

# Kidango to move into district preschool facility

## Former daycare provider Adventure Time closes for financial reasons

The school board approved a contract with childcare provider Kidango Tuesday night to move into the preschool facility at the school district offices. Adventure Time had previously occupied the space, but closed its operations Thursday due to financial reasons.

Several parents, many who are school district employees, are upset at the timing of the closure as there are still several weeks left in the school year. PUSD director of purchasing LeeAnn Pomplun said Kidango would hope to open as quickly as licensing requirements would allow. Enrollment is said to be open to the public in early May, with priority given to children of school district employees.

In late March, the Pleasanton Unified School District solicited bids for new childcare providers. Two providers attended a mandatory pre-proposal conference April 6, with only Kidango submitting a proposal April 13.

Pomplun said Kidango serves 2,500 children in preschools throughout the Bay Area, including Livermore, Dublin and Fremont. They would only provide preschool service, children 3 to 5 years old, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting no later than July 1.

Adventure Time had previously served children 18 months to 5 years old.

Adventure Time director Susan Sung confirmed the closure and said that parents and the school district were given two months notice. As to the reason for the closure, Sung declined to comment.

Myla Grasso, district spokeswoman, said Ad-

venture Time had notified the district that it was experiencing "financial issues."

"They had a loan for building in another city and the loan was called in, so they weren't able to run the program here any longer," she said.

The private, nonprofit child care provider moved into the location at 4667 Bernal Ave. after it was vacated in December 2007 by the Tri-Valley YMCA program, which served children 6 months to 5 years old.

Alma Avalos, a teacher at Valley View Elementary School, is struggling to find a place to take her children.

"They could have waited until the end of the school year," she said.

Having paid in full through the end of April, Avalos said she was upset to see that the school's walls are bare, that it has minimal activities and very little furniture. She said there are a lot of complaints from parents who had offered to bring children their own food instead of the daycare providing a meal service, in an effort to cut back on costs.

"They were losing money on the preschool, but their enrollment is full and they had a wait list," she said, adding that her daughter was on the wait list for full-time care.

According to the Adventure Time website, [www.adventure-time.com](http://www.adventure-time.com), it still appears to be providing daycare service through elementary schools in Castro Valley, Fremont, Oakland, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hayward and Napa.

—Emily West

## EAST BAY ROUNDUP

### Pleasanton

provide an annual revenue of \$55,200 for the district.

—Robert Jordan

**KIDANGO TO OPEN:** The Pleasanton school district voted unanimously Tuesday to allow Kidango to operate a preschool program for children ages 3 to 5 years old on the campus of the school district offices, at 4667 Bernal Ave.

Kidango replaces Adventure Time, which opened in February 2008 and served children 18 months to 5 years before closing April 30 due to financial concerns. Kidango is expected to open no later than July 1 and is currently awaiting approval of its license.

Among the stipulations for Kidango is that Pleasanton school district staff would receive first priority for enrollment, siblings of enrolled children would also receive priority and a monthly lease of \$4,600 would be charged for the space.

The lease is expected to