

August 10, 2010

**Home-to-School Transportation Recommended to Continue Next Year at
Poway Unified School District**

At the Board of Education meeting next Monday night, August 16, Poway Unified School District Superintendent John Collins will recommend to the Board the continuation of regular education transportation for the 2010/11 school year. Collins stated, "Though we did not quite reach our goal, the Board wanted to create every opportunity to continue regular education transportation. Given the strong response we have received from parents in purchasing bus passes, I am confident the Board of Education will find a way to provide this valuable service to students for the school year ahead."

Last spring the Board was faced with the budget necessity to eliminate regular education transportation, but instead voted to increase bus fees to offset the costs and see if an adequate number of passes could be sold. Bus passes will continue to be sold through the school year, and greater paid ridership will help bring the district closer to the goal of self-supported transportation services. Given the tenuous nature of State funding for public education for the next few years, this decision will need to be reviewed every year.

Tim Purvis, PUSD Director of Transportation, said it was a team effort to sell the needed number of passes at the higher rate of \$575, up from \$439 last school year. "The strong support of parents was critical, and the positive efforts by the bus drivers and their Union, Service Employees International Union, in negotiating a more efficient delivery model and an active positive bus pass campaign, was very helpful."