

## **Kentfield School District Board Meeting Highlights** **November 18, 2014**

Teachers Myra Anderson and Elizabeth Teasdale presented the District's Language Arts program to the Trustees. Four Kent eighth graders accompanied Myra and reported on their recent study of short stories. The students read multiple short stories, then chose one to write a critical essay about. They described the writing process employed to arrive at their "perfect" final draft. Then Elizabeth described the variety of work going on at Bacich in Language Arts. Bacich teachers have received new and ongoing professional development in Writer's Workshop, phonics, Reader's Workshop, and administering assessments with fidelity. Videos of students participating in book chats and sharing their own "how-to" manuals rounded out the presentation.

The Board recognized and appreciated the work of Measure D Campaign Chair Alden Mills and Treasurer Quoc Tran. They also thanked Superintendent Liz Schott for her leadership in working with the Board to place Measure D on the ballot.

Zak Goodman of CSDA Design Group, who is leading our Master Planning process, shared an [outline of the steps](#) and a proposed timeline for producing a completed Master Plan by the end of April. The Steering Committee membership was announced. Serving in this capacity will be Liz Schott, Barbara Johnson, Paul Miller, Peter Zingg, Sally Peck, Skip Kniesche, Ashley Paff, Heather McPhail Sridharan, Alden Mills and Quoc Tran.

Sally Peck provided a recap of the salient points from last Thursday's meeting about Math at Bacich. She reiterated that there will be a Math Coach hired to work with teachers on how to better differentiate instruction within the framework of the Common Core Standards; that Math homework will increase to 30% of the total assigned to students; and that work on finding the right materials continues on schedule. Two parents addressed the Board with questions about differentiation. The Superintendent announced that there will be a meeting addressing the Kent Math program on December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kent MP Room. Stanford Professor Jo Boaler's video, "[Why Students in the U.S. Need Common Core Mathematics](#)" was mentioned again as a resource for learning more about Math and the Common Core.