

November 18, 2014

Good evening President of the Board Collins, Clerk of the Board Davis, Board Trustees, Dr. Peplinsky and Staff.

Tonight we honor two outgoing school board members – Jeanne Davis and Arleigh Kidd.

Jeanne and Arleigh came to the school board as veteran educators in the Simi Valley Unified School District. As career teachers, they brought first-hand knowledge of the strengths and the needs of our school district. Both have been passionate advocates for our students and employees.

Jeanne and Arleigh, we will miss your insight and loyalty to our district and look forward to your continued involvement in community events that support our students and educational programs.

On behalf of the members of the Simi Educators Association, I want to thank both of you for your years of dedicated service to our district.

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I also want to acknowledge Interim Superintendent, Dr. Peplinski, for his immediate and decisive actions in response to the negative ad that appeared recently in the Simi Valley Acorn.

Your inspiring words reminded our employees that we DO have great schools, teachers, administrators and staff. You pushed back from the negative rhetoric and redirected the conversation to create a positive message focusing on the wonderful work we all do each day in our schools.

As I go from school to school, I hear from teachers at every site who are appreciative and encouraged by your proactive voice as you represent our district.

Although you have only been in your interim position a short amount of time, you have already had a meaningful impact on our district and community through your genuine ability to relate to people and your visionary leadership skills.

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Lastly, the school board will vote tonight on bringing Automated External Defibrillators, or AED's, to our district sites. I encourage you to follow the recommendation of staff and create a committee whose job it will be to address all the ramifications of installing AED's before you mandate this implementation. There are too many unanswered questions and concerns that need to be vetted before we move in this direction.

Thank you for listening.