

Governing Board

Tom Ohmart, president
Nancy Case
Anne Greenberg
Jill Hoogendyk
Sue M. Skidmore, Ed.D.

End of the Year Message

James P. Lee, Ed.D., superintendent

I want to thank the parents and voters in our district for their support of the temporary sales tax that was approved May 18. Its passage means that budget reductions will be minimal because voters approved the Maintenance & Operations override last November. I appreciate our voters and believe they recognize that our district has a long history of fiscal responsibility. The district reduced spending in anticipation of more state-imposed budget reductions, and these two factors have offset most of the cuts that will occur.

Next fall we will be able to address overcrowded classrooms, maintain valuable programs and people, and restore salaries 2.62 percent plus an additional .58 percent to account for increases in insurance and retirement costs for employees.

As we approach the final days of the 2009-2010 school year, I find myself reflecting on my first year as superintendent of this wonderful school district. As you can probably imagine, like any rookie year, there were days that were challenging, but many more days that were both enjoyable and gratifying. This much I can tell you – I have learned a lot!

I learned that we have an outstanding governing board that is truly committed to what is best for our students. They understand the importance of a collaborative and inclusive organization, and they model a cooperative spirit, unlike any governing board I have seen.

Through the newly-formed Superintendent’s Leadership Advisory Committee (SLAC), which consists of presidents of all stakeholder groups, I learned the value of listening to the leaders of these groups to help guide decision making, while they kept me apprised of the pulse of the district. This proved to be extremely beneficial as we worked our way through the difficult budget process.

I learned through the development of COMPASS 2015, our district’s long-range plan, that if you allow people to move toward autonomy, mastery and purpose, as suggested by Daniel Pink in his 2009 book, *Drive*, great things will happen. I am excited about COMPASS 2015, which will be our roadmap to preparing our students to thrive in a future with so many unknowns.

As I visited schools, I was reminded that our buildings are filled with outstanding administrators, passionate teachers and committed support staff. When the school year started with all employees receiving a 2.62 percent pay cut, administrators and support staff remained positive, and teachers went about their business with the same commitment to student achievement as they had in previous years. What a great tribute to the professionals of this district!

The most important thing I learned is that there is no better place to work than in “Paradise.” I want to thank all of you for an outstanding year, and thank you for making PVUSD such a terrific place for cultivating world-class thinkers.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer. We look forward to greeting our students again on Monday, August 16, when another exciting year of learning begins.