

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

August 20, 2013

Low-light really a highlight

The Victor Valley College Board of Trustees special board meeting of Aug. 14 was finally a move in the right direction. The downside: It was a little scattered and there were some clarifications needed along the way. The upside, however, was huge.

For the first time in months, the majority of the community and the majority of the board agreed on one thing: No one wanted a special election and everyone would rather that the \$100,000-plus in resources be dedicated to the students. And so a majority of the Board of Trustees came together in order to select a candidate from the 12 dedicated community members who were willing to throw their hat in the ring.

It was very clear that anyone of the candidates could have served well in the position. So it did not really matter that in the end, the majority of the board selected local attorney Brandon Wood, by all accounts a go-getter. What did matter was that the board, for once, was behaving as a board: There was respectful discussion, the public was given plenty of opportunity to speak and members worked together to solve an issue facing their institution and meet an imminent deadline.

So I say, "Bravo!" and thank you to all of the community members who dared to stick out their neck and consider joining a board that has, up until now, been nothing but dysfunctional on numerous occasions. And I congratulate the board on putting aside personal differences for the better good and Mr. Wood for his selection.

Most of all, I say to the board: "Keep it up. It's a step in the right direction." The same community that demanded that you come together to make this decision will also be here to support you, as long as your actions reflect our common goal: the welfare of the students.

Dotti Scala

Apple Valley

.

Thank you for trying to sum up the status of the SNAFU (look it up) that has been the Victor Valley Community College District (VVCCD) and their Victor Valley College. The only problem I find with it is that the editorial writer used words to describe the eclectic band of regional folks who came together four months ago in the context of "low-lights" ("low-lights: A running letter-writing campaign ensued").

Not sure why he used the term, unless he was referring to letters and charges flying back and forth between Board of Trustee members, but the "people" who saw a problem and who came together were certainly not "low lights" of the serious problem; they were the catalyst that brought a positive initial solution to one of the problems befalling the VVCCD.

Their letter writing, their community meetings, their attendance at the structured (controlled) VVCCD board meetings was and is what America is supposed to be about ... citizen involvement.

I'm sure in the dash of the keyboard, the "low-light" term got caught up with the acrimony of a dysfunctional Board of Trustees and not citizen involvement. At least I hope that is the case.

The citizens who have taken the time to work to save VVC from financial and structural collapse still have a long slog ahead of them. The arrival of consensus, at least from three members of the board, to fill the fifth seat with an independent business man here in the sprawling district, is just the beginning.

What lies ahead is getting to the bottom of the financial mess the VVCCD is in, including compensation packages to the full-time teaching staff, meeting the Accreditation Committee's charges, and most of all, getting public higher education in the Victor Valley Region back on track.

Tom Pinard

Wrightwood