

Gilroy Unified School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, December 14, 2020
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Members in attendance:

<i>Shalini Jampani (Brownell)</i>	<i>Judy-Ann Rosti (Brownell)</i>	<i>Susan Rodriguez (Christopher)</i>
<i>Centeotl Merino (Christopher)</i>	<i>Sandra Vargas (Christopher)</i>	<i>Kenny Moreno (El Roble)</i>
<i>Katie Hilton (El Roble)</i>	<i>Jen Swigart (Home School)</i>	<i>Melissa Avila-Carroll (GECA)</i>
<i>Cindy Wwargocki (GECA)</i>	<i>Christina Martinez (Gilroy)</i>	<i>Mari-Ann Low Gallagher (Gilroy)</i>
<i>Lauren Moller (Luigi Aprea)</i>	<i>Lindsay Millea (Rod Kelley)</i>	<i>Ashley Bortolussi (Rucker)</i>
<i>Dawn Johnson (Solorsano)</i>	<i>Mojgan Kazemi (Solorsano)</i>	<i>Honey Gubuan (Solorsano)</i>
<i>Coyo Anhder (South Valley)</i>	<i>Trevor Van Laar (South Valley)</i>	<i>James Pace (Board Member)</i>

Welcome & Introduction

Tonight's Topic

Velia Codiga, Las Animas Principal, & Dianne Padilla, Mt. Madonna High School Principal shared information regarding PBIS.

- Mrs. Codiga began Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) at her former site (Antonio Del Buono), after former Mt. Madonna Principal, Jennifer Del Bono, did a presentation. She attended every meeting she needed to, in order to have a team at her school site that was going to support this program.
- The team went to trainings through the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). During the last two years even after the training was completed, she was involved in coaching. She wanted to coach teachers on how to do what they needed to do for students.
- There are different levels of PBIS; the different tiers depend on the student's and school's needs.
- The support can be anything from how to work with students on a daily basis and the support needed. It depends on how many students are identified and what the need is.
- In order to make this program successful, the administrative team needed to involve teachers, and other staff, and they had to be supportive.
- Mrs. Padilla talked about PBIS at the high school level. Staff are trying to make sure the students have high academic success, attend school regularly and like being in school. Staff look at what the students are accomplishing, what they are doing and being recognized for it.
- Staff needs to make sure they are identifying some of those behaviors that they see in classrooms that are negative. Then they try to get students to change the behavior that is having a negative impact and they do that through team building.
- They begin with by creating teams of parents, teachers, students and other community members. They are also providing incentives for students and recognizing them for things they are doing correctly. This builds a culture and a community, recognizing the fact that the students are part of a school community.
- Staff build a pyramid of supports with the three different tiers; Tier One is at the bottom of the pyramid with about 80% of the population. Tier Two is for students who are having difficulty and it is a smaller population, with about 10% of the population. Tier Three is the specialized population where they really need to discuss the intervention plan to make sure they meet the needs of the students, with about 3-5% of the population. Staff want to make sure the entire community is being served.
- In distance learning, PBIS does look different. Staff have virtual award ceremonies, to make sure students are recognized.
- At the secondary level, they want to make sure they provide incentives for the students.
- The current focus is to increase the frequency so students feel more successful to accomplish goals. Such as the online Class Dojo program, the students can create avatars, if they are participating, and they are engaged, they can receive points.
- Staff does a virtual check in and check out with high need students (Tiers Two and Three). Someone is checking in with these students to make sure they are attending class regularly.
- The success of PBIS takes everyone on campus having an active role, informing the teams, at least having that understanding that they have a common goal, which is to have academic success for students and to make sure they attend regularly.
- Dr. Flores said that about 10 school sites have PBIS; other sites have the Olweus program, Character Counts and various programs that fit their own system. They are trying to encourage positive behavior and extinguish negative behavior.
- When adopting this program, there is a lot of communication among the PBIS team and the entire staff about what the expectations are and what they are going to do.

Q: What are the sorts of negative behavior approaches they would expect to see at the elementary level?

- A: Mrs. Codia and Mrs. Padilla responded.** It is getting to know each individual student that may be exhibiting negative behavior. For example, is it a student that they have checked in with regularly. Most at the elementary had to do with behavior in class. Staff have to get to know each student, they have to know the families and they have to have support from the families. Each student has their own plan. They review collected data prior to the meetings with the students, teacher and or family. They observe the students in order to identify how to support them. In some cases with a few students, the plan can change weekly, sometimes daily. They are prepared to support the students with whatever they need. Every child is different.
- There is a formula they use called 5 to 1 Ratio. They need to make sure they are recognized, praised, and they are drawing attention for five positive behaviors, vs the one comment they make to the student. It is applying that 5 to 1 ratio that they feel is most effective.

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Q: How does this fit in with "clip chart", a number of teachers have continued using this method, moving the clips up and down the charts based on behavior? Just wondering are they supposed to be doing both?

A: That is where the coaching comes in; by bringing attention to those negative behaviors you are reinforcing them.

Superintendent's Report

COVID 19 Update

- Dr. Flores gave an update on the number of cases; as of this day, there were 49,216 cases, the 7-day rolling average is 628.
- County officials predicting another wave in the winter and it will be much worse. It is no surprise that the County decided to implement the stay-at-home order.

Stay-at-Home Order/Impact on District Operations

- The Santa Clara County had a 15% hospital capacity left; some hospitals are out of capacity, such as St. Louise.
- About a week prior to Thanksgiving, she was watching all of this and what was coming. She decided to cut back on district operations. The week before, there were as many as 450 staff on one of the district facilities. She implemented a directive to all principals and department leaders and asked that they cut back on all operations.
- Now staff will only be on a district facility if they are providing an essential service. One example would be the staff serving meals at the seven sites, and staff working at the distance learning access centers. Another is the district office staff, to make sure things such as payroll, and paying invoices are taking place. Since the directive, there are a lot fewer staff coming in to the district sites.
- The H. R. dept. is tracking the number of cases of COVID12 among staff. There have quite a number of staff reporting either that they have tested positive themselves, or that a family member has tested positive. The list is over thirty, and yet they have less than 200 at the sites.
- So far, there are not any cases that have occurred at the school sites or at a district site. All of the cases have been contracted through family or community transmission.
- This is being very carefully monitored.

Reopening Planning Committee

- The Reopening Planning Committee continues to meet and talk about the current conditions and at this point, they are not recommending to reopen.
- Under the stay-at-home order, secondary schools cannot open; elementary schools can open with a very rigorous waiver process. If they meet all the criteria through the Public Health Department (PHD), which at this time, GUSD does not.

Ventilation Study and Repairs

- Dr. Flores, along with Dan McAuliffe, Maintenance Manager and Alvaro Meza, Assistant Superintendent/CBO, attended a webinar on ventilation. As a result of that, all 1,200 HVACs are being assessed and repaired, so they can provide the best quality of air circulation.
- The district started the study last week at the distance learning access centers, which are at Rucker, Glen View, Gilroy High and Christopher High. These are the first schools that will be assessed. The assessments are being done by an expert team of individuals. They are going on the roof and assessing each HVAC machine and determining what they need to do to make them function at a higher level.
- Every district in the County attended the same webinar; therefore, everyone is trying to hire the same experts. Staff are hoping that over the next two to three months that all the HVACs assessments and repairs can be completed.

Q: With the vaccine coming out, is this going to keep the districts from doing the HVAC updates?

A: The district needs to do this anyway, because complaints have been received about the air quality every year. For staff and students who have asthma, allergies and other respiratory problems, the air quality is essential. The study will be completed shared with the Board, whether a vaccine becomes available or not. This needs to be done during the pandemic to increase the airflow. It is important to have as much fresh air introduced into the classroom as possible. The district is running the fan two hours before and two hours after everyone staff are present in the buildings. For the classrooms that cannot meet the standard that is recommended, the district is purchasing HEPA air filters. The district has already ordered 20 of them, and each one is very expensive. Staff is committed to this process. The problem is the cost of the assessments that have been done at the first five school sites. They cost over \$200,000 for the assessments alone, and they each take 2-3 hours to do. This does not include the cost of repairs.

- In the comprehensive PHD/SCCOE report, which Dr. Flores shared with SPAC members previously, there are many layers of what the district has to address before students and staff can return. One good thing has been the opening of the distance learning access centers where the district has put into place protocols that are working well.

- The protocols are working, however, the challenge is to make those work, the district needs an incredible amount of staff, at each site.

Q: We have been hearing from a few families that they may not want their students to go back to school. They are worried about what will happen in the next school year. Are you seeing people pulling their children from the district to go to private schools from our district, because of that?

A: We are not seeing this right now. We had some at the begging of the year, that decided to home school, or register in private, or charter schools, and that may have contributed to the decline in enrollment. It was not thousands of student – the district declined by 270 students and had predicted it would be over 100. It is hard to say when we will return to brick and mortar. The

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health and safety of our staff and students comes first, that is always going to be our top priority. Right now with a high community transmission rate, the County made the right decision to have schools stay at home. The district has to put health and safety first and hopefully at some point, all the conditions will come together and will be right for having students return.

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications

- The number of applications the district has received have been impacting the budget.
- Every year parents apply for free and reduced lunches for students.
- Typically, every year there is about 55-58% of students who are eligible.
- This percentage allows the district to be eligible for additional funding.
- In early October, there was only about 38% of families that had completed the application. That would mean a loss of \$2.8 million in the current school year.
- Staff at each school site pushed hard on this, and made hundreds of phone call.
- As of this day, the applications were up to 53%, the deadline is December 31.
- Dr. Flores said she is so impressed by the efforts made by the principals, office coordinators, liaisons, literary facilitators and additional staff.
- Many of the applications were done over the phone, many parents shared they were not comfortable doing these applications online.

2020-21 Budget

- The declining enrollment of 270 students represents a loss of almost \$3 million, that would have hit next year's budget, it would not have hit this year's budget.
- The good news is the State enacted a "hold harmless" clause allowing the district a couple of years to adjust to that lower enrollment. The State will reduce the district's funding a couple of years from now, based on this year's drop in enrollment.
- The district does have a high reserve compared to prior years. The reserve is inflated by almost \$10 million in one-time funds that the district has received from the State and Federal Government because of the pandemic. The Federal funds had to be spent by December 31.
- The funds were given to the district to purchase PPE, cleaning supplies and equipment, computers, etc. It is there to help cover thousands of meals that the district is covering.
- It was used to fund the one-time 3% stipend for each employee for all of their hard work.
- It is also being used for the ventilation study; part of it will be funded through this and the rest out of other resources.
- The district has had many COVID19 expenses, such as the glass portable barriers in every building.
- There is a lot of talk about the district's budget. This coming Thursday, Mr. Alvaro Meza, Assistant Superintendent/CBO, will be making an in depth presentation at the board meeting and he will talk about these factors, such as declining enrollment, which in large part is a result of declining birth rate, which has been happening now for seven to eight years. He will go over the reserve in detail, and explain the components of the reserve. He will also talk to the Board about some possible good news about the State Budget. There is an office called the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO), it is an independent third party established by the legislature to look at all indicators about the budget. In their most recent report, there was some optimism, for instance taxes came in at a much higher level that they anticipated.
- Staff are hoping when the Governor releases the State budget proposal for 2021 on January 10, that there will be some additional good news in it for public schools.
- In the current year's budget, because of the pandemic, this year the district is only going to receive less than 70% of the funds owed by the State. The State has deferred 30% of this year's funds, which the district will not receive until the next fiscal year which begins July 1.
- That is another reason is why having a good reserve is essential when things like this happens. When the State does not fund the schools at the level that they are supposed to, the district has to rely on the reserves to make payroll, for instance.
- This pandemic has cost the district millions of dollars and it needs ongoing support to continue to address things like the ventilation costs.

The Computers & Hotspots

- Up to 5,500 chromebooks and 1,500 hotspots have been distributed.
- These are to families that have no internet, internet problems and/or multiple children.
- The district just received a donation of 270 hotspots from the SCCOE which has been supportive.
- 6,000 more chromebooks have been ordered. The district is in line waiting for those and they may not be delivered until February.

New Board Members

- This coming Thursday at the Board meeting, Dr. Flores will be swearing in the two new Board Members, Michelle Nelson and Melissa Aguirre. Mark Good was reelected and James Pace was reappointed and will also be sworn in.

Additional Information:

- Q:** From both the news and general conversation, there are many issues going on with students falling behind in current study, not sure if it is school wide, can we talk a little about that, and what the district is looking at doing?

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- A:** Staff did talk about this at the last Principals meeting, and they are seeing more students with D's and F's. It is a nationwide trend as distance learning for some students is tough. Staff have been talking about how they can help mitigate that and are talking about next steps. At the second semester, they are putting some interventions in place, particularly at the middle and high school levels and at the elementary level too. It is particularly important at high school level because it can affect graduation. Supports will be provided either through classes or services, and the district will be expanding summer school offerings, to help the students who are struggling.
- Q:** Amongst the principals and the school sites, is it that the kids are struggling with the actual understanding or learning, or is it that they are struggling with the medium of online distance?
- A:** Dr. Flores thinks it is both as even the students that have good connection some of them are still struggling. If the students are having problems with connectivity, they need to tell teachers that, and district is committed to addressing these issues. There is a variety of reasons for that. Students and parents need to talk to the teacher and try to figure out what is the issue. This is not just happening in Gilroy. This is happening in California and across the nation. It is tough that some students are not showing up to class and have attendance issues. The district has a number of staff assigned to work on this. Dr. Flores has been visiting classrooms all year; she was doing it while teachers are in classroom now it is virtual. She is impressed with strategies teachers were using to engage their students. Things are going so much better than they were last spring and definitely better than they were in the fall.

SPAC Representative Reports

Rucker Elementary

- Contributing to the Neon Exchange & Tristan's, new toy, book and jacket donation. This is a community joint drive, they were hoping to be able to do their own, and that was not safe for any volunteers. Donations have been extended, you can go to Tristan's through Wednesday, you donate a toy they give you a free cookie.
- Dress up week at school, teachers are doing their best to make it fun.

Solorsano Middle School

- They were coordinating holiday gifts to teachers, they usually do a luncheon and give gifts, they collected donations from parents and are going to do a virtual raffle, and it will be presented during Eagle Time.
- They completed the pie fundraiser, it went well. A class won and they did Red Box promotion codes, it was mailed out to each individual student through the teacher.
- They are really excited about honoring teachers this week.
- The counseling team at Solorsano is doing an amazing job of supporting students with social, emotional help, they are doing kindness week, lots of outreach to Gavilan College doing a session with them, trying to get them excited and have fun and engaged in the virtual world.
- This week spirit week the students wore green.

Luigi Aprea Elementary School

- They have a very motivated fundraiser coordinator person, has done many restaurant fundraisers, including Panda Express which was a good one.
- They did a Sees Candy fundraiser, also which was the same type of thing, they ship directly to anywhere.
- The school has a new logo, they are going to discuss apparel store set up.
- Recently discovered spreading the word of having Parent Club hooked up to, amazon smile is making a big difference in the Parent Club's budget.

Gilroy High School

- In November they had a Thanksgiving turkey contest, where students made hand turkeys and decorated them.
- December they had a holiday ornament creation project.
- They have had to suspend all athletic conditioning that is on hold until further notice.
- They are trying to make virtual staff meetings fun, and bring themes to each meeting.

Brownell Middle School

- The principal is very proud of putting calls out to families for Free & Reduced applications.
- The modernization project is looking great, they are thinking of putting together a virtual tour.
- They are helping families in need, thanks to the Latino Family Fund; they are delivering 50 gift cards to 10 families in need.
- On December 15, Brownell Staff, Community Solutions, School Linked Services, will be doing a presentation to the 8th grade students on wellness. It is for students but parents are highly encouraged to attend with this.
- Virtual concert coming up by the end of the week.
- The band shoe fundraiser has been extended to January 20, if anyone has any shoes at home, please consider donating them, contact fortino4@verizon.net, and spread the word.
- The cooking club is awesome! There are so many students; the teacher had to break them up by grade level. This week is sweet stir-fry and red rice. The teacher monitors everyone, makes sure an adult is present.
- Fun Fridays run by Mr. Nebesnik is going good.
- They are trying to make the most of it with ugly sweater day, crazy hat hair day, etc.

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- School Site Council and ELAC met before Thanksgiving break, the school plan was presented to both groups and approved.
- They had a student council meeting, and decided on monthly spirit days.
- Having great success with notable knight weekly, certificates are presented, in Ms. Salcido's zoom room and then mailed to student.
- Received 62 hotspots that will be distributed this week.
- Will be having a contest for minutes completed on iStation and for tier two students on Lexia to encourage usage over the break.
- The plan is for when students return in 2021, all grades will have a focus on Friday.

South Valley Middle School

- The modernization project is in process.
- Beginning next year in the winter, January and February, it is looking like South Valley will be giving technology workshops for parents and students that need more assistance.
- ELAC reports some high concerns for students as well, Principal Ramos addressed that.
- Putting out a student survey to get more information on engagement and learning to see how it is going with them. They are looking at beginning some intervention classes on Saturdays in January and February. The challenge is identifying teachers that want to do that.
- They are trying to improve teaching and working relationships, they would like to increase attendance and lastly decrease referrals by at least 5% if possible.

GECA

- Had a two week fundraiser with Charleston Wrap, it was entirely online and everything was shipped to homes. It ended December 7. They did great, sold over 1,700 items; they will be receiving \$600+ in profit.
- They had a talent show on December 4, it was great there were a lot of acts, it was almost two hours, staff also participated.
- They are doing student of the month for each grade; there has been a peer support group every Monday from 3:00-4:00.
- ACA Prep, every grade does something a little differently. Have been doing a lot of emphasis on mindfulness.

Christopher High School

- Had a virtual assembly last week, which included a choir performance, there were 800 participants and choirs performed via zoom, as well as an after party.
- Finals are this week.

Closing

- Dr. Flores thanked everyone for coming; she knows it is a busy time of the year and really looking forward to a break. These are hard times for everyone, the good news she hears this week is the vaccines are on their way, hoping have student back in school as soon as six months.