



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees

Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Etienne Bowie • Thomasina Russaw

Board meeting of June 14, 2010

SPECIAL MEETING

Parcel tax communications: The Board of Trustees voted to take the next steps toward a possible parcel tax measure by informing district voters about the accomplishments and financial challenges facing the district, and the approaches it is considering for addressing state budget cutbacks. Trustees approved spending up to \$200,000 from unrestricted ending fund balance for the information campaign and other preparatory steps. TBWB Strategies will assist with the communications effort.

Although the board has not yet made a final decision, trustees authorized the administration to begin working with bond counsel to prepare the necessary legal notices, resolutions and ballot language should the board decide to move forward. They also approved filing a public legal notice announcing that the board will hold a public hearing on Aug. 2 to decide whether to place a parcel tax on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The notice says that voters would not be asked to pay a parcel tax of more than \$69 a year for a period longer than six years. That leaves the door open to a lesser amount for a shorter time.

The tax would be used to support a variety of educational programs, the legal notice says, including:

- Maintaining math, science, writing and other core academic courses that prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities;
- Preserving job training programs that prepare students for careers in technology, engineering, nursing, paramedics and science;
- Keeping community college libraries open and maintaining library services;
- Maintaining programs that provide equal access to classes for students with disabilities;
- Providing affordable course offerings to meet growing student demand; and
- Attracting and retaining qualified instructors and support staff.

The communications effort over the next six weeks will include presenting factual information to district voters as well as students, faculty, staff, foundation board and commission members, and external groups such as elected officials, business and community leaders and the news media.

Chancellor **Linda Thor** noted that recent polling of likely voters showed that 71 percent said they would definitely or probably support a \$69-per-year parcel tax for

Foothill-De Anza and that support increased to 75 percent after they received more information. She also said that it looks as if the San Mateo County Community College District's parcel tax is on track to pass as additional late-arriving and provisional ballots are counted from the June 8 election.

Charles Heath from TBWB Strategies told trustees that an independent citizens' committee would have to be formed to run a political campaign and raise private funds for it if the board votes in August to proceed with a parcel tax.

Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** said his organization supports moving forward with a parcel tax.

NEXT MEETING

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, June 21 at 6 p.m. at Foothill College's Hearthside Lounge. Please check the agenda to verify time and location. Agendas are generally posted 72 hours in advance at:
http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/agenda/.

Board Highlights is designed to communicate board meeting news to faculty and staff across the district. This publication is not the official minutes. For more comprehensive information, you may consult the official minutes, which generally are available at http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes after their approval at the subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at bartindalebecky@fhda.edu or extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.