



Orange Unified School District
District Advisory Council (DAC)
Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 29, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen welcomed the District Advisory Council to the first meeting of the 2021-2022 school year, held via Microsoft Teams due to Covid-19 and social distancing guidelines. Dr. Hansen thanked the 30 participants for attending the virtual meeting and stated that DAC discusses important developments throughout OUSD with the focus of supporting our students. The meeting started with the following introductions:

- Dave Rivera, Chief Business Officer
- Cathleen Corella, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
- Ernie Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
- Joe Erven, Executive Director Innovation & Excellence
- Elena Rodriguez, Executive Director, Accountability & Equity
- Sue Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Special Education
- Lupe Perales, Coordinator, Special Education

Executive Cabinet reminded participants that agenda, minutes and any documents shared in the meeting would be posted on the DAC website. Parents can refer to the website and can always go back and share information with their parent groups.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- **COVID-19 Protocols/Response – Joe Erven, Executive Director, Innovation & Excellence**
 - Joe explained the updated CDPH guidelines released on August 2nd and September 1st.
 - All students and staff are required to wear masks indoors when present on campus.
 - He shared that masks remain optional when students/staff are outdoors.
 - Joe explained in detail the Student Symptom Decision Tree and how the new CDPH guidance has changed four times, posted everywhere throughout OUSD sites, encompasses quarantine options.
 - Joe also described how the CDPH has taken into consideration the importance of keeping students in schools.
 - He also discussed the district hired contact tracers that will reach out to families and follow up with testing results. A modified quarantine was also explained, allowing students to stay in school, being tested every three days and wearing masks inside and outdoors. In addition, it was stressed that modified quarantine students must not participate in any extracurricular activities outside of the school day, such as league sports and boys/girl scouts.
 - Joe also gave the DAC members an update on COVID-19 Testing Clinics. Testing is being offered Monday through Thursday at the district office and all high schools.

- He also discussed how emails are being sent to families on a weekly basis.
 - Joe also discussed in detail students may continue to participate in all instructional activities within the school day if they remained masked for the full 14 days (this includes modified quarantine, 7 days at home quarantine, and 10 days at home quarantine).
 - He also discussed about isolation for 10 days from the positive test or symptoms develop and 20 days isolation for those families that cannot quarantine from a positive case in the home and last 4 days must continue to symptom check.
- **ESSER III Overview & Stakeholder Input – Cathleen Corella, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services and Elena Rodriguez, Executive Director, Accountability & Equity**
 - Cathleen Corella shared with DAC attendees an update on COVID Relief Funding and spending. Over the last year surveys and focus groups have been created to place an emphasis on how to spend these funds. She reminded participants about our district’s Health Driven Plan released in July that overviewed the infographic depicting various expenditures within the following areas:
 - Academic Supports
 - Behavioral/Safety Supports
 - Social-Emotional Supports
 - She also described in detail the intent of ESSER III funds and using these funds to target the impacts of COVID, addressing the learning loss for our students.
 - Elena Rodriguez stated that there were over 600 responses from our community on how to spend these funds. She listed the most popular responses:
 - Smaller Class Sizes
 - Bottle Filing Stations
 - Shade Structure
 - More Instructional Aides to Support Classrooms
 - Summer School
 - Enrichment Programs
 - Elena stated that the survey would close this Friday. After the responses would be tabulated and added to the district plan. The plan is due to the State by October 29th and submitted to the Board, October 21st. The link would be shared in the chat, she asked if participants could share this with their own parent groups.
 - Cathleen Corella reminded DAC participants that there have been several emails, conversations with parents/students in addition to the responses garnered from the google input form.
- **Update on School Psychologists – Sue Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Special Education and Lupe Perales, Coordinator, Special Education**
 - Dr. Singh thanked everyone for the opportunity to present this morning in the DAC meeting. She discussed OUSD’s Mental Health Action Plan and how it is guided by the needs of our students.
 - Dr. Singh and Dr. Perales explained that there is an emphasis on the fluidity of this model and the role which school psychologists play in our district and each school site (TK-12+). Focusing on the integration of social, emotional learning into academic, curricular resources and providing students and families with the support needed.
 - Dr. Singh and Dr. Perales thanked OUSD Board and Executive Cabinet for their support adding an additional school psychologist. OUSD has a total of 32 credentialed school psychologists. Also, 3 Board Certified Behavioral Analysts to support our students and families that need specific support related to autism.

- Dr. Singh also mentioned appointments can be made through the link provided on the chat if families need support.
 - She also explained that OUSD is well-staffed in terms of psychologist to student ratios compared to other neighboring districts.
 - She elaborated on the extensive outreach with local universities, including, Brandman, Biola, Chapman among others totaling 22 university partners.
 - Dr. Singh ended her presentation noting that many of our students with intense mental health issues are involve actively participating and interacting by offering specialized programs and services, our district has built a village of support for all our students and community.
 - Dr. Perales explained the multi-tiered systems of support- with evidence based social-emotional-behavior and described in detail what is MTSS and the three different tiers of support.
 - Starting in the classroom with PBIS program at the school sites. School counselors help support students in the tier III and tier III students are supported by school psychologists.
 - She also discussed mental health community partnerships build with our district and how they support our students.
 - CHOC Partnership has provided support to our staff with consultations for wellness and prevention support and access to a nurse and case manager, especially students suffering with sycosis, crisis or at risk for self-injuries behaviors.
 - Parent support, trainings and resources are available. Website is equipped with ideas, lessons and suggestions parents may need for their students.
 - Trainings are also available where parents can learn to feel equipped with the skills, they learn to help their students.
- **Foundation and Enrollment – Dave Rivera, Chief Business Officer and Joe Erven, Executive Director, Innovation & Excellence**
 - Dave Rivera explained the results of the Foundation Feasibility Report provided to the Board. OUSD has the demographics to partake in a relationship with private and business donors.
 - Many neighboring school districts have educational foundations, including Irvine USD. Irvine is the third largest educational foundation in the state bringing funding for programs. Irvine Public Schools Foundation Afterschool, Summer Programs funds raised can impact schools. Joe discussed how funding can impact school day programs. For example, STEM Education, Dual Immersion Programs, VAPA for elementary students, additional mental health counselors supported by afterschool enrichment programs. The Feasibility Report gave a valuable insight to better fund our programs.
 - Enrollment in OUSD demonstrate that our numbers have decreased over the years and there is a decrease 210 below last year’s number. However, our funding will have an impact. We will continue to track our numbers and data.

Attachments/Handouts

- DAC Agenda, DAC Minutes, Beyond Ed. Out OUPSF Feasibility Assessment Report Presentation, Enrollment and Attendance Presentation and Foundation Feasibility Report

Meeting adjourned at 11:41am. Next meeting will take place, Wednesday, October 20, 2021.