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Night Soccer Games To Be Funded

**Fremont Education Foundation Donates \$15,000
To Saving Night Soccer Games at TAK**

Fremont, CA, November 11, 2008 – The Fremont Education Foundation announced at the November 12th school board meeting that it would contribute \$15,000 towards the \$24,000 needed to reinstate night soccer games at Tak for this season. This announcement came immediately prior to the School Board's consideration of a request to reverse its prior cut of night soccer games.

As background, the Fremont Unified School District was forced to make \$9 million in budget cuts this year, prior to final approval of the State budget. Although the final approved State budget reduced cuts to education, many cuts still needed to be made locally, and some programs, such as secondary counselors and secondary transportation, were left in tact for the current year but left as potential cuts for next year unless the budget situation improved. Other cost saving measures such as increasing class sizes at the secondary level were not so lucky and were made. One of the smaller cuts that was made from the onset was to eliminate night soccer games at TAK for a savings of \$24K.

At the time the school board approved the proposed cuts to soccer, it was believed that there were alternatives that were viable. It has since become evident that there are not, upsetting soccer parents and coaches who felt that soccer was unfairly penalized compared to football which also uses Tak at night, but which was not cut. At its November 12th meeting, the school board was asked to consider reinstating night soccer for this year, despite the fact that there may be an additional \$10 million cuts to local education in next year's budget.

The Fremont Education Foundation is happy to announce that it will donate \$15,000 towards the \$24,000 needed. The Fremont Education Foundation (FEF) was founded in 1991, during a time of severe state budget cuts, to help replace funding for programs that were cut. This is a perfect example of the types of programs the Foundation was originally created to support. When making the announcement of the donation at the November 12th meeting, FEF president Sherea Westra, asked for additional donations from the community to make up the remaining \$9,000 needed.

Foundation Vice President of the Guy Emanuele Sports Fund, Dave Bonaccorsi states, "Fremont Education Foundation (FEF)'s Guy Emanuele Sports Fund was founded by former FUSD Board member Guy Emanuele so as to ensure that students are not prevented from participating in after-school sports due to financial hardship. In keeping with Mr. Emanuele's vision, I am proud that the Guy Emanuele Sports Fund will donate \$10,000 to help FUSD preserve nighttime MVAL soccer at Tak Fudenna for the 2008-09 season in the face of these tough economic times." The remaining \$5,000 donated will come from \$5,000 in discretionary funds set aside by the Foundation to cover unusual one-time needs.

While the school board went on to vote to allocate up to \$9,000 to cover the shortfall of the funds needed for this year, board members reiterated the request for the public to step up to cover this balance, given the huge cuts looming for next year. An additional \$1,300 was donated to FEF at the meeting, leaving \$7,700 to be funded.

If you are interested in helping to fund night soccer games at TAK for this season, please send your donation to FEF. Checks should be made out to the Fremont Education Foundation, and earmarked 'night soccer' on the memo line. FEF will augment its initial donation of \$15,000 to FUSD with all funds earmarked for this event.

About The Fremont Education Foundation

The Fremont Education Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) established in 1991, encourages increased community involvement and investment in our schools. Our members include parents, educators, school administrators, business people, and others from our community. We are an independent foundation that works closely with, but is separate from, both the Fremont Unified School District and individual schools' Parent Teacher/Faculty Associations.

The Fremont Education Foundation currently funds three major programs:

- * The After-school Band Programs: Open to 4th through 6th graders in FUSD at all elementary schools for no fee, and with instrument scholarships and service available for those who are financially eligible.
- * Innovative Education Grants: Teacher grants in support of innovative, quality classroom programs in FUSD grades K-12.
- * The Guy Emanuele Sports Fund: Provides sports wear and equipment scholarships for financially eligible students in FUSD and supplements funding for extracurricular sports programs.

The Fremont Education Foundation has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. If you are interested in further information, please see our website at www.fremont-education.org or contact us at pr@fremont-education.org.

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