

## **Gilroy Unified School District**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

(SPAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2019

**6:30 – 8:30 P.M.**

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Members in attendance:

Joshua Jarvis (Antonio Del Buono)	Laura Wilson (Antonio Del Buono)	Shalini Jampani (Brownell)
Judy-Ann Rosti (Brownell)	Sue Rodriguez (Christopher)	Centeotl Merino (Christopher)
Joaquina Soulia (El Roble)	Melissa Eaton (El Roble)	Jen Swigart (El Roble)
Melissa Avila-Carroll (GECA)	Kim Kaplan (GECA)	Debby Esposito (Gilroy)
Mari-Ann Low Gallagher (Gilroy)	Alexandria Dominguez (Glen View)	Victoria Cabrera (Las Animas)
Rachelle Castaneda (Las Animas)	Carlos Garcia (Luigi Aprea)	Lauren Moller (Luigi Aprea)
Lindsay Millea (Rod Kelley)	Nicole Kubota (Rod Kelley)	Ashley Bortolussi (Rucker)
Dina McQuaid (Solorsano)	Kim De Witt (Solorsano)	Derek Caso (South Valley)
James Pace (Board Member)	Anisha Munshi (Board Member)	

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Dr. Flores began by introducing herself.
- All SPAC Representatives introduced themselves and said a few things about their families.

### **Role and Responsibilities of SPAC Members**

- Dr. Flores shared a handout, and reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the SPAC Members.
- Explained the SPAC committee, she has had a Superintendent Advisory Council for almost 20 years.
- She shared that this is one of her favorite meetings of the month, as she loves to interact with parents, and likes the two-way communication.
- Every month, Dr. Flores shares information about the District.
- The SPAC Members identify topics that they would like to hear about in future agendas.
- Sometimes staff come to the meetings and give presentations about topics that are identified by the Members.
- At each meeting, there is one report per site.
- She asked members to keep the report short, 3-minutes or less.
- The SPAC Member's role and responsibility is to attend the meeting every month.
- The member or the member's alternate would attend every month.
- Attendance always starts very well and by the end of the year, only about two-thirds of the members attend.
- Dr. Flores hopes that with the increased membership, there will be a member representing every site each month.
- The members can share information either at the Home and School Club meetings or in any format, they would like. It is the role of SPAC members to share information and bring questions to the committee.

- Over the years, Dr. Flores has watched a lot of good communication occur between parents about what is happening at the school sites, with fundraisers, etc.

*Norms and expectation-*

- Dr. Flores shared she is big on Character Counts ®.
- She expects everyone to demonstrate the Character Counts Pillars, be respectful, courteous and kind to each other.
- Be good listeners and take good notes.
- This meeting is not to discuss the member's own child. If members have concerns about their own child, that should be done privately either after the meeting or contact her and schedule an appointment.
- We do not discuss personnel issues/concerns in this meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:**

***Garlic Festival – Support for Students, Staff & Community***

- The District was greatly impacted as well as the whole community.
- Horrible tragedy, which evoked many emotions.
- The Garlic Festival incident occurred on a Sunday night; Dr. Flores was up most of the night with some of the staff.
- The following morning, the District had 25 counselors at Christopher High School.
- The PIO put the word out on every social media platform to let people know about the counseling services being offered.
- The first morning not too many people came in, however, starting around 10:00 a.m. hundreds of people showed up to receive services.
- Students, parents, community members, as well as former students that showed up all week.
- A few days later, the District opened the Victim Assistance Center at Rucker Elementary.
- Christopher High and Rucker Elementary are both Red Cross sites. The District has several school sites that are designated as Red Cross shelters because we have the facilities.
- The District was sheltering 30 people at Christopher that ran from the park, mostly vendors, who could not get to their belongings, vehicles.
- That service later moved to Wheeler.
- Christopher closed counseling that Friday, and the services were moved to two other sites - Brownell Middle School and Gilroy High School.
- All the Counselors from various agencies were volunteering their time.
- The Victim Assistance Center stayed open through Sunday.
- The following Monday when staff returned, a training was provided for the staff on how they would respond to student comments or concerns. Counselors were also available to staff the first two days before students returned.
- Since then if we have staff and students that need to see counselors, we make referrals to agencies that helped us such as Rebekah Children Services, Community Solutions, and the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services.

- During the Management Retreat, did a workshop for personnel to get staff ready for the year; a lot of people needed it.

### ***Start of School Year***

- Dr. Flores did many television interviews. There were seven t.v. stations at Gilroy High School interested in what the District had done and was going to continue doing to help students and staff.
- Dr. Flores and the Cabinet members were out at sites on the first day.
- She visits every school site three times a year, (Fall Visits, APS Visits & Spring Visits).
- Considering the tragedy and impact it has had on the whole entire community, Dr. Flores feels that the students just needed to get back in school and have a normal routine.
- Overall, the start of school went very well.

### ***Declining Enrollment & School Closure:***

- Dr. Flores shared the presentation, and provided a handout, and talked to the committee members regarding the District's declining enrollment as well as the Board's decision to close Antonio Del Buono Elementary School.

### ***Budget development calendar***

- Dr. Flores shared a handout, which was an attachment presented to the Board, and approved at the August 22 Board Meeting.
- The Budget development calendar process starts at the next Board meeting (September 19).
- The budget development calendar is presented to the Board every year. This was planned for the whole year; this is the process staff follows.
- The calendar includes projections for enrollment and funding for next year.
- By June or in May, staff will recommend cuts to the Board for the following year 2020-2021.
- This is a lengthy process the District has to follow.
- The budget needs to be approved by June 30th

### **SPAC Representatives' Reports**

#### ***Rod Kelley Elementary School:***

- Royal Dance Academy going on – the students are really enjoying it.
- Cookie dough fundraiser going on right now.
- Jamba juice on site.
- Restaurant night at Habit Burger.
- Book fair taking place at the end of September.
- Coming up on Saturday is the evening in Paris prom for the 5th grade student who is terminally ill with brain cancer. She wanted to give back to Team Lilly Foundation, with is a cancer charity foundation which helps families going through the struggle with cancer. Taking donations, doing a penny drive, this will last a couple of weeks to earn money to give back to team Lilly.
- Jennifer Evans, a 5th grade English Dual Immersion teacher will be recognized as Teacher of the Year for Santa Clara County on October 3.
- One of our yard duties is part of a car club; they would like to do a trunk-or-treat in October for all the kids.

- Walk & Roll to school is pretty big at Rod Kelley.

### ***Brownell Middle School***

- Back-to-School-Night was on Wednesday 9/4, very successful.
- Enrollment is up 49 students at Brownell compared to last year.
- New school modernization, all being redone, the official Groundbreaking Ceremony is Wednesday, 9/11.
- Youth in Philanthropy family dinner on 9/12 in the multi-purpose room, there are thirty families involved.
- Friday 9/13 no school (staff development).
- Pop-up Library – the Santa Clara County Library comes over and brings books, this is the second Thursday of the month.
- Sports have begun - cross country, first softball game 9/10 at Christopher HS, between South Valley MS at 3:30, softball practice very Wednesday, wrestling will begin at end of September.

### ***El Roble***

- Book fair next week.
- Family Reading Night 9/19, teachers volunteer their time and in return, they earn money for books for their classrooms. Holding a drawing for students that attend this event.
- Mural Club going, this year had 42 applications, normally only do 25, talked them into doing 30 kids.
- Home and School Club is going to pay to go to Raging Waters at the end of the year.
- Anti-bullying conference and mural on the wall 9/24.
- Royal Dance Academy going on, the Home and School Club donated \$14,000 as well as the school is paying for some.
- Starting to plan for the Fall Festival for October working with Gilroy Police Department because they want security.
- Straw Hut Pizza Night 10/7.

### ***Christopher HS***

- Beginning of school year gone well, counseling services were available.
- Had the first football game of the year 8/30.
- Drama doing comedy sports.
- Decrease in fights at school.
- First Parent Club meeting this week.
- Back-to-School Night, 9/18
- Honors luau - 541 students eligible to attend this year.
- Spirit Week & Rally 8/19-8/23.
- Movie Night 8/16.
- Inspirational speak, Kevin spoke at school.
- ELAC parent meeting, organize trip workshops for all students Nov., Feb and April about values.
- Contact with Rebekah Children's Services and Community Solutions and school psychologist, to come to school to talk with the students in the future three times in the afternoon.

- Planning the Fall Parent Conference.
- Last year's ASB president finished and now the school is looking for a new president and new members (election happening this week).
- Día de los muertos party 11/6.

### ***Gilroy HS***

- New marquee looks great.
- Start of the school is going great.
- The Parent Club had a meeting with the new principal.
- GHS has a new Athletic Director.
- Choir doing big things, traveling to many places, the director is pushing community, State, County, etc.
  - Sang the National Anthem at the A's game as well as the San Jose Giants Game and the San Francisco Giants games.
- First concert October 2 and 3, new theme with sponsor spots.
- Sports up and running, this Friday first football game against Live Oak High School, cross country, girls volleyball, cheer, etc.
- Inspirational speaker Kevin spoke to students.
- Golden State Warrior coming to GHS 9/20.
- First school rally last week, went well.
- Home Coming week of 10/12.
- Back-to-School Night on 9/11.
- For those school parent groups interested in learning how Parent Club makes budget, it is primarily through the Levis Stadium, might be something you are interested in having your school participate in.

### ***Solorsano***

- Back-to-School Night 9/4.
- First parent club meeting & meet the new principal 8/21.
- Prepping for science camp, which is coming up during the April break.
- Choir & Yearbook meeting now.
- School dance 9/20.

### ***Las Animas***

- APEX fun run 9/12 will now have a dance remix in the multipurpose room.
- Book Fair 9/23-9/27, allow teachers to get 100 books for classrooms.
- October contracting with Bryan Skavnak, all about kindness, empathy and compassion, at Las Animas we have had a focus on kindness for the last several years. Will be here for two days will do an assembly for K-2 and 3-5 the next day.
- Two big screens for STEAM lab and one for office, four for grade levels trying them out, they are 85 inches, touch screen.
- Implementing a flexible furniture.
- Math festival, Saturday 10/5 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Trying a new fundraiser this year called Smillow (pillows that smell).

### ***Antonio Del Buno***

- APEX fundraiser.
- Back-to-School Night 8/29.

## **Luigi Aprea**

- Fun Run 9/16.
- Book fair in October (second week).
- Meet new Principal & Snow Cone Social 8/12.
- First Parent Club meeting 8/28, next one 9/18.

### **Topics of future meetings:**

- Parent participation/involvement – fundraising, resources etc. help strengthen communication.
- Collaborate on ideas (bully wall, buddy bench, mentoring program), how would we feel to come together collectively as parents.
- School Safety
- Tech report
- Communication such as Aeries/Peachjar.

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#### **Future Meeting Dates**

**Mon Oct 14, 2019**

**Mon Nov 4, 2019**

**Mon Dec 9, 2019**

**Mon Jan 13, 2020**

**Mon Feb 10, 2020**

**Mon Mar 9, 2020**

**Mon Apr 13, 2020**

**Mon May 11, 2020**

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