



# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

*If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice,  
have recognition for difference without attaching difference to privilege.*

- bel hooks



Vol. 6 No. 13

*Depending on the Kindness of Strangers Issue*

Jan. 23, 2007

## **PVUSD Annual Parent Conference Partners: Teachers and Parents Cultivating and Sharing Knowledge**

A conference geared towards parents with children  
acquiring English as a Second Language

*Saturday, February 3, 2007*

*8:00am - 3:00pm*

*E. A. Hall Middle School*

*201 Brewington Ave., Watsonville*

Please make every effort to share this information with our students who are parents. Breakfast, lunch and a free book, and many important "talleres" for our students.

## ***Institute of Language and Culture Opening Delayed***

Although permits to be connected with electricity and gas were submitted to PG &E in 2005, as of last week there was still no indication of when the work will be done. According to our district construction office this means that there will not be a March opening for the building. When pressed as to when we might expect to open, we were informed that the date is unknown. Although we are fortunate that much of our instructional program at the Porter Building will continue without a glitch, this news is at the least disappointing, and in the worst case has negative fiscal implications for our program... in plainspeak, drats! Stay tuned.

## **Focused Educators!**



Four of the twelve members of School Council take a somber approach to the planning for the Focus on Learning school improvement process. This process, while it should be a part of the way we work every year, ramps up to a new level every six years. You'll be hearing a lot more through spring. See the January School Council notes provided by AV on page 3.

## **Granite Rock and Bruce Wolpert Contribute \$50,000 to Support the Institute of Lan- guage and Culture**

On page two we reprint the letter we've received from Granite Rock CEO, Bruce Wolpert, indicating their generous support for what we are doing in adult education, and for what we hope to do even more effectively in the ILC. This is a tangible indication of the support in our community for our programs in general, and for our efforts to support parents specifically. We described to him our need for funds to acquire the kind of technology our teachers and students deserve to use. We reported to him some of our ideas about how video imaging can provide authentic contexts of our community and schools. Beyond language acquisition, these strategies can build critical awareness of the actions parents can take to support the learning and achievement of their children, and to assert their own needs. Of course we are so grateful for this generosity, but also  
*(cont. page 2)*

**THANK YOU  
GRANITE ROCK!!**



January 13, 2007

Mr. Bob Harper  
Director  
Pajaro Valley Unified School District  
Adult Education  
280 Main Street  
Watsonville, CA 95076



Dear Bob:

It was a pleasure to discuss the new Institute for Language and Culture now under construction on Rodriguez Street. I believe that your plans to provide ESL classes for adults, which directly prepares parents to discuss their children's progress at school, is very important.

I think we understand the challenges facing the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in very similar ways. Latino parents, particularly mothers, already want their sons and daughters to do well in school and make it possible for them to have life opportunities for higher paying jobs. Parents rarely attend parent-teacher conferences, resulting in the loss of parent support for the classroom teacher. While many of these parents are not able to help with homework, they can provide strong guidance to their children regarding homework hours and turning off the television. I would encourage you to push your plans forward as quickly as possible.

I think that the first group of mothers to complete the training will encourage other families and fathers to attend. I will do what I can to encourage fathers to get involved. I think our two Watsonville young men that attended UC Berkeley, and now work in management positions at Graniterock, might be helpful in delivering this message. I thought the idea of a video presentation of a typical parent-teacher conference was excellent. Parents need to learn that there are expectations at each grade level (standards) and that students who do not master them at each grade will continue to slip behind. While teachers need to do a better job of not allowing this to happen, by providing after school or Saturday tutoring based on recent classroom achievement quizzes or assessments, parents need to be involved in making sure their children get the resources they need. Parents also need to know where their sons and daughters can receive tutoring help with their homework now until the PVUSD institutes a formal tutoring expectation in all classrooms.

- Monterey County
- San Benito County
- San Mateo County
- Santa Clara County
- Santa Cruz County
- Alameda County
- City and County of San Francisco

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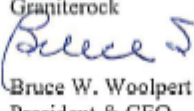
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(cont. from page 1) I was gratified by the level of awareness and understanding implicit in some of the questions Mr. Wolpert asked us. I think there is something naturally efficacious in adult education in forming publics for justice and democracy. We sometimes fall far short, but adult education is irresistible when people get a sense of our potential. It is certainly our hope that this gift give us even more credibility as we continue to raise the funds from our community that our government, state and federal, is unable to provide. As an aside, we surprised Mr. Wolpert by reminding him that he is an adult school alumnus; he and his mother Betsy were in the parent/child participation Watsonville Coop in the 1950's. Thanks again to GraniteRock for this extremely generous committment to the families of our community. Also many thanks to AV Coyle, who facilitated the meeting.

Page Two  
Mr. Bob Harper  
Director  
January 13, 2007

I am pleased to inform you that Graniterock has agreed to donate \$40,200 for the purchase of the video classroom and production equipment. In addition, we are also open to considering an additional \$10,000 in funding to advance the plans described above and to encourage the largest number of parents to be "education support trained" during this school year and before the beginning of the next school year. When you have some ideas of how these funds could be directly used to accelerate your progress and success, please let me know and I will discuss them with our gifts committee.

When you are ready to purchase the video equipment, please let me know. We can reimburse the District for the purchases, pay the invoices for the equipment directly, or simply send the District a check.

Sincerely,  
Graniterock  
  
Bruce W. Woolpert  
President & CEO

cc: Terry McHenry, Interim Superintendent

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education School Council Minutes  
1/17/07

The mission of Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education is to prepare a diverse population of adult students for success in the community – at work and leisure – as citizens, parents and lifelong learners.

**Present:** Natalie Castillo Carranco, Cynthia Stark, Marta Bechhoefer, Edie Trotno, Teresita Marchisello, Jack Carroll, Charmaine Ryan, Debbie Craig, Cary Keisler, Lynn Simons, Marina Candor, Bob Harper, Ann Veronica Coyle

**Director's Report: Attendance, Budget Update, Delays at ILC:**

Bob reported that for the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months of this attendance year our ADA has at least matched that of last year at this time, perhaps gone a bit over, and that there is no need right now for more TV ads or other student recruitment efforts/expenses. Although we may go over cap this year, unlike last year, when we received some reimbursement for over-cap ADA, this year we will not. We received the annual Federal Grant Notification which came in \$18,000 under budget, due mostly to low numbers of paired scores. Further negative news is that PG&E has communicated that they will not be able to do the electrical work required to complete the ILC on schedule, and that they cannot predict when they can do the work. This delay also stops the final stages of construction, which must wait for the installation. This is a serious situation which is costing us money every day. Our overall financial situation, with the virtual certainty that we will operate in deficit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, makes it imperative that we do not keep small classes open. The good news is that we have just received notice that

Granite Rock has agreed to donate \$40,200 for the purchase of the video classroom and production equipment for the ILC, with the openness to considering an additional \$10,000 to advance the programs at the new building. This is a much appreciated and much needed launch for a strenuous fund raising effort in the community.

Focus on Learning: Home Groups > Focus Groups, Mission Statement and Student Goals, Discussion of outcomes for Home Group meetings

This discussion and planning formed the major part of our meeting.

To open the discussion, Bob reiterated that what is important is that the process is authentic, not that we follow a set of rules, a specified process, a certain format for the FOL binder.

We began with members defining and describing the Focus on Learning process:

Definitions:

- Home Groups = Departments, Student Councils and Community (Advisory Board)
- Focus Groups = Organization for Student Learning, Curriculum and Instruction, Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth, and Resource Management and Development
- FOL Leadership Team = School Council members (The work of the School Council is to reflect on what is happening in the school, act on the reflection, evaluate what has happened, in an ongoing way. The only addition in this FOL process is the visit by the team, which will support us as we continue this ongoing process.

The FOL process is:

- Reviewing our operation to see how we can improve delivery to our community
- Preparing for the WASC
- Looking at Curriculum and Instruction, Personal and Professional Growth, Resources, Student Services
- Affirming what we do right
- Exploiting our strength (a Dutch concept of "exploiting")
- Determining the needs of our students and community by asking them, which leads to Action Plans
- [Where does creativity fit? Sure, we have a survey, but we can't just limit ourselves to survey results to decide what to do. Where do we lead off on our own?]
- Using focus questions to help us decide what to ask but we don't limit what we do to the survey alone
- Not something we just do every 6 years.

Decision regarding paid participation in FOL:

- Home Groups - meet as departments, Student Council and Advisory Board usually meet  
Focus Groups- option for 1-2 hour paid meetings  
[How will we deal with passing an attendance/pay list for WAAE staff when there will be unpaid students and community members in the group? Is there an alternate way to determine WAAE pay?]
- Focus Group facilitators - some compensation, to be determined

Outcomes of the February 13-16 Home Group meetings:

- All WAAE personnel will gain greater clarity about the FOL process.
- Every Home Group will assign representation on each Focus Group.
- All WAAE personnel will commit to engaging in the process and using email electronic communication to keep informed.

Membership on Focus Groups: During the Home Group meetings of February 13-16, each Home Group will be sure that it is represented on every Focus Group. Department Chairs and Student Council leaders will send the names of their representatives to Bob (not to AV, as was previously requested). Bob will be responsible for recruiting Advisory Board representation on the Focus Groups

At the February 14 School Council/FOL Leadership Group meeting we'll discuss the composition and leadership of the Focus Groups and the process for the February 20-March 2 Focus Group meetings.

Communication will be central to the entire process, and the engaged participation of all the Leadership team is vital for this process to succeed.

We will keep our Mission Statement before us throughout the process.

Members observed that we grew again in clarity of the FOL process and our role in it.

#### Tech Plan update, Teacher technology Self Assessment, EdTech Profile

Marta reported that 39 instructors, support staff and administrators returned the recent tech survey and distributed results indicating areas where there is more or less tech literacy and usage than in previous years. She requested department chairs to send her descriptions of the professional development the members of their departments have done in the past 12 months. A ensuing discussion of electronic communication revealed that there are a lot of problems with PVUSD email and the quarantined spam mail system. We are encouraged to report to Jack whenever there is a problem, and a resolution was made to fix Charmaine's email by February 7.

Jack introduced the EdTech survey, a state instrument designed for every teacher and administrator in the state. The aggregated results will be used to assess teachers' and administrators' technical knowledge and to plan professional development. All WAAE teachers and administrators will be encouraged to take the survey.

#### WAAE Website highlights

Bob highlighted some of the popular and new features of the WAAE website: Popular Links, Brochures and Flyers, and Teacher Resources. We were encouraged to contact Eloisa to add additional flyers to the site and to let Eloisa and Bob know of other resources that would be useful.

#### Advertising/outreach plans for spring

We agreed that given our financial situation and strong ADA, we do not need to purchase TV ads.



# WAAE Calendar Spring Semester Dates:

**Jan. 8 - June 15, 2007**

**Thurs., Feb. 1, Green Valley, noon - 4:00**

**CalPro Workshop, "Monitoring Instruction to Improve Learning Gains"**

**Sat., Feb. 3, E.A. Hall Middle School, 8:00-3:00**

**Annual PVUSD Parents Conference**

**Mon., Feb. 12, School Holiday - no school**

**Wed., Feb. 14, School Council, 4:00-6:00, Porter**

**Mon., Feb. 19, School Holiday - no school**

**Grand Opening, El Instituto de Lenguaje y Cultura**

*Grand Opening  
Postponed!!*

**CHANGED!! Spring Semester Student Council Meeting  
Dates... Tuesdays at Porter, Wednesdays at GV:**

Porter Building Student Councils

*Tuesday Mornings, 12:00-12:45*

*Tuesday Evenings, 8:45-9:30*

Green Valley Student Councils (new day and dates)

*Wednesday Mornings, 11:30 - 12:15*

*Wednesday Evenings, 8:45 - 9:00*

*Jan. 23 (Porter) - 24 GV)*

*Feb. 21 (Porter) - 22 (GV)*

*March 20 (Porter) - 21 (GV)*

*April 17 (Porter) - 18 (GV)*

*May 22 (Porter) - 21 (GV)*



## *As the WAAE World Turns:*

Jane Reyes has decided to resign from her position as Chair and program developer for the Lifelong Learning Dept., the program has flourished in the last few years from her capable leadership... our "research cohort", Iwasko-Cunningham-Keisler and Diaz (sounds like a legal firm, eh?) has been accepted to present their research and curriculum at the state CATESOL conference this spring in San Diego... their materials have been garnering interest around the state (these are the Orientation Notebooks that all ESL teachers have been using the first few weeks of class, right? We've been using them, right?)... thanks to all the teachers (39!) who completed the online technology self-assessment... speaking of technology, if you cannot access your district email please tell us, and if you have a tech problem, our website lets you enter "work tickets" for Vicente Garcia... **these technology work tickets are the only way Vicente is going to be able to respond to your needs, and if you do not know how to enter them, PLEASE ask Nat or Lucila or your chair to show you.**