



from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins

Sheriff Kolender A Partnership with Grossmont



Undersheriff Bill Gore, Superintendent Bob Collins, and Sheriff Bill Kolender

The meeting on Tuesday, April 8th, with San Diego County Sheriff Bill Kolender, Under-Sheriff Bill Gore, and Assistant Sheriffs Jim Cooke and Al Guerin underscored a strong positive relationship between the Sheriff's Department and the Grossmont Union High School District.

From that meeting came **a continued resolve to ensure that our schools are safe environments**. That requires continued staff training in the coming months on issues ranging from threat assessment procedures to emergency procedures.

Also discussed were issues of **drug and alcohol usage, and drinking and driving**. Every parent worries about how their child will handle the pressures of their peers. This fall, I would like to begin an ongoing dialogue with parents and students regarding alcohol and drug abuse. Not simply a one day program, but rather a program that is consistent and constant and supports our parents' efforts to keep their children safe.

We also discussed issues of gangs in the East County. While East County does not have the same problems larger urban areas may have, any street gang poses a threat to our communities. Staff will be briefed regarding the current situation in East County and will actively participate in an ongoing dialogue to develop programs and responses to any expansion of street gangs in our communities.

The Sheriff's Department is a vital partner in our effort to ensure the very best educational programs on our campuses and in our communities.

Building A Foundation for Foundations

Probably every high school student remembers their high school years. They were sometimes wonderful years, and sometimes difficult ones. But they were memorable. That's why high school reunions are so well-attended. Most students really do want to see what happened to their friends ten and twenty years later. More often than not, students are bonded to their high schools. Therein lies the strong foundation for a Foundation at every high school.

Thousands of Graduates in East County

We estimate that from 125,000 to 150,000 students have graduated from our high schools. They encompass every possible profession and are a base for building a continuous funding stream in each school. This is part of the Strategic Plan presented to the Board of Education in February 2008. It is also a commitment by the Grossmont District to help each school develop its own Foundation.

Partnership with Harris Connect

Last year, the District began working with our schools to develop their alumni base by engaging the firm Harris Connect in order to build alumni associations. Our flagship school, Grossmont High School, has records of over 29,000 graduates. The goal is to connect those graduates to a database of e-mails and addresses. El Cajon Valley High School has 17,786 graduate records, Granite Hills 19,783, and Mount Miguel 18,789. Therefore, a lot of work is ahead for us in this area. But once the database is built, schools will have a wide range of options in working with alumni to support school foundations. We will be working with our high schools intensively over the next six months to build the database.

Putting the database together however, is only step number one. Step two is actually contacting alumni and providing activities and programs of interest to them. Grossmont High School has taken the first bold steps to accomplish this task. The staff has formulated a foundation working group and is taking proactive steps to register alumni and develop a support strategy that includes fund raising for specific campus projects. The alumni association also creates a sense of community within each of our schools – it is that sense of community that is so important to the quality of life within each of our schools.

We will want to look not only at our own schools, but also schools outside of our District that have developed successful foundation programs. One example is Point Loma High School, which has registered over 34,000 alumni. The Point Loma High School Foundation has specific targets such as raising \$1,000,000 for a new music center. These examples can help inform each of our schools of what can be accomplished and how to go about the task.

East County has a rich history that has been developed by its graduates over the past century. Now is the time to organize those alumni in support of our schools and communities.