

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council (SPAC)

Monday, Oct. 12, 2020

PRESENT

Katie Hilton, El Roble ES
Honey Gubuan, Solorsano MS (and Christopher HS)
Moji Kazemi, Solorsano MS (and Gilroy HS)
Sandra Vargas, Christopher HS
Ashley Bortolussi, Rucker ES
Lauren Moller, Rucker ES
Dawn Johnson, Gilroy HS (and Solorsano MS)
Judy-Ann Rosti, Brownell MS
Trevor Van Laar, South Valley MS (and Rod Kelley ES, Gilroy HS)
Maria Diaz, Glen View ES (and Christopher HS)
Ashley Bortolussi, Rucker ES
Lindsay Millea, Rod Kelley ES
Coyo Anhder, Gilroy HS
Cynthia Grace
Cynthia Wargocki
Hadassah Arreola Diaz
Kenny Moreno, El Roble ES
Mari-Anne Low
Melissa Avila-Carroll, GECA
Sue Rodriguez, Christopher HS
Dr. Debbie Flores, superintendent
Lucy Huerta, translation
James Pace, board trustee
Francisca Garcia, counselor at Solorsano MS
Eric Thompson, Parent and Community Engagement supervisor
Anna Pulido, director of Student Services

TONIGHT'S TOPIC: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS

- Speakers: Francisca Garcia, counselor at Solorsano MS; Eric Thompson, Parent and Community Engagement supervisor (school-linked services and attendance); Anna Pulido, director of Student Services and who also oversees health and mental health services.
- Counseling tiered services: Counselors are on staff at all district middle school and high schools. They offer:
 - Tier 1: For all students, an array of support services, including Google Classrooms, college/career days, needs assessments, outreach to students.
 - Tier 2: For some students, additional targeted support for academic, emotional needs.
 - Tier 3: For few, specific outreach for 504s, home visits, referrals for outside agencies, etc.
- They're focusing on support for students during distance learning through trauma-informed approaches, physiology-based support.

- School-linked services are at all schools to provide connections to mental health, medical, food, shelter resources. Two main agencies are Community Services and Rebekah’s Children’s Services. Also work with Differential Response (no insurance requirement), Diva Diversity, Discovery Counseling Center (individual counseling; no insurance requirements).
- PEI program: assessment, case management, individual/family counseling, crisis intervention, one-on-one family services, referral and linkage.
- School-linked services require full-scope Medi-Cal, also provides behavioral support, crisis intervention.
- How to access services:
 - Elementary: Contact teacher/principal/Eric for counseling referral.
 - Middle School: Teacher/school counselor/SLS coordinator Elizabeth Perez for counseling referral.
 - High school: Teacher/AC/SLS coordinator Nancy Herrera for counseling referral.
- Crisis lines are available through community Solutions and county behavioral health.
- Gilroy Strong Resiliency Center: Drop-in counseling; resources and referrals.
- During the pandemic, some services have been expanded to include more students.
- Presentation will be forwarded to committee members.
- The middle schools have included a weekly class period to address socioemotional topics (Eagle Time, Bruin Time, Tiger Time). The counselors are developing their own curriculum.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **Reopening Planning Process**
 - Planning committee (and subcommittees) has reconvened to discuss the reopening process.
 - The county has moved into the state’s Tier 2 and schools have the option to open. But GUSD also has to adhere to County PHD and SCCOE requirements. Those mandates are in a 50-page report issued by the County on Sept. 22 (the link to the report will be sent to the committee). Mandates include: social-distancing between desks; mask requirement for all students and staff the whole school day.
 - To reopen, the district has to document how each mandate is met. The district cannot meet all mandates at this time.
 - Dr. Flores will update the board where the district stands in the process at Thursday’s board meeting and maybe again in December.
 - Students, parents and staff were surveyed in last few weeks. Thousands of responses were received. Student responses / parent responses showed about half are comfortable with returning to school. Most of staff surveyed said they’re not comfortable returning.
 - Most districts in county are not planning to bring students back before the winter break.
 - Districts are not required to request waivers to reopen (after the county moved to a different tier on Sept. 22). But districts are required to post their plans before reopening.
- **Questions from committee:**
 - Will families know if the district plans to reopen? Families will have advance notice when a decision is made with how to proceed with rest of the school year.
 - Do you expect the mandates to change? We don’t know if mandates will change but they haven’t changed or been eliminated since July and some have become stricter.

- Is the district looking at how other schools have done with reopening? The county and district are looking at data nationwide as well as worldwide to study what has been done and what has worked.
 - Who got the surveys? Surveys were sent to all families enrolled at district schools via their information listed on Aeries and any other way we could reach them. VLA families got separate surveys. Families who decided to homeschool this year were not surveyed.
 - Why have private schools in Gilroy opened? Structures of non-district schools are different, e.g. they are much smaller, have less students, do not meet the same mandates for funding.
 - Is the district planning for reopening? Yes, the district is considering what it would take to reopen.
- **Purchase of New Computers**
 - Recommendation to spend \$3.29M in COVID-relief funds to buy 6,048 Chromebooks is going to the board Thursday. These computers will; 1) replace devices that are reaching end-of-life and 2) help provide more support to students who need better devices during distance learning.
 - If students have trouble doing their work with their available devices, families should be communicating with their teachers to find a solution or compromise. Dr. Flores will ask the IT director to follow up with digital design teachers at both high schools to see how curriculum can be supported by available devices.
- **Latest Enrollment Information**
 - The first Wednesday in October is CBEDs day, which is when the district reports enrollment to the state. The number reported was 280 less than a year ago. The district was expecting it to be closer to 100 less students. This represents a loss of funding of \$3M.
 - We won't know until we're back to in-person learning if this was a normal decline because lower birth rate or because of distance learning.
- **Board Appointment & Elections**
 - Trustee James Pace was appointed to fill the vacancy in his trustee area. He'll be serving another four years.
- **Fire & Earthquake Drills**
 - The state is still requiring these drills. Wednesday is the Great American Shakeout.
- **Additional questions from committee**
 - Some families are still waiting for hotspots and/or internet access. While they wait, are hard-copy packets available? Please let families know to email their principals so their needs can be assessed. Hotspots can be provided. But, some areas of Gilroy just can't get internet access. About 50 children have been brought into Rucker ES to access distance learning from the campus.
 - Will state testing change? As of now, the state will require testing this year. That's part of the reason the district just conducted benchmark tests. For accommodations, families should discuss these needs with their case managers to make sure accommodations are made during testing. (Also, assessments are being done in person.)

- For students who are going to day care and need access there, how can they can get a hotspot? Families should reach out to their principal and let them know the specific issues so their needs can be assessed. Dr. Flores' goal is to that every student has a reliable connection or a spot at one of the sites offering access.
- What technology support has been given to staff? Teachers have the option to work in their classroom or at home. On campus, they have access to tools they need. At home, they can borrow some tools from their schools (e.g. second monitors) but they have also been buying things on their own. To acknowledge these expenses, a recommendation to provide a one-time stipend is going to the board Thursday for all staff.
- From Gilroy HS parents, why is graduation on Thursday night vs. Friday night? Many people thought it was supposed to be Friday night this year.
- Is the pledge a requirement? Yes, it is an Ed Code requirement. Dr. Flores recently sent a reminder to the principals. She'll forward that requirement to the committee.
- Will the results of the survey be released to families? Yes, they'll be released as a summary but they'll first be shared with the planning committee and board.
- Are site councils continuing? They are a required. Dr. Flores will remind principals that these need to happen.
- What happens to materials/belongings still at Brownell MS? Dr. Flores will follow up with principal to see options for things like library books.

SPAC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Brownell MS:** Band is working with the Christopher HS band boosters to organize and raise money. Friday fun day was launched via Zoom, which was a good way for kids to connect with others. ASB has started up again. Report cards are going home soon.
- **Christopher HS:** Senior parent night had about 350 participants between CHS and Gilroy HS. End of quarter went pretty well. Athletic teams have started conditioning with safety protocols in place.
- **Glen View ES:** Picture day went well. Retake will be Nov. 16. Teachers have started to discuss fire and quake drills. Principal and staff will begin home visits to students who haven't been attending. Power School has started at Glen View for students who need reliable access. Science curriculum has been delivered and will soon be distributed.
- **Luigi ES:** Chipotle fundraiser was last week and went well, despite some technical hiccups. Virtual book fair is going on. Halloween plans are being discussed.
- **Gilroy HS:** Senior parent night and virtual college fair went well. Club rush is coming up with new virtual format. Principal and admin will have a drive-through lunch for teachers. Virtual rally is 10/23. Pumpkin carving contest and dress-up day for Halloween.
- **Rod Kelley ES:** Picture day was early October. Gizditch pie fundraiser is happening. Parent club is meeting. Tutoring for parents will help address any tech problems. Mrs. Salcido has been meeting with grade-level parents in last few weeks. Distribution of materials and storybook dress-up day will be same day.
- **Las Animas ES:** Picture day went well. HSC coordinated a teacher breakfast to recognize their hard work. Online book fair is going on. Friday Flowers fundraiser will be in January. Arts Alive lesson and material distribution are being organized. Last year's yearbooks arrived.
- **GECA:** Parent club has had a couple of meetings. Restaurant fundraisers are being set up. Freshmen families are setting up a virtual social. College week is coming up. GECA admissions for new class of freshmen has opened up.

- **Rucker ES:** Santa Clara County Library bookmobile came to Rucker so families could check out books, DVDs, etc. Rucker was a test group for HSC access to ParentSquare. It's a game changer and families are providing great feedback. Arts Alive and Los Dichos are being recorded and shared from YouTube starting this week. RHSC is getting art supplies to students during consumable pickup days on campus. School is having a very socially distant pumpkin patch in the school garden.

TOPIC IDEAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- PBIS will be on the schedule soon.
- Suggestions from committee:
 - Judi: Brownell MS modernization and its technology. If SPAC members are interested, Dr. Flores can see about taking small groups from this committee through.
 - Plans for South Valley MS modernization.