



GROSSMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT & COMMUNITY UPDATE
From the Office of Superintendent Terry Ryan

October 2006

Dear Parents and Community Members,

This is a terrific time to be in the Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD). Under the leadership of the Board of Education, and with the assistance of a superb teaching, administrative, and support staff, we are making significant progress in meeting the diverse educational needs of our students.

From our focus on improving standards-based instruction, to implementing new and ongoing Districtwide initiatives such as Professional Learning Communities, we have set the standards high for everyone. Today, I'm pleased to share with you our track record of success, detailing the top ten major accomplishments Districtwide, while serving as your Superintendent.

We are most excited about the significant gains in student achievement. These accomplishments outlined below serve as a tribute to the efforts of the wonderful families that support our students, and to the dedicated members of our staff, administration, Board of Education, and PTAs.

GUHSD Top Ten Major Accomplishments 2003-2006:

1. The GUHSD increased its ending budgetary balance by nearly \$3 million over the last three years. We have reduced our base budget by \$13 million, producing an accumulated budgetary reduction of \$30 million. The District also paid off \$28 million in construction debt over the same period. These fiscally prudent measures were accomplished despite mid-year budget cuts from the state, a one-year deficit in COLA, and the worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression.
2. Districtwide, student scores have risen by an average of 20 points in API test scores over the past three years. Congratulations to our students and teachers for their hard work.
3. The GUHSD is successfully modernizing its eleven high schools for the first time in nearly fifty years after passing Proposition H. The \$274 million bond grew to nearly \$400 million with additional state matching funds.

4. The GUHSD increased employee salaries by nearly 11 percent over the last two years. District employees received a 6.89 percent salary increase for the 2006-07 school year, plus the equivalent of a 3 percent salary increase to cover the increased cost of health and welfare benefits over the past three years.
5. The GUHSD significantly enhanced student safety by adding video cameras; electrical, gas and fire systems; improved communication systems; and conducting safety audits by the former El Cajon Police Chief. Formation of the East County Gang Task Force also improved safety, resulting in less gang-related crime.
6. The GUHSD presently has some of the finest Principals and Vice Principals in San Diego County and the state. The District promoted eight of its current eleven Principals and twenty-eight of its forty Vice Principals over the last three years.
7. The GUHSD instituted a student recovery program which locates students who have dropped out of high school and helps them re-enroll. Our drop-out rate has been reduced from 506 students in 2003-2004 to 206 students in 2005-06. Since January 2005, 137 students have been given a second chance to succeed.
8. The GUHSD instituted a requirement that each high school is to have at least one female co-administrator.
9. The GUHSD reinstated a teacher intern program with SDSU and is in the process of establishing minority teacher and math teacher intern programs to help address areas of critical teacher shortages.
10. The GUHSD saved millions by re-evaluating its expenditure of funds on the PowerSchool student information system. District staff has created a new teacher/parent/student information system which is cost efficient and responsive to the local needs of our educational clients.

Thank you for taking the time to review these accomplishments. As we celebrate the academic progress and achievement outlined above, we also recognize the continued need to explore avenues to better challenge and prepare our students for higher education and careers after high school. Our focus remains on student achievement and supporting quality teaching.

Warmest regards,



Terry K. Ryan
Superintendent