



# Taking Action!

A San Bernardino City Unified School District Publication

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## Board Highlights



As a graduate of San Bernardino High School and the current president of the Board of Education, Danny Tillman loves his community and the school system that prepared him for a successful career as a departmental information systems administrator for San Bernardino County.

With a desire to give back to the community that molded him in his youth, Tillman joined the Board of Education in 1995. He has faithfully served the community for 16 years. Tillman is currently serving as Board President, a position he also held from 1999 to 2001.

During his current term as president, Tillman's leadership and guidance led the District to receive \$57 million in School Improvement Grants (SIG), the largest amount awarded to a single California school district.

"All of the credit goes to the employees and community members who helped write the SIG applications," Tillman said.

Tillman links the District's success directly to its employees. The SIG grants had a short timeline for submission, and many school districts throughout the state didn't apply for the funding because of the large volume of work that had to be completed to prepare the grant applications. Tillman believes the efforts of the longstanding, dedicated employees are the key reasons the San Bernardino City Unified School District earned a lion's share of the funds.

According to Tillman, the stability of the workforce is just one of the District's strengths. With a District superintendent who has been at the helm since 1999, San Bernardino City Schools have maintained a stable workforce for many years. This year, the District is honoring 67 employees who have served the District for 25 years. Tillman feels this shows the level of commitment employees have to the students of the District. Tillman's own mother was once a District classified employee.

"I have great respect for classified workers because I saw first-hand how hard my mother worked at Roosevelt

Elementary and Arrowview Middle School when I was growing up," Tillman said. His mother, Ruby Tillman, worked as a noon duty aide at Roosevelt, followed by a position in the Arrowview cafeteria.

Tillman also recalls the many outstanding teachers he had throughout the years and how they motivated him to pursue a college education. The classes he took in finance at Cal State University, San Bernardino and his position in the county Treasurer-Tax Collector's office prepared him to serve on the Board of Education.

Tillman's finance experience is just one of the reasons he has encouraged the District to consistently pass a balanced budget. He recognizes how difficult this can be when the District is facing a budget deficit due to lack of state funding. With a \$25 million deficit for the 2011-12 school year, it has been impossible to avoid some cuts that affect students and employees.

When speaking of the current deficit, Tillman explains, "I try to make it a goal to cut everywhere else, before making a decision that could affect students or employees."

He feels his role as Board president is important because it sets the tone for the Board and the District. Tillman tries to be fair and professional at all times. By keeping his focus on the District's ultimate goal of educating all children and preparing them to reach and exceed their potential, he is able to make a positive impact on the District and the community.



Seated—left to right: Dr. Elsa Valdez, Mrs. Teresa Parra Craig, and Mrs. Judi Penman. Back Row—left to right: Dr. Barbara Flores, vice president; Mrs. Lynda Savage; Mr. Danny Tillman, president; and Ms. Louise Ayala.

## More Air-Conditioned Gyms and Locker Rooms Coming Next Year

The days of hot and stuffy gymnasiums, locker rooms, and auditoriums are numbered for middle and high school students across the District.

An \$18 million project to upgrade HVAC equipment at numerous secondary schools in the District is now in the design phase and should be completed by late next year.

The Board of Education made the installation and upgrade of air conditioning equipment a top priority after dozens of District schools switched to a Modified Traditional school calendar in July 2010.

“Decades ago, when many of our schools were built, students had summers off so AC was not critical,” said Board President Danny Tillman. “But now that the school year begins in early August, we want to ensure that our students are as comfortable as possible.”

The Board has set aside \$12 million for energy-efficient air conditioning units that in the long run will decrease utility costs. The District is also applying for state funding for this project.

Newer campuses like Col. Rodriguez PREP Academy and Arroyo Valley High School already have air conditioned gyms and auditoriums or multipurpose rooms because they were built in recent years.

Rodriguez Principal Dr. Perry Wiseman remembers his days working as a vice principal at Del Vallejo Middle School, which has aging swamp coolers that will be replaced as part of this project.

“We hesitated having large gatherings like back to school night and new student orientation because it can get so warm in those rooms that it’s hard to keep their attention,” Wiseman said.

Due to a recent rash of copper thefts that have shut down air conditioning at several District schools, the Facilities Planning and Development Department is working with District Police on ways to deter future theft.

## Career Technical Education and ROP Courses Help Keep Students Employed

A downturn in the economy has resulted in massive layoffs for some, but not for students taking advantage of the District’s Career Technical Education and Regional Occupational Programs (ROP).

Both programs are attracting plenty of students, especially those seeking to focus on information technology and health science and medical technology.

The Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District has championed expanding the District’s CTE and ROP offerings, which can be a lifeline for students who don’t pursue a college or university degree straight out of high school. Currently, there are about 5,500 students enrolled in CTE and ROP courses offered at District high schools.

Technology courses that result in A+, Adobe, and Cisco certification are among the most popular classes because they can help students get good-paying, entry-level jobs. The programs appeal to students because they have a learn-by-doing focus and allow students to complete internships with local employers.

In January, Pacific High School began offering beginning construction and welding courses that give students a window into the construction trades. Courses that focus on plumbing and roofing may be offered in future semesters.

District CTE and ROP courses include the following industry sectors:

- ◆ **Arts, Media, and Entertainment**
- ◆ **Building Trades and Construction**
- ◆ **Education, Child Development, and Family Services**
- ◆ **Engineering and Design**
- ◆ **Finance and Business**
- ◆ **Health Science and Medical Technology**
- ◆ **Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation**
- ◆ **Information Technology**
- ◆ **Manufacturing and Product Development**
- ◆ **Marketing, Sales, and Service**
- ◆ **Public Services**
- ◆ **Transportation**



### Board of Education Members

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