

# Bulletin Board

Spring 2014

## Exciting Programs for Next School Year By Patrick Traynor, Ph.D, Superintendent

It has been nice meeting more of our Alpine County community. As we finish our school year, we are preparing for many exciting new programs for next year.

First, we are offering a four week Summer Academy at Diamond Valley Elementary School. The Academy will be from June 16 to July 11, 2014. We are anticipating nearly half of our student body attending. Our academic focus will be in English Language Arts and Math – the Common Core State Standards. We will be providing a computer assisted instruction medium. Part of the English Language Arts curriculum will involve video production where students will create screen plays, act them out, and edit and produce videos using video editing software. We have a variety of online programs with students working at their own pace and teachers guiding and assisting as needed. We are also focusing on physical fitness in a fun environment. Students will play games such as capture the flag, ultimate Frisbee, and various ball sports involving aerobic activity. Additionally, Fridays are reserved for field

trips and fun activities such as a visit to the Carson City Museum, Lake Tahoe's ice skating rink, and other performances.

Second, we have hired three part-time teachers for English Language Arts and Math. This will provide a full teacher for almost every grade level of instruction in English Language Arts and Math. This is in contrast to our current situation where we have one teacher for every two grade levels. This is a welcomed County Office of Education initiative as we transition to the Common Core State Standards.



Additionally, we are planning on reestablishing our music program at Diamond Valley Elementary School. This year, our School Site Council sponsored music instruction during our after school program. We would now like to formalize this by seeking a qualified part-time music teacher to help rejuvenate our band and perhaps start a choir program as well. This teacher will also provide music instruction for our low-

er grades.

We are also making plans to implement a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program at Diamond Valley Elementary School for identified gifted and high achieving students. Some students need more in depth experiences and this program will address these students' unique needs.

Finally, we are expanding our preschool program to include potty-trained two year olds. This means children ages 2 to 5 will be eligible. The County Office of Education with Child Abuse Preventions funding through Alpine County Health & Human Services and the First 5 Alpine Commission is dedicated to offering young children a comprehensive, high quality early education program so our children are well prepared when they reach kindergarten. The preschool program is on the Diamond Valley campus and there is a close relationship with Diamond Valley Elementary school staff and services. We are open the same days and times as Diamond Valley Elementary and children are able to ride the bus to preschool.

## **School Board Highlights** by Terrie Peets

**March 2014** – Dr. Traynor shared the latest updates to the LCAP, noting that new common core math materials had been received and the last Staff Development Day had training from the math publisher on the new materials. Certificated contracts were all renewed for the 2014-2015 school year. A long-term leave of absence was granted for an employee with the request to advertise for and hire a temporary Bear Valley School bus driver. The Comprehensive School Safety Plan was reviewed and approved with suggested updates. The Board approved the Second Interim Report which showed a positive certification for the current year and the subsequent two years. Under the County Board meeting, Dr. Traynor reviewed the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) which provided more support to include a summer school program, to have one teacher for every grade level in English and Mathematics, and that this would be a very effective use of these one-time funds. Ms. Cheri Warrell, Learning Center Director and Grants Coordinator, updated the Board on supplemental funding, grants, MOU agreements, PBIS program grant, Youthful Offender Block Grant and funds from the Mental Health Services Act funds. The County's Second Interim Report was approved which showed a positive certification in our financial obligations for the current year and the subsequent two years. Business Manager, Ami Chilton, noted that a potential trailer bill for the elimination of out-of-state tuition reimbursement was being drafted for only one year funding. It was noted that Dr. Traynor would be holding public meetings regarding the future of interstate tuition situations and the funding elimination.

**April 2014** – The certificated teachers presented informational reports about the happenings in their individual classrooms, the group's on-going efforts in the District which included programs, testing and the Common Core implementation. The group presented their opening request for a salary increase and the importance of recruiting and keeping highly quality teachers with increased salaries. Dr. Traynor updated the Board on the proposal from certificated and classified staff who were requesting a 4% salary increase and an increase in the benefits cap. The 2014-2015 school calendars were approved, an increase in hours for the Technology Assistant was approved, the Diamond Valley School Safety Plan was updated and approved, and the rescheduling of June board meetings to June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> were approved. Under the County board meeting, Dr. Traynor noted that students were showing interest in the summer school program and 1.5 teacher positions were currently being advertised along with a part-time music/arts teacher.

**April 2014 (Special Board Workshop)** – The Board adopted the District's initial proposal to the Alpine County Teachers Association and the Classified Employees Organization proposing adjustments in employee compensation to promote consistency in salary schedule advancement, to promote a competitive salary, and to balance these efforts while maintaining fiscal solvency. The 2014-2015 "Governance" goals, for both the District and County, were approved as follows: 1) Keep the district/county focused on learning and achievement for all students; 2) Ensure opportunities for the diverse range of views in the community to inform board deliberations; 3) Actively manage limited financial resources for maximum educational results.

## **Board Highlights** continued

The District's Vision and Mission statements were approved with no changes from the previous years. Potential budget decisions were discussed in detail. The "District Goals" were approved as follows: 1) Ensure that our community, staff, and students are involved in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) process as related to state priorities including student programs and achievement; 2) Provide support and training which is needed to fully implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the state's assessment of them (Smarter Balanced Assessments) working towards student's successful achievement; 3) Manage finances in order to sustain and expand educational programs. The "County Goals" were approved as follows: 1) Maintain growth toward school readiness for all preschool students and maintain efforts toward ensuring academic success of high school students; 2) Provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff; 3) Manage County Office of Education finances in order to sustain and expand educational programs.

**May 2014** – The Board was presented a Loss Control Trophy and check in the amount of \$4,000 from the Tuolumne JPA for an amazing job the maintenance department had done regarding taking care of findings during a previous inspection. It was noted that the DVES 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion was schedule for May 29, 2014 at 7:00 pm and the Bike-A-Thon is the last day of school on May 30, 2014. Public hearing dates for the 2014-2015 District and County budgets were set for June 23, 2014. An additional increase in hours for the Technology Assistant was approved along with the employment of Michelle McLeland as the Business Services Technician III-Payroll. Dr. Traynor noted that a MOU with the Alpine County Behavioral Health Department was approved to help support the PBIS program for next year.

## **Diamond Valley Peace Park** by Dawn Riddle

The Diamond Valley School Peace Park was established and dedicated to our long time band teacher, Mr. Jack Allen. The dedication took place on June 12, 2007 with his family, Mr. Allen's band students and his fellow staff members in attendance. The park was created as a space to encourage reflection and peaceful conflict resolution.

Last year DVS received a Lowe's grant and a generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Albert Del Masso to improve our Peace Park and to build stairs and terracing on the hillside leading to the park, which will also provide major erosion control on the hill. Thank you to Lowe's and the Del Massos.

We would also like to thank our students, families, community members and members of the California Conservation Corp who volunteered their time and energy to plant, dig holes, plant trees, lay pavers, build watering wells, paint the arched bench, build railroad tie stairs and terracing and provide labels containing educational information about our trees and shrubs.



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School District**

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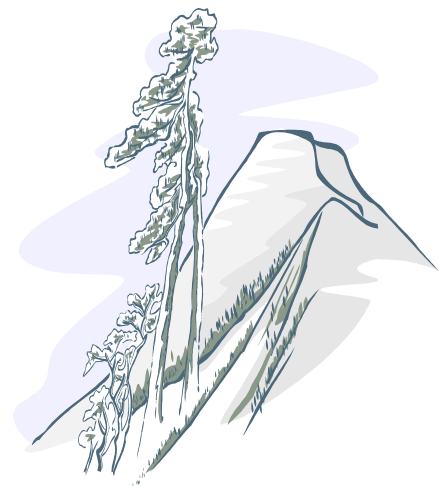
**Alpine County Unified School  
District and  
County Office of Education**

**Vision**

**All students are engaged and  
successful.**

**Mission**

**We provide a safe and  
engaging learning  
environment**



**Spring 2014**

