

# Bulletin Board

Winter 2014

## Positive Changes Enhance Education in Alpine County

By Patrick Traynor, Superintendent

Alpine County Schools and programs are well into the second half of the school year. I would like to share a few events that have transpired since our last Bulletin.

First, toward our efforts to bring all classrooms up to the digital age, three additional Diamond Valley Elementary School classrooms have received an interactive digital "chalkboard." A teacher can still write on these boards like a traditional chalkboard, but now, teachers can readily display images from the Internet, drag items across the board during demonstrations, efficiently fill objects with color for contrast, quickly display short animations from the Internet, and even save their work for later reference. We are looking forward to taking even greater advantage of these powerful tools as part of our ongoing professional development for teachers. Called Promethean Boards after their manufacturer, these devices were purchased as part of our Common Core State Standards Implementation Fund Plan, approved by our School Board.

This Plan was required for a grant provided by the California Department of Education to help schools transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English Language Arts and Math. As stated in our last Bulletin, California is one of 46 states to have adopted these new standards (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>).

To accelerate our transition to the Common Core State Standards, our School Board at their February 2014 meeting adopted Math materials aligned to the CCSS for Diamond Valley Elementary School. Our Diamond Valley teachers will be receiving

and implementing this new curriculum soon. Using these materials before the end of this school year will certainly give our students a tremendous advantage as they start the new school year in August. These materials were one of over 30 sets that were part of the State Board of Education's math adoption earlier this year in January.

In addition to Math, Diamond Valley Elementary School has made great efforts to emphasize the fine arts in its after school program. Our after school program is largely funded by the State's After School Education and Safety (ASES) grant. It consists of four components: nutrition (snack), recreation, academics, and academic enrichment. For the academic enrichment component, our students are learning some music fundamentals using piano keyboards. Our goal is give students a solid foundation to begin a music program with instruments as they progress.

For our preschoolers, we have extended our hours of operation from part day to full day. Our preschool, located at 43 Hawkside in Alpine County is now open from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. We offer a variety of full and part time options to accommodate a variety of needs. Preschoolers enrolled in our program will not only develop a solid learning foundation, they will have mastered the behaviors consistent with learning as well. Our preschool is open to all children ages three to six years old, inside or outside our County. Those interested may make an appointment or find out more information by calling us at 530-694-2230 X 285.

On the other side of the County,

our Bear Valley students are succeeding as our partnership continues with Vallecito Union School District in Calaveras County. Although we do not have enough students to justify reopening our Bear Valley site for next school year, we remain committed to our agreement with Vallecito to ensure our Bear Valley students can fully participate in our neighboring district's schools.

Finally, Alpine County Unified School District and Alpine County Office of Education need our community's input on several state educational priorities. These priorities include (but are not limited to) learning outcomes, parent involvement, basic services, and school climate. The purpose is to use this input to develop district and county plans that will guide our actions over the next three years. In addition to gaining input at various meetings throughout our County, we have developed an online survey for your convenience. You may find a link to the survey from our website: [www.AlpineCOE.k12.ca.us](http://www.AlpineCOE.k12.ca.us). Based on input we have received so far, we have extended our deadline to March 15, 2014. We know that our school system impacts our local community tremendously. We would greatly appreciate your input from all Alpine County residents.



## School Board Highlights by Terrie Peets

All District School Board and County Board of Education agendas, minutes and audio can be located on the website located at: [www.alpynecoe.k12.ca.us](http://www.alpynecoe.k12.ca.us) under the "Trustees" tab.

**October, 2013** -- The Board Appreciation Award was present to Mrs. Carol Lawlor, Diamond Valley Elementary School Library Media Clerk. The Impact Aid Application public hearing was held with interest in English language arts and math improvement, increased participation in Algebra I, emphasis on Native American History, desire for involvement in the development of the LCAP, and interest that all students be treated equally with achievement gaps being narrowed. Collective bargaining agreements with the Alpine County Teacher's Association and Classified Employee Organization were approved with a 2% salary increase and a \$500 one-time bonus. All other non-represented staff received the same salary increase and bonus. The Common Core State Standards Implementation Fund Plan was approved. A public hearing was held with an approved resolution that there was a sufficiency of instructional materials in the district. Under the County Board of Education meeting, the Board ratified the county staff receiving the same salary increase and one-time bonus, the approval of the County Common Core State Standards Implementation Funds Plan, and the public hearing and resolution for sufficiency of instructional materials. A County Committee on School District Organization was held noting that there were no updates that required a formal meeting.

**November, 2013** – Dr. Traynor noted that the After School Safety & Education Program had an addition of a Music Tutor, and the on-line algebra program at DVES was continuing to be a great program offering a very rich academic environment. Ms. Ami Chilton was hired as the new Business Manager. The Diamond Valley Elementary School Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and budget was approved. 2013-2014 "Governance Goals" and "District/Superintendent Goals" were approved. "Governance Goals," which are applied to the School Board include: I. Support a smooth transition for the new Superintendent through open communication and establishment of team roles. II. Seek community involvement and support for our schools focused on student achievement. III. Actively manage limited financial resources for maximum educational results. The "District/Superintendent Goals," include: I. Involve the staff, students, and the community in the transition process for the new Superintendent. II. Implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessments following the state timeline. III. Manage finances in order to sustain educational programs. Under the County Board of Education, the "Governance Goals" were noted as being the same as the District's Governance Goals. The "County/Superintendent Goals" were noted as follows: I. Maintain growth toward school readiness for all preschool students. II. Provide a safe and healthy learning environment characterized by self-discipline, personal responsibility, resilience, compassion, and mutual respect. III. Manage County Office of Education finances in order to sustain educational programs.

**December, 2013** – Acknowledgement was given to Mrs. Janis Doyal, retiring Business Manager, for her 23 years of service. The Board thanked the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for their generous donation. District positive certifications were approved for the first interim budget report along with the ACUSD audit report from Stephen Roatch Accountancy Corporation. Ms. Nicole Fruitman was hired an Instructional Assistant-Technology. Under the County Board of Education, Dr. Traynor shared that the Early Learning Center Preschool would be extending their hours upon state approval. The County First Interim Financial Report and the ACOE Audit Report from Stephen Roatch Accountancy Corporation were both approved.

**January, 2014** – During the yearly District Organizational Meeting and County Organizational Meeting, Mr. Bell was approved as President and Mr. Holdridge as Clerk of the Board. Under the regular board meeting, Dr. Traynor updated the Board on the LCAP (Local Control Accountability

## Board Highlights continued

Plan) and his efforts for receiving community input. With the Common Core State Implementation grant funds, new Promethean Boards are now in each classroom. New entry doors at Diamond Valley Elementary School are in the process of procuring a security grant. The 2012-2013 School Accountability Report Cards were approved and are available on the District's website for review. The annual report of developer fees collected for residential and commercial development projects and the five-year developer fee report was approved. The Board's annual self-evaluation meeting, goal setting and budget workshop was scheduled for April 11, 2014. Under the County Board of Education meeting, Dr. Traynor announced that the Alpine County Early Learning Pre-School Program was now a full day program starting on Monday, January 13, 2014. The 2012-2013 School Accountability Report Card for the Alpine County Opportunity School was approved. The report card can be found on the District's website.

### Future Board Meeting Dates

March 11, 2014 -- District Meeting Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. with General Open Session around 6:00 p.m. followed by the County Meeting in the Admin. Annex Building and the Bear Valley Library

April 8, 2014 -- District Meeting Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. with General Open Session around 6:00 p.m. followed by the County Meeting in the Admin. Annex Building and the Bear Valley Library

May 13, 2014 -- District Meeting Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. with General Open Session around 6:00 p.m. followed by the County Meeting in the Admin. Annex Building and the Bear Valley Library

## Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten by Laura Parks

Do you have some young 4 to 5 year old youngsters in your family or neighborhood? Well now is the time to start spreading the word about starting school in the fall of 2014.

Here is what folks need to know:

School is mandatory for six year old students.

Districts must admit children at the beginning of the school year (or whenever they move into a district) if they will be five years of age on or before September 1 for the 2014-2015 school year and beyond.

Transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum or a "TK" curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. Children are eligible for transitional kindergarten if they will have his or her fifth birthday between September 2 and December 2 (inclusive) for the 2014-2015 school year.



More information about Kindergarten and TK can be found at the following California Department of Education website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/em/kinderfaq.asp#E3>

**Alpine County Unified  
School District**

43 Hawkside Drive

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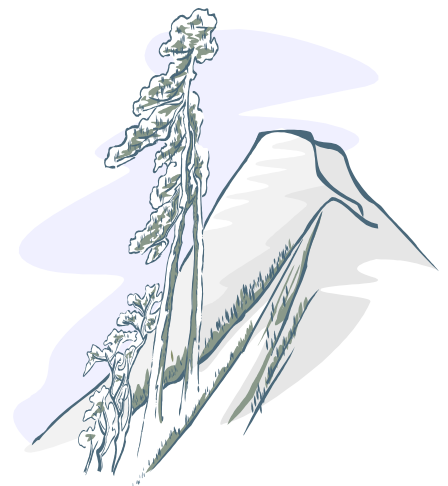
**Alpine County Unified School  
District and  
County Office of Education**

**Vision**

**All students are engaged and  
successful.**

**Mission**

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



**Winter 2014**

