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New School Board Hits the Ground Running

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Bruce Burns, Jim Obsitnik, Parker Colvin, Shari Simon, Jon Nickens, Heather O'Donnell Photo Andy Scheck



Heather O'Donnell



Jon Nickens



Jim Obsitnick Photos S. Braccini

the first time Dec. 9. Three of the five the unions. The new members asked board members are brand new to the job – Heather O'Donnell, Jon Nickens and Jim at hand were not foreign to them. Obsitnik; the other two, board president Shari Simon and vice president Parker the district. O'Donnell, whose third child is Colvin, have been on the board for only two years. The previous board had members who served for many terms; most of and very active in the schools for the past their children had long since left Moraga schools. All of those on the new board have children currently enrolled in the district, some still in elementary school. The newcomers share an interest in bringing more technology to the classroom; but like several years; he, too, volunteered at their predecessors, they value and respect Rheem Elementary. He and his wife, Anna, the school district.

a two-year projection that includes the ris- is at the forefront of the district's priorities. ing cost of pensions; a summary of the dis-

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new school board took its place on trict's goals and policies; and the anticipa-Lithe Moraga School District dais for tion of the coming bargaining process with pointed questions, showing that the matters

They all have significant experience in in seventh grade at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, has been a PTA president 10 years; Nickens was on the board of the Moraga Education Foundation, the Rheem Elementary School Site Council, and has volunteered in classrooms. Obsitnik served on the Moraga Planning Commission for were very involved with the school district Their first agenda was not light. The in the aftermath of the Kristen Cunnane three new members dove into the thick of case, as they worked with the superintenthings with a budget presentation, including dent to make sure that the safety of students ... continued on page A11

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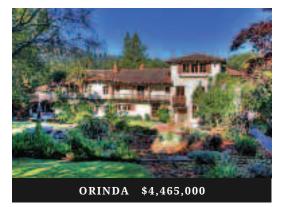
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