



April 23, 2008

from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins



CTE Advisory Council meets to discuss new CTE program in GUHSD

CAREER TECH EDUCATION (CTE) IS ON A FAST TRACK IN GUHSD

With over 80 participants, the **CTE Advisory Council met on Tuesday, April 8, to shape Career Tech Education in Grossmont.** The quote from the agenda for the day summed up the enthusiasm and commitment to change in the room:

"If you do what you've always done; You'll get what you always got; And you'll be where you've always been."

Led by Adena Boxer and the ROP/CTE staff, the Council had four working groups that each gave input into what needed to be in place in order to move the CTE program forward.

Issue one is funding. A strong and vibrant CTE program will require addressing our former industrial arts facilities. Some will need to be modernized, while others will have to be rebuilt in order to address the new industry sectors that were never envisioned 25 and 50 years ago. Also, Proposition H never envisioned the modernization of these facilities. This will require either new bond or grant funding.

Issue two is the training of school staff, including counselors to address a new CTE program. Suggestions included a Career Tech Center for the District as well as the integration of curriculum. **Issue three is the completion of a new CTE Master Plan** that incorporates the input of every stakeholder in our District.

There is no question that CTE is on a very fast track. Everywhere I have spoken, there is support for a strong CTE program. ***"It's about time," is the constant comment heard from legislators and the business community.*** Hopefully, in the coming year we will have ribbon-cuttings for new CTE programs in refurbished facilities that possess the same spirit as our ribbon cuttings for athletic facilities and newly-completed buildings.



From left to right: Grossmont High School PTSA Co-President Laurie Sorensen, PTSA Co-President Christine Balderas, Rynna Herwehe, and Marcy Montag guide PTSA discussion regarding school facilities and Proposition H

Grossmont PTSA, Proposition H and "Getting the Job Done"

There's an old saying in politics that ***"all politics is local."*** ***The same is true about communities and high schools.*** Parents, students and teachers care deeply about ***their schools and communities.*** This was articulated by over 25 parents on Tuesday, April 8, at Grossmont High School. The PTSA addressed District staff with their concerns regarding construction on campus and, following completion of Proposition H projects, ***how much work would still be required to ensure that the entire Grossmont High School campus is renovated.***

Proposition H has made dramatic differences in our school environments. However, Proposition H never envisioned the full renovation of our school sites. Most of the scope of work actually looked at the rehab of core facilities (English, Social Science, Math and Science classrooms), leaving many rooms and buildings untouched. Leveraging modernization, State matching funds, and other funding sources, the District has made strong strides in addressing the facility needs of our sites, but ***there are not sufficient dollars to modernize the entire school site.***

The Grossmont PTSA wanted to know the same thing that parents in every school want to know:

- What is being completed under Proposition H?
- What isn't being done?
- What needs to be done?
- What is happening with the \$65M that was set aside by the Board of Trustees?
- How can we get our entire campus modernized?
- And finally, when will this all be completed?

What is clear is that parents care deeply about their schools. One parent may have articulated it best when she said, "We have parents coming here for orientation and they are disappointed when they see our school; particularly when they compare our school to high schools outside of East County." There is no question that our District offers the finest instructional programs and has exceptional teachers. We want to ensure that we have school environments to match the quality of our programs.

On May 8, we will be making recommendations to the Board of Trustees that specifically address the concerns raised by parents at Grossmont and at each of our other schools and communities in the East County.