

A Note From the OPUSD Board President

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I am very excited to tell you about a new committee currently forming in the school district. It is a Community Outreach Committee with a primary focus of giving back to the Oak Park Community, a community which graciously and generously contributes in many ways to our school district. We have just started brainstorming ideas for ways in which OPUSD can go out and positively influence the larger Oak Park community, how OPUSD can bring those without children in the schools to our schools, and how we can better communicate with the community at large. If you are interested in being a part of this committee please contact us at BLaifman@oakparkusd.org. We welcome your participation and look forward to hearing your ideas.

In my September note I mentioned the work of the Board, as well as District and school site leadership, in regard to the District's moral imperatives and goals. We finalized them at our September board meeting and they are posted on our website. Please visit www.oakparkusd.org and go to "Moral Imperatives" under the "About Us" tab to view this hopefully more useable document as it is the framework for district leadership and guides much of the education that our children will be receiving.

This month's Partner In Education award went to Jan Rosen, a parent and staff member in the OPUSD. Among other contributions, Jan does an incredible job with coordinating and running registration at MCMS. Please join us in congratulating her with this recognition. I encourage you to nominate those who you see offering their gift of time, ideas and talents purely for the sake of making the school district and the Oak Park community a better place. Nominations can be made by going to the OPUSD website at www.OakParkusd.org and clicking on the "Partner in Education Award" under the "District Office" tab.

Amongst other items of business, at our September Board meeting we held a public hearing and approved the flexibility to transfer otherwise categorical funding to the general fund. With the cuts in state revenue, the state has authorized school districts to use funding which is earmarked for certain purposes to be utilized at the discretion of the local education agencies. While this by no means corrects for the deteriorating budgets that public schools in California are experiencing, it does help to use the funds we have to best educate our children in Oak Park. We also approved the District's unaudited actuals for the fiscal year 2010-2011 and approved a resolution establishing the Gann appropriation limit for fiscal year 2011-2012. Thanks to the generosity of the Parent Teacher Organizations at the respective school sites, we were very happy, appreciative and grateful to be able approve and have full time librarians at each of our elementary schools and Medea Creek. We also held a hearing and approved the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials for 2011-2012.

I hope that you and your families have had a good start to the school year.

Barbara Laifman
OPUSD Board President