

## School Board

from front page

achieved) and maintaining the library services and the science lab programs were listed as MBEF priorities.

MBUSD Superintendent Dr. Beverly Rohrer also presented on behalf of the administration top and secondary wish lists of programs prioritized for reinstatement. The top wish list included, for the elementary schools: reinstating reasonable class sizes; bringing back science specialists for fourth and fifth grades and then for third grade; and reducing the cuts in the library staffing. For the high school, Rohrer said reinstatement priorities included educational advisors, retaining high school sections, and keeping the librarian. For the middle school, Rohrer stated the administration's desire to bring back a guidance counselor for at-risk students. Rohrer added that a secondary wish list included the reinstatement of physical education teachers at least for fourth and fifth grades.

During the meeting, numerous public comments were made by those in support of saving teachers and counselors at the high school -- in the Media Arts program, the English department, the AVID program, and the Guidance department. Eight individuals, including parents, financial supporters, current and former broadcast journalism students, and teacher Michael Hernandez, spoke in support of the media arts program at Mira Costa.

The March cuts axed three out of five sections of broadcast journalism and jeopardized Mr. Hernandez's teaching position. Ironically, the Media Arts program is marking its 10-year anniversary, and Mr. Hernandez has been its director since 1999. The innovative program functions with money from the MBUSD, student fees and contributions from the community. The non-profit Mira Costa Media Arts Foundation also supports the program with significant annual fundraising, and one of its founders, Lauren Burton, also spoke in support of keeping the program whole, calling it the "jewel in the crown" of the District's educational programs.

A majority of the high school's English department attended the meeting, and several teachers addressed the Board, including department co-chair Pam Jennings, who said

that English is the "foundation for student success" in high school and beyond, and appealed to the Board to save the seven teaching positions that would be lost as a result of the elimination of class size reduction for ninth grade English. Co-chair Deborah Hofreiter asked the Board to save the school's popular AVID elective program, which she coordinates, designed to prepare students "in the academic middle" for four-year college eligibility.

The District's budget cuts propose to eliminate one of five educational advisors at the high school, which would increase the advisor/student ratio from approximately 1:460 to 1:575. Sue Bertran, head of the MCHS educational advisors, and Cindy Ellenberg, the MCHS PTSA president, pleaded with the Board to rescind the pink slip issued to the one of the five advisors, because losing this fifth advisor would have a "disastrous impact" on the already heavy workloads of the four advisors who would remain.

Rohrer also announced the finalization of a revenue-enhancing District office reorganization, which includes the August retirement of Deputy Superintendent Janet Schwabe. Her certificated cabinet level position will be changed to a classified senior management position, resulting in a reduction of the administration's certificated staff by one full-time equivalent employee (FTE) at a savings of \$70,000. Other District office internal reorganization will result in the staff reduction of almost two FTEs, added Rohrer.

The Teacher Spotlight Award, presented by the Manhattan Beach Unified Teachers Association, was no doubt the highlight of the May 6 meeting, as Susan Stelter, a fifth grade instructor at Pacific School for the past seven years, was honored for her exceptional talents and outstanding commitment to her students. Stelter, who has a law degree and a nursing background, was described by colleagues as a "renaissance woman" with a "sense of humor," and someone "who you always want to have around you." The meeting room was packed with her admiring students and their families, who gave her flowers, balloons, and a hearty standing ovation. •

## History

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funds for the construction. Since the fountain was to be built of sea stone, each member had to bring a rock from the ocean to each club meeting. The *Manhattan Beach News* reported that everyone who went down to the beach gathered a few stones of pleasing surface, and upon his or her return from the water would toss the stones into a barrel, thus making a rapid accumulation of the desired rocks.

The structure was constructed in the intersection of Manhattan Avenue and Center Street with a cast conch shells between fish heads topped by a trident with an electric light in the center--one side serving animals and the other side servicing people. It was a tribute to the Model T era until its demise in 1928, when a tipsy Rolls Royce driver obliterated the work of love.

When the fountain was hit, the two couples in the car were on their way to the Pier End

Café. They thought the light on the fountain was the pier and headed in that direction. The fountain was not repaired. However in 1990, the Neptunian Woman's Club reproduced and constructed the artifact in Polliwog Park.

Thieves found it relatively easy to steal cars. The first car stolen in Manhattan Beach was taken from a man who had parked his car in order to go swimming in the ocean. It appeared a husband and wife car thief team were chased by the marshal, who was fired upon as they fled.

In 1924, with a population of 859, Manhattan Beach was no longer a sleepy little town and it was time more enforcement was available to protect the residents and visitors. At this time the Board of Trustees replaced the Marshal by a Police Chief.

Call Jan at (310) 372-8520 for location of additional information.

To be continued... •

## Mother's Day

from page 6

every time he works his way to the tee on Thursday mornings.

Woods shot a 73 on Sunday, landing him in eighth place. The leader entering the round, one Alex Cejka who I thought was a winger for the Detroit Red Wings, folded big time, shooting a 79. Some dude won. How's that for a nice wrap?

Speaking of the puck, shout out to Penguin fan LJ. That's all I got about hockey.

Okay, not really. The Ducks are, at this exact minute (4:08 p.m.) trailing the Red Wings 2-1 in the pivotal game five of the Western Conference semifinal. The winner of this series moves on to play Chicago, which beat Vancouver Monday night to move on to the Conference final.

Or moves on to play Vancouver, which came back from a 3-2 series deficit to defeat the Hawks in a riveting game seven, which takes place tonight. Confused? Me too!

Gotta throw this one in. Lovely Lindsay Soto has been recently working for the Versus network, 603 on DirecTV, which has been showing the puck action this season. She

was recently bending down, interviewing a player on the team bench when, ahem, her low-cut top revealed more of Miss Soto than was probably the idea. The director quickly killed the picture of the beautiful Miss Soto and her embarrassing plight. Just reporting the facts, folks.

Ducks lost game four, by the by, 4-1. And nary a Soto sighting.

Well, the rest of the TV watching went this way for the locals on Sunday. Los Dodgers dropped their contest to the Giants 7-5, and the Halos, thanks to a circus catch by the inimitable centerfielder Torii Hunter, came away with a one-run win.

And I almost forgot to add that the Little League Might Mariners went 2-0 last week, with the offense scoring in the teens both times. I have mentioned that I take credit for the offense, right? Went to a wonderful party after Saturday's win, where I had to deal with a ton of adulation, and a lot of LL stuff was bandied about. Wish I could tell ya what I overheard, but I have been sworn to secrecy by one of the moms in attendance... •

## Frankly

from page 6

understand that many kids, for whatever convoluted reason, attach role model status to pro athletes. That's their choice, their right. The media over-saturation and over-glorification of these guys rolls on unencumbered, and the horse is way out of the barn on that one.

The local sports radio stations went into red alert once the Ramirez story broke. Like someone had died. Seems to me that they gave it more coverage that the horrific car crash that killed Angel pitcher Nick Adenhardt and two of his friends.

Remember, no one died here. A guy allegedly cheated, got caught, sent to his room, and will be back on the field in the first week of July. And that guy will probably receive a standing ovation from most of Los Dodger fans, who will conveniently suffer a case of selective amnesia. Bet on it.

Like the fan who was photographed hoisting a sign that opined: "Manny wouldn't cheat!" Do you think that guy was as forgiving to good old helium head Barry Bonds when the despised Giant patrolled left field at the Ravine before he was blackballed from the Grand Old Game? By the way, Barry Bonds could still probably ante up 20 home runs for someone. I'm just saying. And I hate the guy--not cuz he cheated, but because he sure comes off as a first class A-hole.

So where does that leave the Dodgers, who have built a significant part of their marketing plan around the fun-loving (ask some of the Red Sox about that, by the way), dreadlocked outfielder? Well, the Blue Crew suffered two quick losses to the hated Giants right after Man-Ram was jettisoned by the suits in baseball hierarchy. Someone by the name of Xavier Paul was called up to take the open roster spot.

With Ramirez's middle-of-the-order power adios'd, a couple of the young Dodger vets are going to have to step up and provide power. First baseman James Loney needs to start driving the ball over the outfield fences; at this time he has raked a colossal zero home runs, I believe. And *Karaoke Jen's* new fave, catcher Russell Martin, also needs to provide some firepower.

The Dodgers will be fine. They play in a pathetic division. They should have enough in the tank to fend off the bottom-feeders in the West. A five to eight game lead by July 3 should be obtainable. And then Ramirez should return, and by-gones will be by-gones, at least for most folks.

Okay, hope that I didn't offend anyone out there. Actually, I do like to tweak it a little bit. But if you want to whine or opine, contact me at [franklyplank@gmail.com](mailto:franklyplank@gmail.com).





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