

School Board Names Building

By Jesse Blake McCann

During a brief El Segundo Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, the board approved an action to name a building on the El Segundo High School campus after Keith and Joy Schuldt, in recognition of their generous donation to the El Segundo Educational Foundation.

According to the ESEF's website, the couple donated their building on Richmond Street, which used to be Schuldt Printing, to the foundation in 2004. The resulting sale of the property brought \$450,000 to the foundation's Endowment Fund.

The point of the Endowment Fund is to support the ESUSD.

"The idea is that it can supplement what the foundation earns each year so we're able to grant more to the district," El Segundo Educational Foundation CFO Jyne Pimlott said.

The building that will carry their names is ESHS's Fine & Applied Arts facility. "Keith and Joy Schuldt Fine & Applied Arts" will be written on a limestone plaque and attached to the building.

Pimlott said the plaque is planned to be put up this month, and the foundation hopes to have an unveiling ceremony in the Fall when the couple returns from Iowa, the state where they retired.

Pimlott explained that it's been in the works for a long time to see how the foundation can recognize the couple. They were also looking for a way to generate money. Thus, they came up with the naming rights program for all the district campuses.

Pimlott said at the high school, the foundation decided a donation of \$50,000 is needed to name a classroom and \$500,000 is needed to name a building.

Board Member Bill Watkins said Keith and Joy Schuldt helped kick off the concept of donating to the Endowment Foundation.

"Without their original gift, the whole idea of the foundation forming such a fund just was not necessarily going to happen as quickly as it did," Watkins said at the meeting.

Watkins thinks it is wonderful the district is finally putting the plaque on the building and giving the Schuldts the recognition they deserve.

Board Approves Resolution to Bring Back PE positions

The board approved a resolution that brought back physical education teaching positions for the 2009/2010 school year at the two elementary schools in the district.

Superintendent Geoff Yantz recommended at the meeting for the board to reinstate a full time equivalent (FTE) of 1.0 PE positions. An FTE of 0.5 will be kept at Center Street Elementary and Richmond Street School. Originally, an FTE of 1.1 PE positions was going to be laid off between the two schools. The El Segundo Educational Foundation is funding the positions.

FTE is a method of measuring employment, where an FTE of 1.0 would be one full time job.

The El Segundo Unified School District had to make a series of cuts throughout the district, including district employees, in order to balance the budget for the next school year. However, this is the third resolution that cancels the layoffs of certain employees.

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Little League All-Stars Shine



Championship team picture: (standing, from left) Hunter Lewis, coach Duane Plank, Conner Underwood, Lars Nootbaar, manager Jim Stone, Noah Stone, Jackson Walz, coach Chad Stevens, Noah Berggren & Dean Abramson (kneeling, from left): Joey Garza, Tanner Stevens, Nick Karsseboom, Alex Rios, Jack Dinsmore and Evan Weingren

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City's Budget Deficit Almost Disappears

By Brian Simon

It wasn't quite a magic act, but during a three-and-a-half hour strategic planning session last Wednesday morning, the El Segundo City Council was able in principle to erase almost all of a nearly \$6 million estimated budget deficit for the 2009/10 fiscal year. After staff had identified virtually every conceivable expenditure reduction and revenue generator, the Council found a number of options to move monies back into the general fund without sacrificing City services or jobs. Also the local 9-1-1 communication center, initially considered for the chopping block, will stay put for now.

"In the 11 years I've been here, this is the most difficult budget planning session that we've had," said Mayor Kelly McDowell prior to a lengthy presentation by Finance Director Deborah Cullen that showed City revenues projecting down \$1.7 million in 09/10 and expenditures jumping up \$3.8 million. Cullen identified the primary culprits in the disparity: Increased salaries, workers' compensation and pension costs, along with marked drops in business license, transient occupancy (bed) and cogenerated electricity tax revenues. In addition, the City's investment earnings continue to fall as interest rates go down, thereby reducing what's in the coffers.

In the end, the Council shaved all but \$382,000 from the estimated deficit, an amount the Mayor was sure City Manager Jack Wayt could creatively pull from elsewhere in order to balance the budget. Of the Council's slice and dice, roughly half of the \$6 million will come out of "Internal Service Funds," which includes hefty chunks of money set aside for equipment that is now obsolete or no longer needed. The Council pulled another \$1.2 million out of a so-called "naming rights" fund designated for replacing the artificial turf at the Campus El Segundo Athletic Fields. In exchange for using all that cash now, the City will have to allocate \$100,000-plus annually from its general fund over the next decade or so to cover the turf replacement fees.

The only staffing-related cut won't actually impact anyone's job status. The City will save more than \$400,000 by running short one firefighter position during overtime situations. Currently, if there are 19 personnel on staff and one of them is either on vacation or sick, another firefighter makes up the lost hours by working overtime. Under the new scenario, those overtime hours will not be filled. The Council had considered running short by two positions, but decided the risk was too high that a rig could go out with no paramedic on board.

While the Council reluctantly agreed to pull monies out of overtime, this was a mild solution compared to some other ideas bandied about. Fire Chief Kevin Smith noted earlier that the City could also save \$1.4 million by eliminating an entire three-person engine

company per shift (affecting nine positions) and \$7 million by jobbing out fire services to the county. Neither of these options was considered.

Talk of closing the public safety communication center was put on the backburner after it was pointed out that the move would not generate any savings in the next couple of years due to the heavy initial costs of moving back to a multi-agency system. "It's wise to investigate it more, but not in a crash/burn scenario since it won't solve the current budget issue," said Councilmember Carl Jacobson.

Speaking earlier on behalf of the staff at the communication center, Michelle Blumenthal touted the personalized service that comes

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El Segundo Rotary Announces Movie In The Park

The El Segundo Rotary Club will hold its 12th Annual "Movie in the Park", the club's largest public event of the year, Saturday, August 1st. The gates to Chevron Park (southwest corner of Sepulveda and El Segundo Boulevards) open at 4:00 p.m. The crowd is expected to swell above 3,000 again this year. Free parking is available in the parking structure on the corner of El Segundo Boulevard and Illinois Street. Tickets are available at the gate or in advance at Industrial Lock and Security at the corner of Main & Holly.

Movie goers will experience the film, Dreamworks Animation Kung Fu Panda, on a large outdoor screen and enjoy the

movie in a picnic, festival like environment. This year there will be games, activities, and food vendors for everyone to enjoy in the hours leading up to the movie. With many local service clubs and non-profit groups providing hot and cold food and beverages, there will be something for everyone in the family to enjoy! In addition, there will be tickets available for two different raffles. The dollar raffle includes many wonderful prizes donated by generous individuals and local businesses. The super raffle, which includes the following: Grand prize: Round trip tickets for two to

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