

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
 (SPAC) Meeting Minutes
 Monday, November 9, 2020
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Members in attendance:

Shalini Jampani (Brownell)	Judy-Ann Rosti (Brownell)	Susan Rodriguez (Christopher)
Centeotl Merino (Christopher)	Sandra Vargas (Christopher)	Kenny Moreno (El Roble)
Katie Hilton (El Roble)	Jenny Swigart (Home School)	Domitila Mendez (Eliot)
Arcelia Arreola (Eliot)	Melissa Avila-Carroll (GECA)	Cindy Wargocki (GECA)
Christina Martinez (Gilroy)	Mari-Ann Low Gallagher (Gilroy)	Maria Diaz (Glen View)
Lauren Moller (Luigi Aprea)	Lindsay Millea (Rod Kelley)	Ashley Bortolussi (Rucker)
Dawn Johnson (Solorsano)	Mojgan Kazemi (Solorsano)	Coyo Anhder (South Valley)
James Pace (Board Member)		

Welcome & Introduction

Tonight's Topic

Aurelio Rodriguez, Emergency Preparedness & School Safety Coordinator shared information regarding safety protocols.

- The Health & Wellness Subcommittee asked Aurelio if he could work on a protocol.
- A digital check-in was identified; this helps with contact tracing and provides CDC information in the event that there is a positive COVID case at any of our sites. He is looking to implement a digital platform for the students.
- A single point of entry, with sanitizers and handwashing stations will be placed at each entry. When students return the single points of entry will have to expand, and students will have assigned entries.
- A self-health assessment, particularly if someone has a fever of 104 or higher or any COVID symptoms in the last 14 days. As restrictions change so, do the questions on the assessment.
- Signage and markings for 6 ft. distance, masks are required.
- No use of staff rooms & limited bathrooms available, plenty of signage at the entries of each restrooms.
- All meals will be provided outside when students return. They will be part of cohorts and have assigned seating in areas of the campus.
- Areas will be identified to create isolation rooms.
- Aurelio was part of a meeting last week with the nurses and a thermal imaging company in the event that those requirements come up (temperature taking).
- Substitute teachers will only be able to teach at one site for the day, they cannot go from site to site as they normally do.
- The protocols are a work in progress as the mandates change.

Dan McAuliffe, Maintenance Manager, shared information regarding cleaning protocols and ventilation.

- Dan attended a webinar last week along with Dr. Flores, Aurelio and Alvaro Meza.
- The district is following the CDC's guidelines on cleaning protocols for school recommendation and proper cleaning, which are the following three (regular maintenance of cleaning, sanitization, and disinfecting)
- The sites are being cleaned during the day and once a week they are thoroughly disinfected.
- Prior to the pandemic the district was stocking up in anticipation of a tough flu season, they have some good equipment in place and the staff has already been trained on how to use it. There is an electrostatic sprayer at each of the sites.
- Currently the sites are fully staffed, with the distance learning centers, they have been able to designate one custodian, and they clean and disinfect the restrooms every 30 minutes.
- The site custodians are still cleaning and disinfecting on a regular schedule.
- They have done video trainings and have provided handouts from the CDC to staff in both English and Spanish.
- If the district returns to regular session with students in classrooms, they will not be able to staff accordingly. They would need double the custodial staff of which they currently have, and the district does not have funds to cover that.
- CDC is recommending that windows and doors be open and that the fans are on at all times. The outside air needs to be introduced as much as possible.
- The HVAC systems are being run two hours before and two hours after sessions. They have remote systems in half of the school sites.
- The district is consulting professionals, they have prime HVAC mechanical engineers helping them, Dan will be presenting some options to the district's Facilities Subcommittee on Friday.
- The maintenance staff is checking the exact performance of every HVAC unit.
- The MERV 11 filters are very good, the MERV 13 filters is the kind of filter used in a cleanroom setting. MERV 13 is 90% more effective in removing the virus from the air.

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- The district has 1,200 to 1,300 HVAC units, it takes the maintenance staff two people to service, and it is 2.5 hours per unit.
 - Overtime has been available for HVAC techs and people to assist them on the weekends. These units cannot be cleaned, while the room is occupied.
- Q:** If students have had COVID, is it a different protocol?
A: Dr. Flores will ask Dr. Cody or Dr. Roy.
- Q:** If the students have to use separate restrooms how is that going to happen?
A: They are assigning cohorts of 12 students into individual restrooms, the cohorts are assigned to a restroom, and they can only go in one at a time and then every 30 minutes the restrooms are being cleaned.
- Q:** What about schools with offices that do not have windows that open?
A: They are trying out some portable HEPA filters on a limited basis to see how effective they are so far they are very good. For issues where we have limited ventilation that would be a possible option. Even if tents or modular units were used, they would still have to be ventilated.
- Q:** If the district elects for a hybrid model, are they not allowed to do distance learning?
A: What some districts have tried to do is both simultaneously you cannot teach 12 kids and stay in front of your computer, one district is looking at expensive camera systems to see if there is a way to do this. If you cannot do it simultaneously then students would come in such as an A, B schedule. If you were in group A, you come in two days and the other three days would be doing an independent learning with parents assistance unless we can resolve an issue of how do it simultaneous. In addition, that would have to be agreed upon by the teachers union.
- Q:** All these classrooms being opened, with windows open, what happens if we have a code red at schools, what is to happen if there is a situation like that, which can last a long time?
A: It has not been discussed in a committee, the schools would lock down as quickly as possible, and it would not be as easy as it is if you have windows and doors closed.
- Q:** If students go back on a hybrid schedule, would it be the full day?
A: This is something that they have talked about, there is about 10 teachers on the committee, and the district has a requirement by the State of a certain number of minutes that are needed for instruction.

Superintendent's Report

Reopening Planning Process

- Dr. Flores mentioned at prior meetings, that she reconvened the Reopening Planning Committee in September and they have been meeting every two to three weeks, as a full planning committee or in subcommittees.
- The committee is going to continue meeting through December, and then they will bring an update to the Board at the January Board Meeting.
- They gave out a survey a few weeks ago and she included the results in her Friday letter last week.
- Some members asked why did they send out a one-question survey, the reason is because they realized in the first survey that the question was not asked; if they were to reopen it would have to be in a hybrid model, because of the distance of 6 ft. how would they choose that model and a description was provided for all three levels.
- The Reopening Committee is going to hold off on meeting again until they get the results of this question, they are hoping to get a great response level to this survey as they did in the last one.
- If they did reopen and they were in hybrid model and 60% of parents said they would have rather have their students at home, they may have to actually reconstitute classes and that is a big planning process.
- If they are going to reopen what kinds of protocols do, they have to have in place.

Latest Data about COVID19

- One of the things that they have really been watching is the numbers. The numbers in California are growing again; there has been over a hundred thousand cases five days in a row.
- Today the County called a special press conference, they are very concerned about Santa Clara County's numbers the possibility of some counties going backwards and they are going to announce that tomorrow at noon (11/10).
- There were 358 new COVID cases as of Sunday. The number of COVID cases in children is steadily increasing, and there are districts all over the county that are closing that had reopened.

Distance Learning Access Centers

- Last month Dr. Flores mentioned that they opened Rucker and Glen View, as distance learning access centers, this is for students that have no internet providers in their areas, or the internet is weak/spotty.
- The first center to open was at Rucker, which serves Rucker attendance area students as well as Ochoa Camp students who are bussed in.
- Since then, they have opened a center at Glen View, which serves Eliot students as well.

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- The centers are run by a nonprofit agency like YMCA, they are technology child care centers, in each class they have about 10-12 students with two staff, they are supervised and they assist them to access distance learning from district classrooms, which is what they cannot do at home.
- We have learned a lot since opening these centers, if we are to bring students back. We have learned a lot of protocols about how students move around the campus, how often, etc.
- Two weeks ago, they opened up two access centers at Gilroy High and Christopher High, at the two elementary sites they are serving about 60 students, the two high school sites, for middle and high school they are serving about 25 students.
- What they are learning for the students in middle and high school is that once they learn what they need to be doing they do not come back to the center anymore.
- They have learned a lot from the four centers on how to safely serve students. So far, they have not had any COVID cases at these centers. The protocols the district has in place are working.

Site Visits

- Dr. Flores conducts three site visits a year to all of our sites.
- She just finished all site fall visits, she went to 15 sites, Board members accompanied her, they went into all classrooms of teachers that are virtually teaching at the sites, and then joined classes virtually for those teachers not working at the sites. She asked each of the principals to set up a large screen in a room where we can be socially distanced, it has been very informative.
- Her general observation is that they are doing a great job, they are using the district adopted curriculum, she knows it is not the same, it does not replace brick and mortar instruction but teachers are doing a really good job,
- Dr. Flores just started her second round of visits known as APS visits, where they use a monitoring instruments using best practice in the classrooms.

Purchase of 6,000+ New Computers

- The district is purchasing new chromebooks, they are a lot more powerful than the current ones, they have more memory and they are a lot faster.
- The product is in high demand and, she was hoping we would get them all at once, however, the district is in line to receive them in batches and we will be replacing the older ones

Q: What will the district do with all of the old chromebooks?

A: Dr. Flores said she will check with the IT Director, she is sure she has a plan in place.

Athletic Conditioning and Sports

- As of today, the Government Body of high school athletics has not made a decision about athletics.
- They had stated the official practice would start December 14 and the competitive sports would begin in mid-January, however, as of today the numbers are going up, they are hesitating whether to have students in athletic conditioning right now.
- Athletics were shut down under the direction of the health department, the district required everyone in athletic conditioning to have a COVID test and bring a negative result.
- The district did have a case this summer in athletic conditioning and they are closely following what is happening in athletic conditioning practice right now.
- They are in cohorts of 12 with a coach assigned to their cohorts, they are checking temperatures and they cannot have physical contact.
- We do not know if CIF/CCS at the state level will allow practices to begin on December 14, we do not know if high school sports are going to move forward.

New Board Members

- Board elections took place last week, James Pace was reappointed as the Trustee for Area 5.
- We have two new Board Members that ran in two other Trustee Areas, Michelle Nelson and Melissa Aguirre.
- We are very excited to have the two new board members, one of these Board members will replace Anisha Munshi who was a board member to SPAC but she resigned at the end of June.

Additional Questions

Q: From reading the survey, for high school it says that they will return to distance learning (DL). They will be their one to two times a week, receive a grab and go lunch and return to DL classrooms. From what she understood during this meeting, is that they will attend classes one to two days a week and then the rest will be done in independent learning, which is different from what she read on the survey, where it says that they will attend distance learning? She did not understand and asked if she can change her response?

A: Dr. Flores said if any of them are confused about this then they will have to send another communication, she is glad they are discussing it at this meeting. What this meant is on the day that you come in with your teacher, you

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would probably only have two classes with your teacher and the other two you would do distance learning that day. Dr. Flores is going to take the feedback to the teaching and learning subcommittee who developed it and will share the feedback with them and they will have to come up with some additional communication to all parents.

- ***They talked about this topic in length; most members did not understand what the survey meant and said they would have opted out of this if they knew what it meant.***

Q: Was this what the teachers also, thought would be good, how they want the design for the hybrid, or was this simply just the subcommittee?

A: It's the subcommittee, there are ten teachers on it, representing all levels of the district.

Q: Have they started negotiations?

A: We have not negotiated because we have not decided we are coming back yet. We have not negotiated this and that is another piece that has to be done no matter what model we come back in.

Q: Have we considered a pilot program such as the one MHUSD is doing to run through all these things in person, some students in class, some at home, etc., has GUSD considered that?

A: We've talked about a lot of things starting with smaller numbers for instance at lower grades. We will continue to talk about it, but this is what the teaching and learning committee felt they needed to know before we go on any further.

SPAC Representative Reports

South Valley:

- ASB Student report – There have been various spirit days including costume, school spirit (college days) and a movie night.
- ELAC Report - ELAC has begun to meet and their requests have been for the following items to be considered:
 1. More communication from personnel / teachers to parents
 2. More support opportunities for ELA students
 3. More workshops for parents at home for how to help with children
- School Site Council reviewed the SPSA plan (and LCAP, SLIGB, and CSI)
School provides: Professional development, External consultants, Math coach, Release time and Professional development, Instructional technology, Academic nights for parents.
GOAL 1 : Tier 1 36,239.81, LCAP 1: 26,607, SLIBG 45,339, CSI:106,000
Goal 2: Provide equitable support for all learners, ELA EL's 2017-18 72.8 points below standard – maintained 2.1 points.
SVMS / GUSD Partner agencies, YIP, POWER SCHOOL, JOVEN NOBLE, SCHOOL LINK SERVICES.
In School service: Professional learning communities, English Language instructional assistants (PD), Para Support for language learners, Enrichment and Support Persios, Technology – software and hardware, Library clerk.
Goal 3 school culture and climate: Social / emotional, Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Coffee w/Principal, Parent Club, SSC, Parent Ed, Tiger time / CJSF / Sports / etc.
- Principal Ramos Shared a book he would like for the staff to study - For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education (Race, Education, and Democracy) by Christopher Emdin.
- Lastly - Principal Ramos filled us in on the following tech provisions: Hotspots – 50-100 hotspots & Donation of Chromebooks to SVMS.

Rod Kelley:

- Storybook character time in October some students came and pick up dressed like a storybook character.
- Make-up picture day in October as well as more spirit days, another on November 20th.
- Material pick up day November 12 & 13.
- A Sock drive November 9-20th.
- Gizdich fundraiser is November 12.
- Parent teacher conferences coming up.
- Report cards are going out.

Solorsano

- During Eagle time tomorrow, the school counselors will be having a mental health town hall meeting.
- This time will be for everyone to talk about stressors, and for them to be able to listen and ask questions at the end, there will be a crisis hotline so that students can reach out on their own.

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- On November 13, they will be having another Eagle Time, Gavilan students they will be presenting the school as an option, career department will be having different programs that are provided there. They will do a survey at the end.
- Second year of Math Olympian run by a parent, Dr. G, they had a diagnostic test on Thursday of last week. Fifteen student passed, they will do weekly meetings on Thursdays they will compete with different schools.
- Having a Gizdich fundraiser, pickups will be December 15.
- School store has just started swag for parents to order customizable things.

Brownell

- Picture days went well; the students were able to walk into new campus and see a little bit of it.
- ASB started, they already had spirit days; college week kids were able to wear t-shirts.
- Cooking club started.
- Cal-SOAP is offering free tutoring, Monday- Thursday, from 4:30 -5:30 and Saturday from 9:30-11:30.
- Parent teacher conferences took place.
- They are going to have their first School Site Council.
- There is good participation in distance learning and the teacher insists on cameras being on.
- The kids are learning a lot more about reading music sheets, as they are being sent digitally. They can see them on the screen and have to play it and cannot write notes on it.

Gilroy HS

- The month of October was very student focused in regards to student engagement.
- They had a Halloween pumpkin carving contest, the parent club and other parents donated gift cards to the individual for the pumpkin carving contest
- Club Rush - the Clubs created a video; there was about 30 individuals that attended the Club Rush.
- Pink Out for cancer awareness was on October 21.
- They had an online rally, which was a big success having students view that.
- Great shakeout for Gilroy
- Staff BBQ was provided by Principal Kapaku.
- Turkey design contest which started today, they will pick certain students right before the Thanksgiving break.
- Athletic clearances are being done.
- Cal-SOAP is being utilized at GHS.
- In the month of October they normally have an honor roll brunch, they had some great plans they thought we were going to do, such as a drive thru ice cream handout to the kids. That event had to be postponed. With athletic conditioning returning, they were wondering if they would be able to host that type of event. At this point, they have not been given any permission; she asked Dr. Flores if she had any thoughts on that. Dr. Flores said it would be fine for them to reschedule, she would follow up with Principal Kapaku.

Christopher

- Doing some games, playing mafia mystery game, the clubs are still meeting up.
- Breast cancer awareness month was last month.
- The students had a mock election, with a cougar teacher of the quarter, voted on other issues that they thought the students should vote on, and they all passed.
- Back to athletic conditioning.

Rucker

- Lots of fun stuff, virtually and in person.
- A couple of things they are working on continuously, Arts Alive, which is parent run. Uploading videos to YouTube page and sending out depending on the programs. Arts alive funded a small bag and sent it out some students, who may not have those materials at home so they could participate in Arts Alive and Los Dichos.
- Chipotle fundraiser on November 18.
- Home & School Club wanted to do something small with the new ADB families they missed that opportunity to gather and greet or welcome in, their goal is to foster that community.
- They cannot do that much fundraising, they are doing a little hot cocoa and story night coming up.
- Parent square is amazing they can reach all the parents. It has a wish list option for HSC.

Glen View

- October participated in the Great Shakeout, they had the distance learning access center students on campus and they did really well, was amazed at how well Power School handled it.

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- The Power School staff has been doing really good, great communication with Power School staff.
- Spirit day coming tomorrow, camouflage day for Veterans Day.
- Started doing monthly awards.
- Also using NSU grant to spread joy for kids that are in Power School.

El Roble

- Congratulations to Zach and Katie Hilton and Melissa Aguirre, they are all El Roble parents.
- Last month they had a good book fair, it was not great compared to the normal ones.
- They had picture day.
- Spirit week.
- Fundraiser at Jersey Mikes is coming up the week after Thanksgiving.
- BBQ 152 later on in the month.
- They had an apparel blow out, they discounted the ones they had and sold out, they did thousands of dollars in apparel; drive thru only at the window.

GECA

- This past month was very student focused they had mid-terms.
- As far as PTSA goes, they had general meeting in October, as well as financial aid presentation. They went through a lot of stuff about FAFSA, gave many resources and gave them contacts.
- In the November meeting, they are going to have a speaker who works with many seniors in essay writing.
- Catalog type fundraiser coming soon.
- ASB has been having spirit days, college week, and dress up for Halloween.
- They had movie night, showed the Nightmare before Christmas via Zoom, students and teachers all participated.
- Virtual talent show early December.
- Admissions going on.
- Right now kids are in the thick of getting their high school contracts submitted so they can be ready for registrations.

Topics of future meetings

- PBIS
- If you can think of something in between just send Dr. Flores an email.