Board Moves Meeting, Then Decides Against Cheerleader Hope

By Patricia A. Aguilar

Outside of the Calexico Unified School District Office last week, Unified employees were protesting the board's decision in hiring attorney Erick Hall and Yuri Calderon as District Chief Negotiators.

Employees said they were upset to hear that Superintendent Richard Fragale would no longer be the one to negotiate with the unions, as a trusting relationship had already been formed. CUSD employee Caesar Rodriguez said "We are making our presence [and opinion] known."

Inside the CUSD office, the meeting room was packed with people standing along the walls and walkways. Once the meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mrs. Romo, the board heard over an hour of public speaking from various members of the community and students. While some concerns were from teachers and parents, most of the speakers were cheerleaders and coaches, speaking in regards to the issue of a singular student who was requesting a special tryout session for the Varsity Cheerleading Squad. The student was unable to attend the official tryouts due to a family engagement and was already told by Varsity Cheer Coach Moreno that a special tryout session would not be possible.

Due to the large crowd the Calexico Police issued an order to disperse as the room was over capacity and endangered the lives of those within. The board quickly made alterations to the meeting and went directly into closed session in which during that time Caeser Chaves Elementary School was set up allowing for the larger group to be properly accommodated for. The meeting reconvened 9:41 p.m. at C. Chavez Elementary School's multipurpose room. It was announced that the board voted three to two for the cheerleading issue to be directed through the proper channels and not by the board.

At 10 p.m. the attorney notified the board that the meeting time had reached the pre-set time limit. Mrs. Diante then motioned for the meeting time to be extended until midnight which was approved by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 p.m.; at 11:19 the Special Agenda was then called into order. Due to the time constraints the reports were done quickly.

Mr. Hall's presentation consisted of the financial responsibilities of the district and the fact that the district was spending more than what was being brought in through revenue. Through his PowerPoint presentation he demonstrated how the district's General Fund Revenue history showed a rapid decline from 2009 date. He underscored the importance of limiting of spending. The district like many in California had m revenue due to the state funding from Prop 30.

The CUSD voted to adopt a $3.5 million through negotiation local employee labor tives in order to run the district. The meeting adjourned 11:24 p.m. Friday morning.

SDSU Hosts Welcome Students Affair, Announces Controversial Flag Raising

By Patricia A. Aguilar

As a new semester starts at San Diego State University in Imperial Valley, the Associated Student Council held its semi-annual Welcome Back event, and announced a controversial program planned at the Imperial Valley Campus.

In addition to welcoming new and returning students, the ASC also announced an upcoming event that is an SDSU-IV first, the official First Annual Flag Raising of the Rainbow Flag in honor of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Month. While the event is well known and has been done for several years at SDSU in San Diego, this is a first for the Imperial Valley.

A Flag Raising will take place on October 10th, 2011 in front of San Diego State University in Calexico at 10:00 a.m. where Dean Pierson will say a few words. Following the raising of the flag guests will be invited into the Stepping Art Gallery in which 'It Gets Better' videos will be shown and information on LGBT Month will be given. Members of the community are invited to come and inform themselves of the truths, common misconceptions and discrimination that members of the LGBT face every day. For members and supporters of the LGBT community in Imperial Valley, this is truly a historic event.

This year's Welcome Back theme was 'A Night in Italy', in which the ASC members dressed in their finest and decorated tables with flowers, candles and tricolored balloons representing the Italian flag.

Council members served pizza from Pizza Hut and salad with a refreshing soda of choice to every student who attended. Students were serenaded throughout the three hour event.

by Central High Sc Luciaon Bellajarino's University clubs A Borderers and Sigma S also present this AWSO sold cherry a voted raspados, while charritos and candy.

ASC President Castillo stated the event introduce students to local Rifle club a free which get to know each other.