

Gilroy Unified School District
 SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
 MEETING MINUTES
 Monday, October 11, 2021

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Rodriguez (Christopher)	Kenny Moreno (El Roble)	Megan Caspary (El Roble)
Ruby Rodriguez (Eliot)	Melissa Avila-Carroll (GECA)	Cindy Wargocki (GECA)
Coyo Anhder (Gilroy)	Maria Diaz (Glen View)	Lauren Moller (Luigi Aprea)
Rebeca Armendariz (Mt. Madonna)	Martin Russo (Rod Kelley)	Mojgan Kazemi (Solorsano)
Trevor Van Laar (South Valley)	Teresa Perez (VLA)	
Melissa Aguirre (Board Member)	James Pace (Board Member)	

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

COVID PROTOCOLS – DR. PAUL WINSLOW, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- Many of the responsibilities of COVID protocols have fallen on Human Resources in this District and others.
- Dr. Winslow is the GUSD COVID designee.
- Common denominator with COVID protocols is change.
- Two phases of how the District approaches COVID: Proactive and reactive.
- Phase 1: Proactive approach.
 - This phase is to mitigate not bringing COVID to schools, with an emphasis on identifying symptomatic students.
 - Symptomatic screening at home; visual scans, COVID-19 tents on campuses.
 - If a student reports or exhibits COVID symptoms, she/he is excluded from school for 10 days, as ordered by Public Health Department. To return to school sooner, the student has to provide a negative result from a professionally administered COVID test, medicine-free fever resolution and improved symptoms. If a student doesn't test, it is automatically 10 days out of school.
 - Testing availability has been a challenge in Gilroy with the closing of the Annex testing center. District staff has worked with agencies to reopen testing centers in Gilroy, like the Annex.
 - Training has been key as things change.
- Phase 2: Reactive approach
 - The District has a page called "[Reopening GUSD](#)" on the GUSD website that houses COVID information, including a dashboard of weekly exposure statistics.
 - The dashboard numbers represent site-based exposures of positive cases who have been infectious on GUSD campuses. "Infectious" is defined as 48 hours prior to specimen collection or onset of symptoms that led to positive test result. The majority of exposures in GUSD are household-based, not campus-based.
 - This doesn't mean there's not a lot of COVID in Gilroy.

- The District has put together a team made up of Dr. Winslow, a registered nurse (RN), licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) and certified nursing assistants (CNAs). This team deploys once COVID is found at a campus. Team members immediately reach out to the family of the positive case to collect data and investigate. The team investigates variables such as dates of exposure, testing, reconstructing student's/staff's day for contact tracing. Team members are also responsible for tracking cases after their findings.
- Per CDPH order, the District notification policy for close contacts is when anyone has been within 0-6 feet for 15 minutes or more of an infected person when they were contagious. Sometimes, it's too difficult to determine close contacts so the District will err on the side of more contacts.
- CDPH does not want the District to issue generalized announcements to entire classrooms or school, if it is not necessary.
- Once identified, quarantine procedures vary depending if the student is positive or is a contact. If positive, the student is out of school for at least 10 days. For contacts, vaccination status is one of first things considered (for example, if a close contact is fully vaccinated and non-symptomatic, they are not required to isolate or get tested).
- The quarantine situations depend on the situation. Vaccination status and cooperation of testing drives how cases are categorized. Examples:
 - Modified quarantine: An exposure happens in a kindergarten class. If the group is asymptomatic, unvaccinated, close contacts in a school exposure – the group goes into modified quarantine. This means students can go to school but not to extracurriculars. Also, modified quarantine has mandatory testing as soon as possible *and* after day five. If student doesn't meet those conditions, it is a mandatory 10 days of modified quarantine.
 - Other levels of quarantine include shortened, modified quarantine and shortened, full quarantine.
- The aim is to be transparent.
- Some parents have wondered why notifications are received so long after exposures. It is dependent on when the information is received by the District. Improved access to testing has helped to make this a faster process.
- Governor Newsom announced a vaccine mandate that required state employees to be vaccinated OR submit to weekly tests. The GUSD Board approved a contract with a testing lab conduct weekly tests for unvaccinated staff.
- Also, the Governor announced a mandate that vaccination will be *required* for staff and students at some point in the future. The final details and implementation date of this specific mandate are still unclear. Both mandates would include volunteers at schools.
- CDPH's emergency orders – like masks, vaccinations, testing – are law.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- Rapid tests are acceptable if they're professionally administered.
- Volunteers on schools aren't allowed on campuses because District doesn't have the resources to track their vaccination status or conduct required testing.
- The public health order calls out instrument-playing indoors. The condition is to test musicians every week. The District is developing an in-house antigen testing plan for these programs.
- MHUSD is allowing volunteers by requiring proof of vaccination as part of the volunteer onboarding. Can GUSD do the same?

- Appointments at the South County Annex are required but the appointments can also be made on the spot.
- Temperature taking is not happening because it's not a valuable screening tool.
- Can the District get more advance notice if the Annex were to close or reduce hours again? The District worked with SCCOE to get more and regular updates about this.
- Can more Spanish-speaking staff be added to help with screening at South Valley MS? The COVID response team is based at South Valley MS and at least two members are fully bilingual. Also, the South Valley MS front office and administration has bilingual staff. Paul's team will follow up with South Valley MS or any other school to see if more supported is needed.

ESSER III PLAN – KATHLEEN BIERMANN, DIRECTOR, CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION (ELEMENTARY)

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds are one-time, federal funds to help with impact of COVID-19.
- The District is receiving \$10.9M in ESSER III funds that have to be encumbered by September 2024.
- The funding comes with requirements of documentation/assurances, including an expenditure plan that needs Board approval. The plan will go to the Board for approval on Oct. 21.
- The plan is made up of two parts:
 - Minimum of 20% of funds must address academic and non-academic impact of lost instructional time.
 - The remaining funds are to support safe operations at schools.
- Stakeholder engagement has included surveys, district and site committees, input from other plans.
- Themes that emerged from stakeholder input: mental-health needs and support, tutoring and academic support, educational technology, PPE and sanitation materials, summer and enrichment programs, facilities improvements.
- A draft plan went to the Board on Oct. 7. The plan incorporated these themes:
 - Expansion of mental-health services with therapists and other behavior-support personnel.
 - More after-school programs.
 - Improvements for safe operations of schools, with more water-filling stations, support for COVID oversight, contracted transportation, educational tech, sanitation supplies.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- How does this plan affect VLA?
 - The proposals for safe operations are focused on in-person learning so that the areas where students learn and staff works are safe and maintained.
 - The proposals for mental-health services, new socio-emotional learning curriculum, technology are for VLA students as well.
 - VLA families were included in stakeholder surveys. Any additional input can still be directed to Kathleen.
- If these funds have to be encumbered by September 2022, will any part of the money be reserved to see what needs are ahead?
 - Yes, the District is reserving some funds. Dr. Flores and her cabinet members have been actively discussing these strategies.
- What uses for these funds have been surprising or unexpected?

- The need for water-filling stations has become a higher priority as water fountains can no longer be used. The first filling stations were put in areas with access to water lines but schools need more. The next round will be considered in areas of campuses that are more accessible.
- The expenditure plan is designed to be flexible because staff knows some things will come up in the months ahead.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 1:1 Tech Initiative
 - The goal is to issue one Chromebook to each student in the District. The District has distributed nearly 11,000 Chromebooks. Elementary students will keep devices at school; middle- and high-school students will take devices home every night.
 - More devices will be purchased to replace ones that are expiring in a year or two, using one-time federal money. The District will also be buying cases for the devices being taken home.
 - 1,800 hotspots are still in use.
 - Principals will handle damaged or stolen devices in a case-by-case basis.
- Vaccination clinics
 - 60,000 shots were administered in four months at the Gilroy HS vaccination center.
 - Mobile clinics have been scheduled at District schools in the last few months as well. These mobile clinics will return when the vaccinations are approved for younger students and to administer booster shots to eligible adults. Vaccinations for ages 5 to 11 are expected to be approved in early November.
 - Dr. Flores will ask the County if flu shots also can be offered in future mobile clinics.

SPAC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Rod Kelley Elementary School

- Thirty-three students ran for Student Council office. First Spirit Day of the year had lots of participation.
- Parent club is in full swing. Paper drive brought in 300 reams of paper.
- Trunk or Treat event will be in school parking lot.
- Academics is focused on small-group instruction. Staff is preparing for parent conferences.
- Fundraisers, past and upcoming: popcorn sales, book fair, poinsettias sales. Also, Parent Club is using Benefit Mobile, an app that raises money or rewards through retail purchases.

Glen View Elementary School

- Teachers and students are enjoying water bottles.
- School staff is preparing for parent conferences, which will be on Zoom or in-person.
- Some parents have voiced concerns about what to do with students during rainy days (meal times and in quarantine tents).
 - Dr. Flores: Staff is discussing rainy-day protocols.
- Upcoming fundraisers: BBQ 152, See's Candy, online book fair.

Eliot Elementary School

- Recent events: Book fair and crazy hair day.

- Can crossing guards be stationed on the route to school between Old Gilroy Street and 10th Street?
 - Dr. Flores: The intersection is a concern. The challenge is to find people to fill crossing-guard positions. Existing staff, such as from Maintenance department, can't be pulled off their regular duties. The principal and school can help by finding someone, perhaps a parent, who is willing to fill the position and can go through the regular hiring processes.

Luigi Elementary School

- Upcoming events: in-person book fair, 10/25-29; pumpkin drive-through event, 10/29.
- Questions from parents/school community also include concerns about plans for rainy weather and shade on hot days.
 - Dr. Flores: District is buying two shade structures for each elementary school.
- The play structure has been a big discussion point at this school.
 - Dr. Flores: The topic went to the Board as a discussion item at the 10/7 Board meeting and will move forward.

El Roble Elementary School

- Recent events: Paper drive (brought in 450 reams), Kona Ice and BBQ 152 restaurant fundraisers, book fair.
- Upcoming event: Trunk or treat on 10/22 from about 6:30-9:30 p.m., with set up earlier. Can the group have access to bathrooms on campus?
 - Dr. Flores will ask Alvaro Meza about the protocol for this.

GECA

- Dr. Kathleen Rose, President of Gavilan College, and Jeanie Wallace, Vice President of the Gavilan Board, were guest speakers at the September parent club meeting. They spoke about the school's recent resolution that requires students to be vaccinated starting in the spring semester.
- Gavilan officials will come to talk about FAFSA forms and financial aid at the October meeting.
- Recent fundraiser: Chipotle fundraiser. Upcoming fundraisers: Panda Express, See's Candy.
- ASB hosted successful fall festival.
- SAT and PSAT at GECA, 10/13.
- GECA's Ana Benich was named as the GUSD Teacher of the Year and will be recognized at the SCCOE Teacher of the Year event.
- GECA was named as a National Blue Ribbon School. It is one of 325 schools in the country to receive this recognition.

TOPICS OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Dual-immersion program.