

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo • Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey • Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

# Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy • Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch



Acalanes Class of 2008

Photo submitted by Verre Lew

## AUHSD Explores Bond Extension

By Andrea A. Firth

Back in May, the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District commissioned a survey of voters in the District to determine support for a no tax rate increase bond measure to be placed on the November 2008 ballot. Results of the telephone survey of just over 400 area registered voters revealed that there was a very good base of support—65% in favor—for a bond extension to raise funds to renovate and improve the facilities at the four high schools in the District, the adult education center in Walnut Creek, and the District office.

As proposed, the bond extension would lengthen the time that taxpayers would pay the same tax by ten or more years, however the tax rate would not increase. If placed on the November ballot, the

bond measure will require 55% of voters to approve for passage.

Based on the District's Facilities Master Plan, the projects to be covered by the bond extension include general projects such as the replacement of aging roofing, the conversion of facilities no longer needed into classroom space, and the creation of a 10-year technology fund. The site specific projects proposed emphasized the need for improving the safety of facilities such as Campolindo High School, which is now fifty years old and in need of modernization

The Governing Board set two dates in July for special Board meetings to adopt a resolution to place a no-tax rate increase bond measure on the Fall ballot. (See School Calendar)

## AUHSD Board Meeting Attracts Crowd and Outcry over Coach Dismissal

By Andrea A. Firth

Meetings of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Governing Board are typically staid affairs attended by a handful of parents and teachers who listen as the Board members discuss matters of curriculum, staffing, and of late mostly the budget. However, the AUHSD Board was greeted last Wednesday with a packed house that overflowed into the lobby adjacent to the meeting room. Over eighty parents, players, and colleagues came to voice their support for former Miramonte Girls Varsity Basketball coach, Darrell Hirashima, and to express their discontent over his recent dismissal.

"We are outraged that

Darrell has been relieved as Miramonte's Girls Basketball coach," stated player parent Judy Batlin. "We are here because we want you to reinstate Darrell Hirashima right now," she added.

One by one players, parents, and a coaching colleague stepped up to the podium to convey to the Board their respect and admiration for Hirashima's coaching talent and character. Several young women who had been coached by Hirashima related the support that he had provided them both on and off of the court. Described as a soft-spoken, good hearted, unpretentious man, several speakers noted the long-standing winning

ways of the Miramonte Lady Matadors under Hirashima's coaching.

The Board was repeatedly asked to reconsider the decision to terminate Hirashima. "This is a good man. This is a good coach," stated one parent. "Please take the time to reconsider this decision."

The AUHSD Governing Board listened intently to the predetermined twenty minutes of public comment, however following their standard protocol; the Board conducted no further discussion of the matter at the meeting.

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