



COMMUNITY CONCERNS FROM
FEBRUARY 19, 2014
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
AND
RESPONSES BY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. **CONCERN:** A number of Perris High School students, a Perris High School teacher, and a Perris High School counselor spoke in favor of a second year probationary teacher, who was being recommended for non-reelection.

RESPONSE: While the District Administration will not comment publicly about personnel matters, there is a rigorous and comprehensive process in place to ensure that only those certificated staff members not meeting District standards are recommended for non-reelection. Education Code §44929.21(b) only gives the District less than two years to make a tenure decision on probationary certificated employees. These recommendations and decisions are always difficult.

2. **CONCERN:** A community member expressed concern over the District not providing technology to substitute teachers. She went on to say that the technology was important for many reasons, not the least of which was in case of a campus emergency.

RESPONSE: A couple of weeks ago, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and the Director of Technology met with site substitute coordinators to put the final touches on a plan to issue technology to substitute teachers. Within the next two weeks, this issue will be resolved.

3. **COMMENT:** Two high school teachers spoke to the Board about the need to keep class sizes as small as possible.

4. **CONCERN:** The CSEA Labor Relations Representative suggested that the Board do a market study to see if the wages paid to classified school employees is comparable to other Districts. He went on to say that classified employees suffered greatly in the recession, including salary reductions and layoffs.

RESPONSE: It should be noted that the Perris Union High School District chose not to layoff during the tough economic times. The layoff of bilingual instructional aides was not a true layoff, as all of the affected employees were offered instructional aide positions in Special Education. The Perris Union High School District chose to eliminate bilingual aide positions because those positions were not effective in closing the achievement gap for English

Learners. Furthermore, there is no research to show that these positions improve the acquisition of English for EL students.

5. **CONCERN:** A member of the public informed the Board that meeting minutes from the last Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) for Measure T were not on the District website.

RESPONSE: This happened as a result of the failure to have a quorum at the last COC meeting.

6. **COMMENT:** A member of the public informed the Board that the Perris Elementary School District was considering placing a bond on an upcoming ballot to address its facility's needs.

7. **CONCERN:** A Library Clerk from Heritage High School encouraged the Board to support a reclassification study of her position District-wide.

RESPONSE: The District Administration will be working with CSEA on following the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and working through the reclassification process.