Dear Lompoc Community,

**Legal Trainings**
Cabinet and I attended a legal training this week. These are held monthly and this month’s training focused on labor relations, school reopenings, AB 86 and discrimination/retaliation. These legal trainings are a great way for District leaders to stay abreast of current legal trends in education.

**Superintendents Meeting**
During this week’s meeting we discussed vaccines, school reopenings and funding based on AB 86. We also discussed the red tier and the new requirements should we hit the two million mark. As you have now seen, we have hit that mark and we will be able to reopen all of our schools by March 22. We are definitely excited to be able to have our students back on campus!

**Cabinet**
I met with Cabinet this week to review the District’s LCAP and reopening. We discussed how we can maximize our use of AB 86 funds to directly impact students and enhance their educational experience.

**Vaccine Update**
We continue to have staff receive vaccinations. Over 300 staff have received at least one (1) vaccination dose either through LVMC or by scheduling on their own. Scheduling for LUSD employees is now being done by LVMC. We continue to keep records of who needs the vaccinations so we can ensure all our staff have the opportunity to receive the vaccine. And, just to make life interesting, starting next week, scheduling will be done by SBCEO. Man, do things change quickly! We are grateful for our community working together to get our staff vaccinated. Also, the local pharmacies have been reaching out to HR at the end of the day and notifying them of any leftover vaccines. We then go to our list of on-campus staff and start calling to see who can quickly make it to the pharmacy.

**COVID Testing**
Our elementary sites and high school athletes did their first round of COVID testing this week. Tests are self-administered by employees, scanned and recorded at the site, delivered to the Ed Center and then transported to the Santa Maria drop box where they are then taken to the Valencia Labs testing facility. Results are ready 24-48 hours after arriving at the facility. The pre-registration data collected by Valencia Labs is not shared with LUSD. The only information shared is the result of the test. Having a phased in testing approach, starting with the elementary and athletes this week and then the remainder of staff next week has been helpful in working out the logistics of how to best administer and collect the tests.
COVID Funding
LUSD will qualify for federal funding from the CRRSA-CARES Act from December 2020 as well as the recently signed state funding from AB 86. CRRSA will be $8.2 million to support in-person learning, distance learning, structural school upgrades, and learning loss. AB 86 is portioned into $3.1 million for in-person instruction and $6.9 million for expanded learning opportunities. Unfortunately, for districts, AB 86 is not new funds as it is a reapportionment of funds from a June deferral. A plan for expanded learning opportunities will be presented to the board prior to June 1.

Lower Elementary SDC Classes
With TK, K, and 1st grade, LUSD also begin in-person instruction for lower elementary SDC classes across the District (K-2, K-3, or K-4 Special Day Classes for students with Mild/Moderate or Moderate/Severe disabilities and K-6 GROW). Classes at Crestview, Fillmore, Hapgood, La Cañada, La Honda, Los Berros, and Clarence Ruth began a transition period to accustom students to the new safety procedures at school. The Transportation Department has been very flexible in scheduling these students into cohorts and flexible days of classes.

CA League of Middle Schools
We attended the CA League of Middle Schools Awards Night virtually this week. LUSD had two staff members nominated for Teacher of the Year, Lisa Cordes and Maria Garmendia. It was a great opportunity to celebrate hard working teachers, even if it was virtual.

Hiring Update
We held interviews this week for elementary and special education teaching positions for 2021-2022. We offered positions to seven (7) applicants. We will continue to hire this Spring, with the hopes that some can start right away and assist us with our substitute shortage and our many staff out on maternity leave!

Recruiting Fair Analytics
Below you can see the results of our Tulare County Office of Education recruiting event we attended last week:

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<th>Total Visits</th>
<th>462</th>
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**LUSD Community Collaboration**
On Tuesday March 9, the Pupil Support Services Department met with local community organizations to discuss student health and well-being, as well as to provide updates regarding distance learning and re-opening of in-person instruction. The representative from LVMC could not attend as the hospital is busy with implementing the vaccines. The community agencies expressed thanks for the efforts of the District in returning students to school. Updates were provided regarding the reopening plan, school athletics, vaccines, and testing of students and staff.

**Elementary Science Update**
Based on input from teachers and site administrators, LUSD will be requesting Board Approval to purchase TWIG Science curriculum and materials on March 23 for the 2021-22 school year. If approved, our elementary teachers will have access to digital resources and asynchronous distance learning lessons for use beginning Spring 2021 with all print materials and science kits rolling out in Fall 2021. The School Board, Lompoc community, parents, teachers, staff and students are invited to take a clickable tour to learn more about TWIG Science - see links below. Print materials are also available to view in person at the Textbook Center between March 9 - March 23.

Parent Click & Tour - English
Parent Click & Tour - Spanish - coming soon and will be posted on the website
Teacher Click & Tour - [complete teacher presentation with links](#)

**Upcoming Professional Learning Day**
We are very excited about our upcoming Professional Learning Day on Friday, March 26. All certificated teachers and staff will be together for a Keynote presentation on Collaborative Professional Learning. We will discuss Lompoc’s vision and strategic plan for supporting Professional Learning Communities in our District. Teachers will have time to collaborate with their site PLC teams. In the afternoon, depending on assignment, teachers will attend a BetterLesson workshop of their choice, CAASPP, or Special Education training. The Classified Human Resources office is also providing Classified staff with instructor lead trainings as well as self-paced courses such as McKinney-Vento Homeless Education, Suicide Prevention, PPE, Infections & Infection Control, Restorative Practices and Principles, and more. Trainings are open to all classified employees who are not assigned to attend other staff development workshops required by their site/supervisor.

**Online 24/7 Tutoring Support for 5th-12th Graders**
LUSD is partnering with [https://paper.co/](https://paper.co/) to provide online tutoring support for all 5th-12th grade students. Students can access tutoring support by opening Clever and clicking on the Paper icon. Students have access to live tutoring in all subject areas and can request essay feedback. No matter what you need, just click “ask a tutor,” and help is only a message away. Teachers can view their students’ activities and engagement with Paper tutoring. Parents who want to learn more can sign up for a free webinar:

English: [https://pages.paper.co/webinars-for-parents-and-guardians](https://pages.paper.co/webinars-for-parents-and-guardians)
CTE
teachers continue to meet with local business partners to share about their program and obtain feedback regarding their pathways. Holding these advisory meetings validates what wonderful community partners we have here in Lompoc for our teachers and students.

Attendance
We received some good news this past week regarding the use of electronic signatures. Currently, all teachers must sign off on their attendance sheets for the week with a wet signature to verify the attendance is accurate. Now, our auditor has approved the use of our data management system Aequitas (Q) to verify the teachers’ attendance. By hitting the submit button, the teachers are now verifying their attendance and will not be asked to physically sign their weekly attendance sheets. A big thank you to Trish Warfield and Janeth Villarreal for all of their hard work communicating back and forth with our auditor to make this happen for all of our teachers.

Business Services Update
Following the successful completion of the LUSD Second Interim Report, Fiscal Services has begun their 2021-2022 budget process.

Nutrition Services has a Successful First Day of Students Back on Campus
Site Leads at the elementary schools answered their phones Monday afternoon with excitement over the successful day that they had. Most schools chose classroom pick-up, sending food home with almost every student in the school. There are many benefits of programs where meals are free and taken to the classroom, like Breakfast in the Classroom and Grab n’ Go Breakfast. The stigma of eating school meals is dissolved when students see that all of their classmates are eating meals. There is no need for student identification to price meals which creates a more even playing field for every child.

Also on Monday, LUSD school buses loaded up their vehicles in between routes to serve meals to our 100% distance learners. Many adults who pick up meals for their students visited the school buses, rather than the elementary schools where they used to pick up meals prior to school reopening.

The Nutrition Department is meeting with Secondary Site Leads this week to discuss middle and high school reopening. Alternate sites will be opening for 100% distance learners, to avoid traffic and congestion at the LUSD schools once they are all open.

Thank you for your support.

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools