

Gilroy Unified School District

SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

(SPAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 14, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Members in attendance:

Joshua Jarvis (Antonio Del Buono)	Shalini Jampani (Brownell)	Judy-Ann Rosti (Brownell)
Centeotl Merino (Christopher)	Melissa Eaton (El Roble)	Joaquina Soulia (El Roble)
Jen Swigart (El Roble)	Melissa Avila-Carroll (GECA)	Debby Esposito (Gilroy)
Christina Martinez (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)	Dina McQuaid (Solorano)	Kim DeWitt (Solorzano)
Derek Caso (South Valley)	James pace (Board Member)	

Welcome & Introductions

Tonight's Topic:

- Melanie Corona, Public Information Officer, introduced herself, and shared some information regarding her background.
- When she first began with the District 18 months ago, there was no social media presence.
- She was tasked by Dr. Flores to create a new staff newsletter, new website, and to create a GUSD social medial platform.
- Melanie shared a presentation with the group on GUSD Communication and the ways we communicate as a district:
 - Aeries Communication
 - Peachjar flyers (every parent club has access to this).
 - Newsletter, staff & community (launched the community newsletter in August)
 - Website
 - Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Nextdoor)
 - Parent Club Communication. At the end of September, she did a three-hour session/Parent "Boot camp". Will be doing another one November 12.
- Shared a quick tour of the GUSD website, which was launched August 2018.
- Showed the SPAC representatives the various capabilities on our website and where they can go to find information.
- If the Parent Club/HSC feel that something needs to be updated on their webpage, please contact Melanie and she can do this for you.
- At the elementary & middle school level, the Office Coordinators have access to the school's website; at the secondary levels, there is a paid web admin who updates the school's websites.
- Shared important dates & notices:
 - Parent Club Boot camp – November 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 - #GilroyStrong Night at the Santa Cruz Warriors Game - November 17, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The two high school choirs will be singing the National Anthem and both high school cheer squads will be performing at half-time. The Santa Cruz Warriors have designed special shirts to wear at this game and they may also be selling them.
 - The LCAP Survey was sent out today. The staff would greatly appreciate it, if you took five minutes to complete it.
 - Melanie launched a Communication Intern Program. The application process is open for all high school students, and no experience is required all that is needed is a level of interest and professional commitment.
 - If you have content, send it to Melanie for the newsletter at melanie.corona@gilroyunified.org or call/text her at 408-607-2491.

Q: Do you have the resources to help the Parent Clubs/HSC create flyers?

- A:** In the Peachjar platform, there are flyer templates. You can update them to reflect whatever your needs are. Melanie uses Canva (online graphic design company), she will walk the parents through how to use this during the next boot camp. There is also a free version.
- Q:** Clicks have been way down this school year at our site. Are there some best practices to try to get people amped up to look at it (referring to Peachjar)?
- A:** Be intentional about how you are messaging. Remind parents, and teachers and site staff that flyers are going out to Peachjar and paper flyers do not have to go home, it is important that you are consistent in how you get your information out.
- Q:** When does the LCAP survey close?
- A:** Friday, November 22. We would really like parent participation. Last year, we had good response from middle school students. We need to work on participation from high school and fifth grade students this year.
- Once approved, El Roble Parent Club started putting the SPAC minutes on the website.
- Q:** For Peachjar are we able to put notes from this meeting on there, events that are happening, stuff we have learned from here, etc.?
- A:** Will have to talk about that to see where this information should live. Parent club meetings and agendas can go on the website.
- Q:** Thrilled about the communication and social media, however, there is a big gap. There are a couple of schools where we struggle getting parents to read communication, and it is only on paper. What do we do with that demographic that is not tech savvy and does not have internet access or visit the website? Is there a way on Peachjar to see if parents are opening it?
- A:** Yes, we can pull those analytics. On the website, there is a “translate here” button. For immediate messaging, we also have text platforms. As long as the cell phone number is on file with the district office we can target messaging.
- Q:** If we send out information district wide-who do we go through?
- A:** The school site secretary and principal are fully equipped with that information/access. In Aeries, if you want to send out a message specifically to your school site, they can do it. If it is district wide message, you can contact Melanie or go through the Educational Services department.
- Q:** Does the text go out in English only?
- A:** It will go out in the language of your choice.

Superintendent's Report

Declining enrollment:

- Dr. Flores provided a new chart with enrollment information.
- She talked about the two different columns (both of which are important). The one with a red box is from last year's CBEDS (California Basic Educational Data System), and this is the count taken the first Wednesday in October every year. The California Department of Education requires all districts in the State to report attendance on this day.
- Last year's column (2018-2019) shows where the District's elementary enrollment was on CBEDS day (4,743). Last Wednesday (10/2/19) was the "Preliminary 2019-20" CBEDS enrollment (4,675).
- Originally reported, we were down 98 students and the good news is we are down 68 (as of 10/2/19). All elementary schools declined except one, Eliot, which grew by 47 students because of the Alexander Station and Cannery Row Apartments.
- The loss of one student represents a loss of \$9,000 is a lot of money (over \$600,000). We are relieved that Eliot came in a lot higher than anticipated.
- The Middle schools and high schools are still growing. That is because the decline is currently at the elementary level.
- Last month, Dr. Flores shared with SPAC members her concern about the higher grades having large class sizes (in the 900's); while the incoming class sizes are much smaller (700's).

- The main driving force is the declining birth rate everywhere (Gilroy, County, State, and Nation).

School Closure:

- The Board voted recently to close Antonio Del Buono (ADB); this was a very tough decision for all involved in the process.
- This needed to happen; ADB is the smallest school, with only 312 of those students being residents of that schools attendance area. The rest are transfers or attend special programs, e.g. TK.
- It is too expensive to continue to operate it. With this kind of decline, predicting in another five to ten years, the District may be closing another elementary school.
- The Cabinet team meets every Monday. Since the decision was made they have been working on a list of steps to be taken regarding the closure, Principal Codiga has also participated in one of these meeting.
- A subcommittee has been created which is working on a new boundary. The boundary will determine which students will go to Luigi and Rucker. The steps in the process include the impact on transportation, food services, afterschool programs, and special programs.
- The boundary committee will be spending the next few months determining where the students will go after this decision is made, parents will be notified, followed by decisions about staffing.
- Each bargaining unit is complicated and unique on how this process will work.
- The Teachers union - the teachers are given priority to transfer to any school in the District that has an opening.
- Other bargaining units have different language in their contracts about transfers, which are pretty complicated.
- Dr. Flores is very confident; we will not have to lay anyone off.
- We have frozen positions this year to make sure ADB staff have a position to go to.

Uses of the Building:

- Dr. Flores received a question in advance as to what the plans are for the building.
- The District has total discretion over the facilities.
- We do have one charter school in Gilroy (Gilroy Prep School). They are occupying a former charter school site over by South Valley MS. That is the site that the District determined they would house GPS. The District spent a couple of million dollars to accommodate K-8.
- If another charter school is board approved in the future, it would be the district/board's decision to where they would be housed.
- In the past, the district could not deny a petition for a charter school based upon the fiscal impact on the district. Thankfully, a law was just signed by Governor Newsom, which now makes it relevant. The new laws says that the district can take into account the impact of a charter on our district finances. The district is declining in enrollment now and we are hurting financially.
- Prop 39 has always given districts the discretion as to where to house a charter school within their district.
- The District plans to lease ADB. There are 4 to 5 agencies that have reached out to the district. The district wants the best deal. It is important to reduce costs by closing a school and to increase revenue by leasing the school.
- If the district leased out ADB and next year we received a charter school petition, the process usually takes 4-6 months and now we can take into consideration financial impact.
- If a charter school is approved by the Board and ADB is leased, the district has capacity at our seven elementary schools. The District would decide where to house the charter school. It does not have to be at one spot. We have options; and can house them at any of the seven sites.

Q: If a charter school were to come in, would the District lease/pay for it?

A: The district cannot charge a charter school for facilities. We do charge for some overhead costs, which is part of the Charter School Act. There are many layers to this; we negotiate the facility, classrooms, spaces, playgrounds, parking, etc. It is one of the most complicated parts of the education code.

Q: Can we find out who is interested in leasing the facility?

A: When the District puts out the Request for Proposal (RFP) and officially submit the request, this starts the process. Discussions would likely be in closed session because it involves negotiating contracts.

Q: Do we know the impact of a private school as opposed to a charter school?

A: The district would ask a private school to submit a proposal. Many districts, which are doing this, ask for a proposal to see what they are offering?

Q: Do we know impact of private school (enrollment)?

A: There is no way to predict this.

Q: Does a private school have to come to the district?

A: They have to submit proposals just like any other agency.

- There is quite a bit of interest from a wide range of parties.

Q: We had heard a while back that the District was interested in moving to ADB.

A: No. The district owns the District Office building. We are not moving. The district has added about \$10 million in IT renovations, of which the core is in the Board Room, it would be a waste of these funds to move to another site.

Bond Refinancing

- The District has been trying to be very careful with taxpayer's money.
- Over the years, the District has refinanced two big bonds, Measures E & P.
- Our financial advisors watch and if they see that interest rates are dropping and by refinancing can save taxpayers, they inform us.
- We have done two of these already - one savings of \$15 million and the other is \$5 or 6 million. The district just did one last week, which netted a savings of \$15 million to the taxpayers.
- The other benefit of doing refinancing is it helps with the District's credit rating, which is very good.
- Credit ratings drives costs – it is great to have a good credit rating. The District refinanced \$122 million in tax bonds in the latest refinancing.

Great ShakeOut

- On 10/17 at 10:17, everyone will be participating in the Great ShakeOut.
- Wherever you work, you might want to encourage them to do it also.
- This year is the 30-year anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake.
- We need to be prepared. The drill is important.
- An additional layer in our school District is all the principals have a radio. We ask them to call during the drill to make sure they can communicate with us. We also send maintenance staff to each site to do what they would do in a real earthquake/incident.

School Site Presentations:

- Rod Kelley & Rucker – October 17
- Antonio Del Buono, Luigi & Eliot – November 7
- Glen View & El Roble – November 21

Brownell Rebuild:

- The Brownell Groundbreaking Ceremony was several weeks ago.
- This project is incredible, we are so excited.
- Flint Builders and Aedis Architects are doing a great job.
- You can see what is happening in the field next to First Street, they are working on the infrastructure.

- The next phase is underground work; once this is done, they will bring in the buildings, by end of the year, the seventh and eighth grade pods will be in.
- The first phase will be done by the end of the school year
- Next year is the next phase.
- Doing it in phases so we do not have to move any students/staff until the buildings are done.
- Sixth grade admin building and library will be done towards the middle of next year.

Gilroy High School Pool Rebuild:

- The area is already fenced off; the contractor has been there for a couple of weeks.
- Not as easy to see because of restricted area. They will be giving Dr. Flores and the Board Members video walk-throughs once a month.
- This is a quick project about 9 months, we anticipate by next summer Gilroy High School will have a beautiful pool with new deck and equipment.

South Valley Middle School:

- The first phase is to form a site-based committee, which will include site staff, district office staff, and architects. Everyone brainstorms about the design of the building.
- Over the course of this year, we will have committee meetings.
- Following the committee meetings, the preliminary designs will be taken to the Board for approval.
- By the end of next year, the architect will complete the actual designs, which will be submitted to DSA (Division of State Architects).
- We do not want these projects to overlap (Brownell and South Valley).
- SVMS is three to five years away; it is a much bigger project as the entire school is being replaced. The Brownell project wasn't as big as the gym and MPR are not being replaced.

Gilroy High School Varsity Football Incident

- Because it involves student discipline, there is very little we can talk about.
- Dr. Flores heard what is out on social media and she can confirm that there is incomplete/incorrect information; however, she cannot go into details of the incident.
- The District staff learned about it within 24 to 36 hours, and has been involved ever since.
- Still trying to work through whether the varsity football team is going to play or not.
- Right in the midst of talking to Central Coast Section (CCS), and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), and having discussions with them about the possibility as to whether the team can play or not.
- We had a number of parents request that we resume season.

Q: Some parents were feeling that there is a bullying problem and wondering what the district will do. There are some parents concerned and that was their fear when they heard about this.

A: This can be a topic on a future agenda. The CIF has a component that students go through regarding bullying and hazing. The District does not tolerate bullying. We already have an anti-bullying program in place (Olweus), and are working on another one (Circle-Up Program).

SPAC Representatives' Reports

DELAC/ELAC:

- Shared information from last Saturday's Parent Conference.
- In the past meetings, we spoke about parent participation.
- Shared several books regarding parent involvement.

Rod Kelley:

- Fifth graders went on a field trip to the San Jose Museum of Art.
- Parent club is doing a couple of fundraisers this month:
 - Boo Grams, delivered 10/31

- Gizzich pies
- College day, spirit day 10/18
- Storybook character, spirit day 10/31.
- Trunk-or-Treat, hosted by a car club 10/26 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Evening in Paris prom was a huge success, and absolutely beautiful. Raised over \$5,000 for Team Lily Foundation.
- The students have created a rock garden in Sophie's memory; every student in school decorated a rock and planted a tree.

Judy-Ann Rosti-

- Have been running a program for the last three years at Luigi Aprea called Abilities Awareness.
- She trains parents, and they go into the classrooms and educate students about kids with different abilities.
- Went in today and gave a presentation to all staff.
- Booked the week of 11/11-11/15, will be doing the program at Luigi; it is a one-hour program in class.
- This is something she does voluntarily, the cost is minimal, and her services offered are free.
- Would like if you would talk to your parent clubs, principals and reach out to her.
- Would like to invite the Board, throughout the entire district if possible.
- She has a PhD in Biology, and is a former science teacher.

Brownell:

- Couple of new clubs, which started this year- Bruins Believe in Kindness & Multi-cultural Club.
- Pop-up library is the second Thursday of the month.
- First School Site Council meeting 10/10, had a run through of what was presented here.
- Spirit week this week (professions and careers) today was "jocks vs. nerds".
- Fundraisers - Yo tea-Licious 10/14 & 10/15
- College day 10/18
- Parent Conferences 10/22-10/24, with minimum release for students.
- GECA presentation 10/24
- ASB dance 10/25
- Spooky concert 10/28
- PSAT 11/4
- Sports update, tryout going on for lots of sports.
 - Softball team took first in County
 - Cross country team took second
 - Wrestling practice is going on right now; they have three new wrestling coaches.

Las Animas:

- Math festival, which was very successful, had 299 people in attendance.
- APEX, brought in a lot of money.
- Finished first book fair
- "Be the Nice Kid" speaker, Bryan Skavnak coming in next week
- Walk, Bike and Roll 10/14, with be the "I" in Kind.
- Paper drive from 10/7 to 10/17
- Fall festival 10/25
- Storybook character day 10/31

Solorzano:

- First week of October Girls basketball and wrestling tryouts.
- School presentation to the Board on the 10/3 meeting
- CAASPP recognition on the 10/3 Board meeting
- Parent Club meeting 10/16
- ELAC meeting 10/17
- School Site Council 10/17

- Food pantry 10/17
- College and Career presentation 10/18
- Next week book fair and early dismissal for Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Symphonic band concert 10/30
- Spirit week, this week.
- Boo grams, this week.
- Science camp and Washington DC trip in the works through the parent club.
- Collaborative choir concert at Gilroy HS.

Glen View:

- Paving the blacktop is almost done.
- STEAM club after school on Fridays for grades 3 – 5.
- Mural club for 5th grade students, meeting with a muralist to plan it all out.
- Finished the Missoula play “Snow Queen”.
- Rojelio from Royal King Dance will be coming in December.
- Gilroy Police Department came out and did a pedestrian rodeo.
- On year two of PBIS implementation.
- 4th and 5th grade teachers working on being trained in GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design).
- K-3, most have been trained in SEAL (Sobrato Early Academic Language)
- Walk and Roll 10/17 (Thursday's once a month)
- Great ShakeOut 10/17
- Pillar for October is Respect.
- Just ended Yankee candle fundraiser.
- Chuck e Cheese night 10/24
- Harvest festival 11/4

Gilroy High:

- Battle of the Bands (Gilroy Garlic City Classics) 10/12
- Homecoming game vs. Aptos 10/18
- Homecoming Parade 10/18
- Homecoming dance 10/19
- Grad Night planning is underway.
- End of the quarter first honor roll recognition breakfast 10/22
- Cal-SOAP helping with Cash for College.
- GTSEP forms went out for next summer travelers to Takko-Machi.
- First Choir concert was amazing.
- Cross-country had their senior night at Gavilan.
- 30 senior parking spaces decorated.
- School Site report to the Board 9/19
- Recognized top earning students for CAASPP.
- Rock the Mock - GHS & GECA 11/8, CHS & MMHS 11/7

GECA:

- Back-to-school-night in September, it was well attended, sold spirit wear.
- Various fundraiser, restaurant nights, Debrito Apple, Straw Hut Pizza 10/16
- Jamba Juice sales every Wednesday afterschool.
- Starting poinsettia sales right now.
- Getting dates confirmed for holiday wrapping at the outlets.
- Embrace-a-senior program, this is a program where they have many people with mental health issues. They collect donations; kids have wrapping classes for seniors and write notes, and collect and distribute gifts at Christmas.
- Sober grad night planning going on.
- Freshman potluck/social.
- Sponsoring creative writing competition.
- Supporting ASB to cross promote fundraiser, and spirit weeks.
- College Admission Counselor meeting in September.

- Gavilan financial-aid, FAFSA application 10/15
- Gav/GECA Advisory Board-go over safety plans and see things from a different perspective, very educational meetings.

Antonio Del Buono:

- Walk and Roll to school went well.
- Storybook dress up and parade 10/31
- Trunk-or-treat 10/31 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Obstacle bounce house
- Haunted house
- Thanks to Luigi Aprea for a warm welcome at the Parent Club meeting.

South Valley:

- Gearing up for the Harvest festival.
- Yosemite trip & Washington DC trip planning with their own fundraisers (*Parent Club has taken the planning over*).

Luigi Aprea:

- Fun Run a couple of weeks ago, surpassed the goal.
- Still some concern about the color run.
- Finished the book fair last week.
- Antonio Del Buono attended the last Parent Club meeting, talking about having joint events throughout the year to have a smooth transition.
- Monster Bash dance/fundraiser 10/18

EI Roble:

- Anti-bullying handprint wall 9/24 (purple paint for ADB, black in honor of #GilroyStrong)
- Straw hut pizza night, very busy.
- Character day on 10/31
- Book fair went well.
- Library being worked on and it is almost completed.
- Yearbook cover contest for fifth graders:
 - Received 14 entries, narrowed it down to four.
 - All four featured on front and back covers (inner and outer as well), they will all receive a free yearbook.
- Student Council is doing “Guess weight of the pumpkin”.
- 5th grade fundraisers going on.
- 5th graders going to the Morgan Hill Courthouse.
- Fall festival, lots of stuff going on 10/25

Judy-Ann Rostti made the following announcement –

- Christopher HS has a new band teacher, last year of the 16 band members that left Brownell and went to Christopher, only four joined. The CHS band teacher is inviting middle school students to come play with the CHS band at the games.

James Pace (Board Member):

- YMCA Fall-Anthropy event, where ADB Principal Velia Codiga was recognized 10/11.
- Parent Conference this weekend hosted by DELAC 10/12, hard working group of parents, put on a very nice event. Claudia Rossi was the keynote speaker.

Topics for Future Meetings:

- Bullying