



June 9, 2008

from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins

Two Superintendents Unite to Celebrate the Re-Opening of Modernized Classrooms at El Capitan



Former GUHSD Superintendent Terry Ryan, Superintendent Bob Collins, El Capitan Principal Bill Sullivan, District Trustees, Staff, former Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Member Harold Hilliker, and ASB students and Cheerleaders gather to cut the ribbon.

It's unusual to see two superintendents together at a school event, but that was the case on Wednesday, May 14th. **The celebration was the ribbon-cutting re-opening the first modernized classroom buildings at El Capitan under Proposition H.** We re-opened 10 modernized classrooms for teachers and students – each fully air conditioned and equipped with the most modern technology.

The ceremony also provided me and all of East County with the opportunity to thank former Superintendent Terry Ryan for his leadership in making Proposition H possible. Five years ago, Superintendent Ryan had two major tasks: to get Proposition H on the ballot, and to get the bond passed in East County. That took true leadership and an ability to bring together a coalition of stakeholders who often have differing views on bonds, taxes and projects. **Prop. H was the first bond passed in the Grossmont Union High School District in 37 years** and the outcome for students, teachers and communities has been invaluable. Today, new infrastructure for plumbing and electrical, modernized classrooms, air conditioning and new technology in refurbished classrooms have been realized under Proposition H. **This will be one the legacies of Terry Ryan, to the children and families of East County.**

As we opened new classrooms, we could see nearby buildings that were never included in Proposition H. **Prop. H funding will only be sufficient to modernize half the classrooms District-wide.** At the May Board meeting, I presented recommendations for a new bond designed to address the entire school campus. It would complete projects envisioned under Proposition H that will not be completed, due to inflation. It would also substantially modernize the remainder of our school campuses including new Career Tech Education facilities and begin to address a new high school in Alpine/Blossom Valley.

As we reflect upon the vision of our School Board and former Superintendent Terry Ryan, it is their leadership that allows us to talk about completing the vision for modernizing our East County high schools.

Lemon Grove City – School District Collaboration Committee Meeting



Lemon Grove Officials L to R: City Manager Graham Mitchell, Mayor Mary Sessom, Mayor Pro Tem Jerry Selby

Under the leadership of the Lemon Grove Mayor, City Council and School Board, the Lemon Grove City-School District Collaboration Committee is a model for partnership and working together to ensure maximum cooperation.

Meeting four times a year, the Committee provides an important forum for the resolution of city and school concerns. It is a meeting that I will be participating in because of the importance of this type of articulation between our high school in the Lemon Grove area.

Some of the items discussed at the May 21 meeting were skate parks, students crossing trolley tracks when warning arms are down, community safety issues, school supervision at the Lemon Grove Recreation Center, truancy and loitering in Lemon Grove Park, and ways to continually enhance our school programs to maintain higher enrollment.

We have met with most City Councils in the East County and now want to be able to establish meetings similar to that of Lemon Grove in our continuing efforts to be strong partners with local government.

We will also be establishing very strong relations with our feeder school districts this summer. These relationships are intended to provide for a more seamless transition of students from the 8th to the 9th grade and an opportunity to deepen ties within our extended parent community as well.