



August 11, 2008

from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins



Bob Collins, Superintendent and Steve Coover, Principal tour the construction at Mount Miguel High School

Proposition H and the Transformation of Mount Miguel High School

From the moment school was out for summer vacation, bulldozers, trucks, contractors, electricians, plumbers, masons and heavy equipment operators descended upon Mount Miguel High School to begin the transformation. Every inch of the concrete walkways and lawn, including the student quad, were dug up and removed while long trenches were dug for the new school infrastructure.

Unlike most of our high schools, Mount Miguel waited until its 50th Anniversary before starting its Proposition H modernization projects because the District was able to leverage greater matching funds from the State as a result of its age. **But the wait will be well worth it. Ahead of schedule**, the entire infrastructure will be complete with new walkways and landscaping by the opening of school on August 18th.

Then the rest of the modernization of Mount Miguel will begin, building by building and classroom by classroom. My visit to Mount Miguel reminded me of the quality of the work that is being done under Proposition H and the work we still have in front of us to ensure that every school is modernized and has the facilities necessary to provide the quality environment every student, family and teacher deserves.

A New Field for the Matadors

*Students recognize
inequities quickly.*

They see it when they visit other schools that have very different facilities. "Why do they have really nice facilities? Our schools don't look like that." It's hard to explain to a teenager why facilities may be so different in terms of quality. ***It's even harder because it's an issue of equity and fairness.***



"Build it and they will play on it."

"A Dream Come True"

Sylvia Sposato, Manager of School Facilities, at Mount Miguel stood overlooking the area where the new synthetic turf field is being constructed as a result of intensive fund-raising assistance from Supervisor Dianne Jacob and a grant from the Chargers. Her comment was, ***"It's like a dream come true."*** This will be the legacy of Proposition H: rebuilt infrastructures, modernized buildings and new science buildings. ***However, we have a long way to go to complete the modernization and address equity.*** As a District, we need to remember Sylvia Sposato's comments and continue to make dreams come true.

Integrating Student Support Services in GUHSD



L to R: Jeni Mendel (seated), Homeless and Foster Youth Coordinator; Jodi Sevilla, Categorical Programs Director; Lucia Washburn, Director of Alternative Education; Debbie Comstock, Social Worker for Rady Children's Hospital; Mike Lewis, Assistant Superintendent; Priscilla Schreiber, Board Member; and Jenee Littrell, Project Shield Director

In June, agreements were reached to coordinate a range of District and County services to address at-risk students and their families. The efforts will be under the umbrella of **Project Shield**, a new four-year federal grant designed to provide a wide range of support services to parents and child foster care and group home providers. This effort will include addressing services such as probation, social and psychological services and providing a broad range of intervention programs.

Follow up meetings will take place with County Agencies to solidify coordination. At the same time, **Project Shield** staff will coordinate the development of the Family Resource Centers at schools and implement procedures necessary to address at-risk students and their families.