

Meetings on school bond issue today

On Dec. 2, Palo Alto Unified School District Superintendent Kevin Skelly issued a statement updating parents that the Measure A bond money will go toward opening another elementary school and fixing up the high schools.



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“Almost half of the building program funds are dedicated to improving the facilities at our high schools. ... Throughout the process, our work to address enrollment growth will be guided

by the recently approved changes to board policy on school size that captures the values of parity in terms of educational opportunity and program ...” Skelly wrote.

The Palo Alto Unified School District is holding special meetings, open to the public, to discuss the bond issue today at 9 a.m., and Monday, at noon, at 25 Churchill Ave. There will also be discussion of the bond issue at the regular school board meeting at 6:30 p.m. today.

Gunn makes list

Last Friday, U.S. News & World Report released its rankings of the best high schools in the country. Last year Paly and Gunn both made the top 100 list (Gunn ranked higher). This year, only Gunn made the top 100 list, at No. 74. Palo Alto school board member Camille Townsend would not comment on the rankings, noting that she had not seen them yet, but admitted that it was “one more input. We look at them all, and when we find credible information we act on it.”

Turkey mystery solved

Lastly, the mystery of how Palo Alto High’s Turkey Feast got its name was solved by Townsend. She brought the Turkey Feast to Paly High from Gunn in 2004, and in the planning phase Dan and Sunny Dykwel, who were on the committee, suggested the name, and it stuck. “I remember Dan and Sunny said, ‘Let’s call it a Turkey Trot instead of a Turkey Feast — it’s more fun,’” Townsend said.

School Matters is happy to hear your feedback. Please e-mail any comments to schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org to reach Preeva Tramiel, who is writing the column this year. Look on the PTA Council Web site, www.paloaltopta.org, and pull down the leftmost menu, and click on “school matters” to see submission guidelines for press releases.