

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, January 11, 2021
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Members in attendance:

Shalini Jampani (Brownell)	Judy-Ann Rosti (Brownell)	Susan Rodriguez (Christopher)
Centeotl Merino (Christopher)	Sandra Vargas (Christopher)	Kenny Moreno (El Roble)
Jen Swigart (Home School)	Domitila Mendez (Eliot)	Melissa Avila-Carroll (GECA)
Cindy Wargocki (GECA)	Christina Martinez (Gilroy)	Mari-Anne Low Gallagher (Gilroy)
Maria Diaz (Glen View)	Alexandria Dominguez (Glen View)	Cynthia Grace (Las Animas)
Esmeralda Ramos (Las Animas)	Lauren Moller (Luigi Aprea)	Lindsay Millea (Rod Kelley)
Ashley Bortolussi (Rucker)	Dawn Johnson (Solorsano)	Mojgan Kazemi (Solorsano)
Honey Gubuan (Solorsano)	Trevor Van Laar (South Valley)	Teresa Perez (Virtual Academy)
James Pace (Board Member)		

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Flores welcomed the new Virtual Learning Academy SPAC representative, Teresa Perez. She also announced that Board Member, Melissa Aguirre, would be joining SPAC as a Board Member Representative at the February SPAC meeting.

Tonight's Topic - Brownell Middle School Modernization Projects

Presenters: Paul Nadeau, Director of Facilities & Marissa Van Patten, Project Manager

Marissa Van Patten, Project Manager, shared the following information with SPAC members:

- Measure E funded the Brownell Middle School modernization project; the budget is \$71 million.
- The start of the project was on August 2019, and it is now coming up on completion. It should be completed by May 2021.
- Phase Two is just being completed now which includes the kitchen expansion. The new furniture has been moved into the library-media center and they are gearing up to move teacher items into the 6th grade classrooms as well as the library books in to the book room.
- Following the completion of these, they will finalize the project with the ball/playing field as well as the landscaping.
- Ms. Van Patten shared a presentation with photos of the project.
- There are two seventh grade pods and two eighth grade pods. The library media center is a single building, which encompasses a large library, and book storage.
- There are two sixth grade pods, and directly behind these pods is the multipurpose room (MPR), as well as the kitchen/server.
- The administrative building will have security built in. Staff will have a nice view of the main quad area as well as the main parking lot.
- Every classroom has a “garage door”, which the staff wanted to provide for indoor-outdoor learning areas and is a great way to let daylight in as well as fresh air. The classrooms each come equipped with white boards as well as a wall that has a writeable surface.
- There is flexible seating options, which include three levels of seating, a mix of soft seating and some traditional chairs as well.
- There are some lower desks that would be appropriate for anyone leading a media presentation.
- The MPR has a painted river design, which you can see from an aerial view. There is a new state of the kitchen built adjacent to the MPR. The food service staff had the opportunity to create it from scratch; this will be a very energy efficient kitchen.
- There are new solar canopies over the staff parking lot on First Street. Ms. Van Patten also shared another example of the canopies that are installed over the classroom pods. There is enough solar to power each particular pod.
- Each pod has six classrooms and one maker-space or science lab, and a set of restrooms, a custodial closet, and a bottle filler station; the pods are made to be self-contained environments.

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, January 11, 2021
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Q: Would like to find out if there are any plans for a band room? Brownell band has been using the MPR for practices, their equipment fills the stage, they cannot move and it is somewhat tight. Is there anywhere in the budget, they can get a band room?

A: During a recent Facilities Subcommittee meeting, which meets monthly, they talked about a potential location. Dr. Flores said she would have to get back to her next month. Staff has looked at the campus for at possible options for a band room. In another month or so, she will get back to them with a response. It will not be a separate building; they are looking at existing facilities.

South Valley Middle School Modernization Project

Paul Nadeau, Director of Facilities, shared the following information with SPAC members:

- Mr. Nadeau, shared a list showing the remaining funds of the Measure E Bond. This project was budgeted at \$90 million, funded through Measure E.
 - The design began in July 2020 and is scheduled to be completed August 2023.
 - A committee comprised of architects, staff, a student, a parent, the superintendent, the principal, and Board Members have been meeting and have been planning the design for months.
 - Mr. Nadeau shared the architect's rendering from the front of the campus. Every building on campus will be replaced.
 - Currently, they have completed the initial design (schematic). The design team is now getting more into the specs, and creating the cost centers, as well as what they call construction documents. This will take them from April to May during which they will develop many construction documents.
 - Currently, the project is in what they call the construction doc phase. The architects plan to submit to DSA (Dept. State Architects) in April 2021. DSA takes a few months to review all of the documents. We hope to receive DSA responses by mid-July and start construction by the summer or fall. The project completion date is estimated to be August 2023.
 - The current entrance to the school is located at IOOF Ave. The new design will move the entrance from IOOF to Murray Avenue.
 - This will separate traffic from Gilroy Prep School and will give parents the opportunity to pick up and drop off on Murray Ave.
 - He shared a photo of what the gym will look like; they will have a practice room to house programs such as wrestling and dance.
 - There will be publicly accessible restrooms that they can use during events; there will also be a small lobby right in front of the gym.
 - The square footage of the gym is smaller than the current gym as the new square footage is the typical size for a middle school. The current site was originally designed as a high school.
 - The site design committee decided they wanted to go with a more open quad. The classroom buildings will form an L-shaped pod with a total of five 1,000 square foot classrooms and restrooms. There will also be an outdoor learning environment both in front and behind these pods.
 - There will be small outdoor learning areas where teachers and students can gather and learn outside.
 - The classrooms themselves will look very much like the Brownell design. The SVMS team selected the same furniture and the same style, which is becoming the district standard.
- Q:** Is there going to be enough adequate parking where they are not impacting residents for events such as back to school night, etc., Will there be enough capacity in the gym, when they have all

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
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school assemblies and when parents come in. She wanted to make sure that things like that being taken into account.

A: He does not know the exact number of spaces in the parking lot, yet, but he will shortly. The architects look at the current amount of staff, expected traffic at certain times and the people that will come to campus, and they come up with design of how many spots they need. There will be two large parking lots on each end of the drop off area which will be like Brownell's, 450 ft. long. There will be parking on Murray Avenue where the City has no plan to red zone that area..

Q: As the campus is done, is it going to become more restricted? What is the seating capacity in the gym?

A: We will work through issues like that with the City. They are well aware we are orienting the campus to Murray and they support it. Our experience has been they work very closely with the District to make that work. The only place we would have 1,000 person seating would be at a high school level, that is not going to happen at the middle school level, they can only house about 500, and 300 floor based chairs. Which is similar to what they do in the current gym set up.

[For a copy of the presentation, presented at this meeting, click here.](#)

Superintendent's Report

COVID19 Numbers/Stay-at-Home Orders Extended Indefinitely

- Dr. Flores sent the committee members the latest COVID numbers for the County of Santa Clara and for Gilroy.
- This is available every day with new information on the COVID19 dashboard.
- The reason she wanted to share this information, is because it has so much impact on public schools in the entire State.
- The State is now broken up into five regions; our region is the Bay Area Region.
- Each region has to have at least 15% capacity in the ICU in order to move out of the stay-at-home order. Unfortunately, our region' (county's) capacity has steadily dropped in large partly because of the COVID cases over the holidays.
- Just this weekend, the County had about 6% capacity and today, it dropped down to .07%.
- Elected officials received information on Friday from the Public Health Department that the stay-at-home order will stay in place indefinitely, because ICU capacity is so low and because the number of cases is so high.
- The 7-day rolling average is 1,253. Several months ago, we worried about it being over 100. The worse day was just over a week ago with over 2,000.
- As of today in Gilroy, the number of cases is 5,644. The rate per thousand is over 10,000, which is almost double that of any other city in the County.
- We are also hearing many reports of staff testing positive with COVID or someone in their household tested positive. There is such a high transition rate in Gilroy and it is very worrisome.
- This is the kind of information that the Board, the Reopening Committee and GUSD's Administrative team go over all the time as they want decisions to be based on data and science in order to be able to open safely.

Reopening Committee's deliberations and tasks the district is undertaking to prepare

- The Reopening Planning Committee continues to meet at least monthly and they have identified a lot of areas that need to be addressed before GUSD can reopen.
- One of the biggest tasks is the PHD recommendation to assess all of the District's HVAC systems. There are about 1,200 of those in the District.

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
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Monday, January 11, 2021
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- The Board authorized staff to begin the process of assessing every single HVAC, using an expert team that the district has hired to do this job.
- The HVAC team of experts started at distance learning access centers. They will eventually assess every building's HVACs. They are not even a quarter of the way through the process. However, they are moving as quickly as they can.
- Dr. Flores, Alvaro Mesa and the M & O Director attended a workshop and were trained in the standards should be for each HVAC. The experts at the training made it very clear how they should be functioning in order to reduce the spread of the virus.
- This is something the district is very committed to doing. This is an example of something discussed at the Reopening Committee for several months.
- The Governor has released a highly political safe school plan that talks about bringing students back to campus. That plan requires weekly testing of all students and staff, which is not possible.
- Currently GUSD cannot reopen due to the county's status. Staff are continuing to plan and hope that at some point it will be safe to bring students back.
- The newest challenge is vaccines. Currently, the State and County are distributing vaccines to 1a. (medical personnel and long term care facilities). Educators are 1b. Based on news reports, vaccinations are being rolled out at a very slow phase, and for 1a there are not enough vaccines to give.
- Companies that have created these vaccines have not tested them on young children. The youngest age they have tested are 13 or 14. There are many factors that have to be taken into account.

Hotspots for students with connectivity problems

- The district has distributed hotspots to all those families that had no internet connection.
- The district has also distributed hotspots to families that have multiple children.
- The staff distributed almost 2,000 hotspots and 6,000 chromebooks.
- The principals are going to teachers and asking them to find out who are those students that are still having problem with hotspots.
- The District has ordered 6,000 new chromebooks that are much more powerful than the current ones. The earliest they are going to receive any of those is in February. There are just so many districts across the nation, and it is difficult to get them.

Virtual visits in classrooms throughout the district

- In November, once the COVID19 cases began to steadily increase, Dr. Flores asked teachers who could to work at home, as some were working in classrooms.
- The Ed Services team that facilitates the APS Visits were struggling with how to conduct these visits.
- The team worked with principals and they have come up with a virtual site visit system that works. They are about halfway through with winter visits and they are going very well.
- The last visit completed was last Thursday at Glen View. The APS team was very impressed. The teachers were doing a great job, the students were engaged, and most were on cameras. They were following the standards and using the district's textbooks and curriculum.
- The APS team is about halfway through the visits and tomorrow they are visiting the charter school. By the time they finish these visits, they will have been in most classrooms.
- Overall, they are really impressed, between the fall and winter visits, they have seen tremendous growth.

SPAC Representative Reports

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
MEETING AGENDA
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Brownell Middle School

- January 12, they had a band booster meeting for Brownell, Christopher and Solorsano.
- They continue to have the shoe fundraiser, which was mentioned in the last SPAC meeting, they need a certain number of shoes in order to receive funds. They are short 600 pairs of shoes. Asked if the member can spread the word. This is going on until January 20.
- They had a School Site Council meeting, January 14.
- They are currently having a Mt. Mikes Pizza fundraiser (carryout only), just mention Brownell.
- As mentioned in the December meeting, they had a counseling session from Rebekah's and Community Solutions, for students where they taught them how to spot anxiety among people who live around them.
- They also watched a great movie called Angst on January 12 in Spanish and January 14 in English, the students need to sign up for this, information was shared via Parent Square.

Rod Kelley Elementary School

- Last week they had breakfast with principal; it was broken up by grades.
- They had a material pick up and dinner out fundraiser.
- Material pick up and dinner out fundraiser

Glen View Elementary School

- They will be having materials distribution week next week, they are adding the student's names on labels, and there are different grade levels with different bins. They have a large population of parents that walk to the school.

Luigi Aprea Elementary School

- The approved logos for shirts and they are working on that, everyone in the school will have shirts.
- They are trying to figure out how to do a virtual talent show.

Las Animas Elementary School

- In December, they had their first videos available for students for Arts Alive; they had a wonderful parent that volunteered to do this video.
- Completed the gift-wrap fundraiser, this was done before the holidays.
- Upcoming will be a pick up dinner fundraiser night.
- See's Candy fundraiser.
- Looking for volunteer for yearbook, they are hoping to have one

Gilroy High School

- Last Friday they did a winter virtual rally, they had performances from band, choir, and the cheerleading team. It was complete with rally games between classrooms. She commended the leadership class for putting this together.
- They are still trying to find a way to honor students for honor roll for first quarter and the semester. The Parent Club is actively working on trying to make this happen.
- Mr. Chris Leong started the Mustang Wellness Center, there are many resources for the students to go to this site and find resources for things such as; crisis intervention, suicide prevention, how to access academic counselors, as well as fundraising resources. Things such as Disney ride previews, lots of fun activities, yoga, exercise, etc.

GECA:

- The students returned to school today, they had an extra week of vacation, the next couple of weeks is high school classes, textbook distribution days.
- They have their general meeting for PTSA on January 19 and will have Principal Flores along with the counselors present, and talk about an AA degree for the kids and parents to talk about.

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
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- ASB doing spirit week later this month.

Rucker Elementary School

- Trying to create vision is to add a little more fun to this; they are missing that social aspect so deeply.
- The Parent Club is thinking they should do something like fun Friday, perhaps a Lego challenge; they are coming up with how they are going to make this work.
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- They have clubs on campus, kindness clubs as well as other starting soon.
- Arts Alive
- Every year they order spirit shirts, they are worried about how they are going to be passed out.
- Every year order spirit shirts worried about how they are going to be passed out.
- Continuing to look for local support, next one will probably use is Tristan's cookies,
- Looking into doing kindness week (virtually)

El Roble Elementary School:

- The end of December they did a coat drive in partnership with an agency, hopeless not homeless,? Had dozens of bags/boxes loaded in trunk to be delivered.
- They decided after the principals asked to start a paper drive, with all material pick ups, started last Saturday, got pics today from staff at school from boxes being delivered from Costco, Staples. It was also added to El Roble Home & School Club store, you can access online to purchase paper, we have had a lot of parent signing up and donating funds so we can go out and buy paper.
- Are in talks about a virtual talent show, Dr. Flores was at last year's talent show. It is a huge event at the school, they are going to figure out how they are going to do it, maybe free or paint wall, every opportunity to fundraise is a good opportunity.

Christopher High School:

- They are doing spirit shirts.
- They had book pick up last week and passed out tacos and cookies, this was a good opportunity for the students to see some of the teachers that were there.
- Movies that they had discussed earlier, people are planning to see that.

Topics of future meetings

- Dr. Flores reminded the SPAC members if they have any questions, anytime, to email her or Lucy Huerta directly.
- She wished them all a good month, and reminded them that the next meeting will take place on Monday, February 8.
- Next month's Topic will be Technology, Dr. Flores will invite, the Director of Technology, Maribel Guizar.