were blessed to have them through the election campaign. Thanked the Board for their contributions as well.
- Congratulated Mr. Short and Mr. Shaw.

B. Correspondence to the Board

C. District Committees

BOARD OF EDUCATION

0607-112 – Board Business

A. Board Communication

Kendra Stanley

- Reported on the second SAB meeting:
 - Discussed the purpose of SAB.
 - Cordova High reported that the trash problem is improving, and kids think it's because of improved school pride.
 - Mills students would like to see a new paint job on the lockers in the PE room.
 - All schools are involved in fundraisers and canned food drives for the holidays.

Mr. Shaw

- Wished Sara good luck and envies her treks around the world.
- Attended a technology convention in Dallas. Reported on the highlights which included:
 - More information on one of his pet projects, the paperless school board
 - Student Tracker, used by universities and colleges all over the nation to track where kids go after they leave high school.
 - Web-based staff development
 - China's presence in the world and how it will soon be the #1 English-speaking country in the world.
 - On-line learning. Physical presence is not as necessary as it used to be. Learning is the constant – time should be the variable.

Ms. McCormick

- Impressed with Intel's contribution and the things going on in the community with partnerships being formed.
- Thanked Matt Washburn and Mike Hammond for their work with SMUD and efforts with conservation.
- Saw on the news that Williamson Elementary teacher Kei Lucas was the Channel 10 Teacher of the Month. Was impressed with her message of wanting to give students a good sense of self.
- Complimented Heather McGowan on all she does in getting the news out to the community.
- Thanked Sara once again.

Mr. Short

- Is amazed every year at Intel's contributions and all the work from their volunteers.
- The SMUD program is excellent. Imagine what we could do if we brought all the schools up to energy standards.
- Thanked Conrade Mayer for his efforts in passing Measure N.

- All the best to Sara. Hopes she drops us a card from wherever she is.
- Congratulated Mr. Shaw on his re-election and Mr. Benton on his election
- Supports Mr. Shaw's views on the paperless Board.

Ms. Myers

- Wonderful that Measure N passed.
- Thanked Ms. Stanley for letting her lead the pledge after all these years.
- \$247,000 from Intel and SMUD. It's as good as winning the lottery.
- Hopes to see an emphasis on career technical programs in future years. It's what this country really needs.
- Hopes we're able to expand our offerings in foreign language to include Chinese and Arabic.
- Good luck on the state budget process in face of the coming recession. Sees another struggle confronting us.
- Aside from travel and dancing, hopes to study Spanish and become fluent. She will find ways to keep busy.

Ms. Stanley

- Thanked Mr. Shaw for attending and reporting back on conferences that others can't attend.
- Attended an interesting meeting on safe routes to school. The Transportation Authority is using its own resources, and they have the tools to help schools track students who are walking to school. They're calling it Smart Routes to School. Thinks this is a perfect time to implement something district-wide or with Rancho Cordova and Folsom. The city would like to see a sidewalk built from Light Rail to Kinney High School. Would like the Board's support in getting committees started.
- Congratulations on Measure N. We still have options for Measure M. Thanked Ms. Bettencourt for continuing to work on that.
- Congratulated Richard, Ed, and Roger on being elected to the Board.
- Best wishes again to Sara.
- Board members will be attending the CSBA conference at the end of this month. In the past we have been given the opportunity at Board meetings to share what we learned. It has been suggested that this year we do a written report similar to the Superintendent's week-in-review. Thinks it's a good idea.
- Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

INFORMATION

0607-113 – Modernization and Construction Projects Update – Rancho Cordova

0607-114 – Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2006, at Folsom High School, 1655 Iron Point Road, Folsom, California, 95630.

Record of meeting schedule for November 16, 2006:

Open Session	5:00 p.m.
Closed Session	5:05 p.m.
Open Session	6:05 p.m.
Recessed for reception	7:04 p.m.
Reconvened	7:22 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at	8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Godwin, Executive Secretary to the Board

Clerk of the Board

Trustee Sara Myers:

I have had the opportunity to address many different audiences over the past 16 years, first as a city council member, and then as a school board member. Tonight, I am honored to be here surrounded by so many familiar faces that evoke a sense of family.

As I say farewell to public life, I want to thank all of you for the gifts you have given me, especially the cemetery plot (that was a joke). I do thank you all for the support and guidance offered to me.

My years on the Board were full of challenges, but overall I leave with a great sense of satisfaction that we as a Board accomplished so much.

I believe quality is never an accident, but always the result of intelligent effort. Our Board established the goals, set the policies, and developed the framework for success, but we left it to the people on the front lines, who know best, to figure out how to get the job done.

Our District is a quality district in so many ways, and this is due to the quality of the people who make up the Folsom Cordova family. The record speaks for itself. I am very proud to have been a part of this family for eight years.

Our success is due to the unstinting effort and expertise of a world class team. To me, the quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, and we have so many who have demonstrated that commitment.

A few personal milestones for me were being involved in the planning of Vista del Lago High School and the inclusion of a joint-use library, the implementation of a Spanish magnet school, becoming our own SELPA under the leadership of Maureen Burness, the terrific results from standards-based teaching as demonstrated by our API scores, improvement of our facilities by passing the school bonds, and the selection of a superintendent who will guide us through high school reform and innovations to further improve the quality of our schools.

During my time with the California School Board Association's Delegate Assembly, I served as a liaison with state and federal elected officials. I can't claim a significant amount of success here. We still don't get all that we are entitled to from Washington when it comes to special education. Lobbying for reform of the No Child Left Behind act was interesting but frustrating; however, I have hopes that the change in Washington may result in modifications to this law.

When I look back at my years on the Board, there are people that I will always remember. I am grateful for two superintendents focused on educational leadership with finely honed skills in community relations – Norman Siefkin and Patrick Godwin.

No school district in California has a better deputy superintendent for finance than Debbie Bettencourt. She steered us through the years of budget crunches and worked tirelessly on six bond issues. Her ability to explain complex budget issues was always deeply appreciated. Matt Washburn and Geri Wickham were exceptional in facilities planning, and Rhonda Crawford's painstaking detail on the budget documents was awesome.

I credit Mark Rickabaugh, Janie DeArcos, and Leslie Faust for the selection and mentoring of our principals, an outstanding group who implemented the standards and conducted the staff development. These individuals were always there to answer the questions and to resolve issues that I brought to them. Judy Lewis is another superstar.

I attended two Model Schools Conferences with Janie, and we brought back considerable information that was disseminated to others at Board meetings and other forums. I highly recommend this conference to other Board members.

Others I am grateful to for their contributions have retired or moved on – Sandy Gallardo, Bob Mange, Bob Fillman, Jim Thompson, Howard Thomas, Marsha Wilson, Mindi Nunes, and Al Schieder, but each will be remembered fondly.

It is a real source of pride to have so many on our staff who were recognized as leaders in their field. Kelly Calhoun, Heather McGowan, Mary Ann Dellaney, to name a few. And of course, Ginny Bateman and our National Board Certified teachers who exemplify a commitment to excellence that always impressed me.

My duties as a board member were made much easier by the superb staff support from Renae Radovich and Carla Miller. These ladies were lifesavers. And I can't forget all of the wonderful Employee Recognition ceremonies coordinated by Effie Rae. Kelly Calhoun and David Hickock cheerfully and efficiently came to my rescue when my laptop crashed. I am grateful to all of you and my family, of course.

I am no longer young enough to know everything, and I've reached the age where my computer has memory, but I don't, so if I've overlooked anyone, please forgive me.

What I've learned is that to be a successful board member, one must have the patience of Mother Teresa, the enthusiasm of a Kings fan, the assurance of a 20-year old college student, the diplomacy of a wayward husband, the curiosity of a cat, the ability to smell a rat, and the good humor of a clown.

Retirement is that time of life when your bank account empties out, and your medicine chest fills up. Now I look forward to a life full of travel and fun with John that doesn't have to be squeezed between Board meetings – and an absence of stress and phone calls interrupting dinner.

I will continue to help out at Carl Sundahl Elementary School where my grandchildren Heather and Richie attend, and I will remain interested in the welfare of the District. I look forward to the opening of Vista del Lago and other new schools in the District and hope that I will be invited to these events.

Having given you my thoughts, I will conclude with my very best wishes to this Board and to our District staff for continued success in the future.