



November 17, 2021

NUSD Middle School Design Team Communication Update 1

Introduction

This is Newark Unified School District's (NUSD) first Middle School Design Team Communication Update. On Thursday, October 28, 2021 and Wednesday, November 10th, NUSD convened the first two Middle School Design Team Meetings from 4:30-6:30pm. Subsequent Design Team Meetings will occur bi-weekly on Wednesday or Thursday evenings for the remainder of the academic year. The district will continue to provide communication updates after each meeting.

Middle School Design Team Composition

The Middle School Design Team is composed of NUSD elementary school and community representatives from throughout the district, respectively, in addition to Newark Junior High School staff and site leadership. The Design Team includes district leadership and an outside facilitator. Design Team representatives include the following:

NUSD Staff & Community:

- Amanda Gollither, principal of Musick
- Carole Rose, Coyote Hills staff
- Tara White, Musick staff
- Rachel Bloom, Coyote Hills staff
- Rebecca Snow, Kennedy parent
- Lorena Talaver, Lincoln parent
- Jebadiah Ross, NMHS/BGI parent
- Nathan Graef, Kennedy student
- Yuna Ito, BGI student

NJHS Staff & Community:

- Risha Krishna, principal
- Jin Kim, assistant principal
- Marissa Quinonez, counselor
- Daniel Reed, ELA Dept. Chair
- Jennifer Ciruolo, BGI/NJHS parent
- Francisco Angel Morales, NJHS student
- Alexia Dela Cruz, NJHS student
- Daniel Guzman, NJHS student

In addition, Dr. Mark Triplett, Superintendent, Nicole Pierce-Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Marie dela Cruz, Chief Business Official, Cathreene Ingham-Watters, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Ariel Dolowich, Director of Teaching and Learning, serve as district leadership. Janette Hernandez serves as the outside facilitator of the team.

Design Team Meeting 10.28.21 & 11.10.21

The first two meetings focused on the following outcomes:

- I. To establish trust among members and build community across communities
- II. To learn about the content and process for engaging in the design work
- III. To identify the assets and challenges of the junior high and receive input on proposed design parameters and structures

In addition to building community and trust among members, the meetings included a timeline review for October-June, detailed Design Team responsibilities, an outlined agenda format that will be utilized at each Design Team Meeting, and a review of the scope of the work to be conducted by the members, including parameters and structures for a middle school design.

Team members shared positive memories of middle school events, traditions, and activities from experience or from their current school and also expressed hopes and aspirations for the new middle school design; the goal for all members is to create a middle school based on research and best practices and form a new model that is exciting and developmentally appropriate for this particular age group..

Next Design Team Meeting: 12.09.21

The next Design Team Meeting is set for Dec. 9, 2021. Topics to engage in include three working groups which include the following: a) development of a vision for the new school; b) identifying Bay Area middle schools and their assets in order to embark on site visits in January, 2022; and c) begin member input into essential middle school parameters and structures for the school.