



PERRIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY CONCERNS FROM

AUGUST 20, 2014

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

AND

RESPONSES BY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

COMMENT: Tom Ashley, Technology Teacher-on-Special-Assignment at Paloma Valley High School, and a Trustee for the Mt. San Jacinto Community College District, asked the Board as individuals and as a governing body to support the College's upcoming bond measure. If approved by the voters, Measure AA would raise \$295 million for Community College Facilities. On September 17, 2014, the Board of Trustees will consider adopting a resolution in support of Measure AA.

CONCERN: A parent from Heritage High School criticized the school's Administration regarding the timeliness of textbooks and Chromebooks being distributed to students, and the need for the new STEM Building.

RESPONSE: The first two days of school at Heritage High School were designed as a student team-building effort. That effort was designed, planned, and implemented by the staff, not the Administration. Secondly, research has shown that early team-building with students better connects students to school, ultimately improving outcomes. In terms of the distribution of textbooks and Chromebooks, the timeline at Heritage is consistent with other schools in the District. Finally, the STEM building at Heritage was built primarily to increase seat capacity, as the school is at its enrollment capacity. In addition, numerous studies and a national focus have focused on the need for learning environments that engage students in their learning. Robotics and other hands-on learning activities not only improve basic skills, they also help address the country's need to increase the number of student pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The District Administration is proud of the progress being made at Heritage High School on a number of efforts including being named a Title I High Achieving School a few years ago, being one of only a handful of schools last year nationwide being named an AVID Demonstration School, and having Riverside County Office of Education designate their counseling program as a Model of Excellence.