



# A-TEAM NEWSLETTER



Mary Beth Scow

FEBRUARY 2008

District A

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

02/18/08.....President's Day

03/17-21/08...Spring Break

03/24/08.....\* Classes Resume

04/14/08.....Staff Development Day

05/26/08.....Memorial Day

For a complete list of calendar dates access

[Important\\_Dates\\_07-08.pdf](#)

### REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:

February 14, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

February 28, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

March 13, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

March 27, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

The above board meetings are held at:

Edward A Greer Education Center, Board Room  
2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

Access the district's website at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net)

### SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS:

February 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

(Work Session)

March 10, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

(Work Session)

The location for the above meetings will be announced as scheduled.

### PROGRESS REPORTS UNSATISFACTORY NOTICES DISTRIBUTED:

In addition to the parent communication system available on school websites, Progress Reports/Unsatisfactory Notices will be distributed to students on 2/22/08 and 5/2/08. If your child is absent on the above date, please contact your child's school to make arrangements to receive the notice. [Please Note:](#) Notices will not be mailed home.

### TEACHERS WILL ISSUE QUARTER GRADES FOR THE 2007- 2008 SCHOOL YEAR ON:

Quarter:	Quarter Ends:	Report Cards
Two	January 18	February 6
Three	March 28	April 16
Four	June 4	June 13-mailed

Happy February!

Thanks to everyone who attended our January A-Team/Southeast Region meeting. We were fortunate to have a very timely presentation on school funding from Jeremy Aguero of Applied Analysis. Jeremy is a sough-after fiscal analyst who focuses on Nevada. We heard a very thorough explanation of the formula that the state uses to determine how to fund education. The epiphany to everyone that learns of this formula is that in years when there is excess money in the categories that are designated for education, the excess reverts to the state's general fund. In years where those revenues are short, the plan is for the state to make up those revenues.

This applies directly to what is happening this year. The "guarantee" of the state to make up shortfalls is not being honored and we are being asked to cut 4.5% of our budget. I, with many of the other trustees have many concerns about the cuts. We are being told to cut money that was designated for specific categories in the last legislative session, such as full-day kindergarten and empowerment schools. Also, there is very little input from the superintendents, school boards, and communities in making decisions about the cuts. We will keep you informed as the situation unfolds.

Our February meeting will be about the upcoming bond. Joyce Haldeman, Director of Community and Government Relations, will give us an overview, as well as information about a Strategic Plan that we are developing. **Please note: the meeting will be held at Burkholder Middle School 355 W. Van Wagenen, Henderson at 9:30 a.m. on February 14.** We are excited for you to see the award-winning rebuilt Burkholder that opened this fall, with many energy-saving features.

I am excited for Reading Week, which is coming up on February, 25-29. I look forward to reading in as many schools as possible! It is my favorite school week of the year.

Thank you,  
Mary Beth

**DISTRICT A-TEAM MEETINGS:** Plan on joining us for the District A-Team Meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., at Greenspun JHS, 140 N. Valle Verde, Henderson, Nevada

2008 A-TEAM Meeting dates are: April 10, 2008; May 8, 2008.

## CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operation Crime Free Schools

**Tip Hotline: 799-0228**

Call the school police to report suspicious activity at your school. You can remain anonymous.

## HOMEWORK HOTLINE

**799-5111**

Monday – Thursday  
3:30p.m. – 5:30p.m.  
Assistance in all subjects.  
Now on Cox Cable  
Channels 96 and 111

## 2007: The Year in Review

As the Clark County Board of School Trustees begins a new year, they remain hard at work to ensure the continued success of students in the community. With new board officers and the superintendent's reminder to "Keep Your Eye on the CAP," trustees have begun 2008 energized and proud of the school district's accomplishments from the past year.

In January 2007, trustees elected Ruth Johnson as Board President, Terri Janison as Vice President and Mary Beth Scow as Clerk. Throughout the year, trustees worked with the superintendent and his staff as well as outside organizations and agencies to provide the community with a high-quality public education system. In determining how to best serve the community, they received reports from the year-round school calendar study group, the committee to study school start times, the policy ad hoc committee and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee.

The board received several awards and honors through the year for their work in music education programs, building programs and office management systems while receiving commendations for their fiscal responsibility in the last legislative audit. Trustees were honored by the Nevada Association of School Boards. Carolyn Edwards was nominated for Director of the Year while Sheila Moulton was awarded Officer of the Year for her work representing Clark County District G.

To provide the public with better access to information that affects the school district, trustees installed new computer software that allowed them to create and post agendas electronically along with the minutes from past meetings. Not only did these efforts provide the community with a better opportunity to stay involved, it resulted in savings of close to \$55,000 in just one year. To help meet

the busy schedules of community members who wished to take an active role in education, trustees moved the start of their regular board meetings to 4 p.m. and took the first steps towards web-casting the meeting to a broader audience. Finally, trustees re-designed their newsletters and created a new "Special Edition" to help the public stay informed on key district-wide issues.

Last year, in addition to visiting many of Clark County's schools for open houses and other important events, trustees held more than 56 public hearings and heard issues ranging from policy and school safety to zoning and budget cuts. They conducted a pair of community linkage meetings, including one meeting with parents on federal regulations and another for feedback from recent school district graduates. Trustees launched and subsequently aired five "School Matters" programs, a live, call-in television program that encourages feedback from the community on important education issues in Southern Nevada. As a result of the success of the "School Matters" television program, four additional shows have already been planned for 2008.

In February and July, trustees conducted their evaluation of Superintendent Walt Rulffes and found him to both be in compliance and making reasonable progress with the district. Trustees accepted all 11 of the superintendents monitoring reports, which monitor the progress of the school district in educating students, and also provided three commendations for jobs that were done exceptionally well. Thanks to the superintendent's hard work and that of CCSD staff and students, trustees saw significant increases in the number of schools making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the number of graduates attending UNLV and also were pleased to see the entire school district make AYP for the first time. Additionally,

the district saw a decrease in both the dropout rate and the achievement gap in 2007.

In keeping up with the CCSD's growth and evolving needs, trustees approved and monitored six charter schools and nine new schools. Trustees opened two replacement schools, one of which is the first green building in the district while the other is the first of several new career and technical centers. Trustees also attended several new school dedications and the ground breaking for the new KLVX television station and Virtual High School campus.

Moving forward, trustees are committed to working with the community to provide quality education and opportunity for students. Communicating with the public will be central to all school board goals for 2008. Trustees have outlined plans to have staff produce all board minutes within 30 days of a meeting and will work hard to develop public speaking guidelines that are more user friendly. They also will work to improve the community linkage process and continue the development of the "School Matters" television program. Trustees also are developing a Board Audit Committee that will help the board evaluate the areas of service it can improve upon. Additionally, trustees hope to once again participate with the school district in a community service project during the holiday season, a tradition that began this past December.

While this year will undoubtedly bring a new set of challenges and opportunities, the board of school trustees will continue to work closely with the talented staff, teachers and students who proudly call Clark County home.