

Santa Paula Unified School District Farm Advisory Committee

September 19, 2018, 5:00PM

SPUSD Board Room

Meeting Notes

1. Present: Superintendent Cora, Asst. Supt. Staszewski, Asst. Supt. Schieferle, Principal Garcia, AP Williams, Teacher Alex Flores, Construction Project Manager Doug Henning, College & Career Coordinator Laurie Arnold, Parents Erin Valenzuela and Anna Arroyo, Students Genevieve Valenzuela and Andrew Arroyo
2. Project Update: Mr. Henning reports work on the punch list; working to obtain permit sign-offs from county; after permit sign-offs, will set up sheds and install pens. Mr. Cora shared he and Ms. Schieferle are working on board policies to include process for naming of farm.
3. Naming Update: Mr. Cora reported a meeting to address naming of the farm is in the process of being set up.
4. Timeline, animals: Mr. Flores reported FFA meeting yesterday. Drafts of various items to include application for animals, code of ethics, termination contract, project agreement were given to students and parents for recommendations. 78 students went to the fair this year. Pieces in place for a paper trail to ensure students are responsible and meeting requirements of having animals at the farm. The drafts propose a timeline of March/April acquisition of animals and this is the desired timeline for bringing animals to the farm.
5. Number of animals: Ms. Arroyo requests capacity to house more than 40 animals at the farm. She questioned why we do not have two Ag teachers. Ms. Arnold explained we have a current second Ag teacher with credentials, and Ms. Arnold is researching to determine whether or not she has the proper credential to be an FFA advisor, due to concerns raised about her qualifications. Ms. Schieferle explained history of the program, to include development of the Ag Business pathway, an increase to two sections of Ag 1/Intro to Ag, FFA, and Careers, and Ag Business pathway courses. Ms. Schieferle and Mr. Flores will meet to resolve programmatic issues and then share information with parents. Discussion of two programs, Ag-Science vs. Ag Business. Discussion of retention of students in Ag-Academy for full grant funding of CPA. Ag Academy is best served by drawing from two grade 9 classes, as is the case with Human

Service Academy, to ensure the most appropriate students are selected for the three year CPA program. Ag Academy currently is funded at 87% of grant allowance due to non-completion by some students. Discussion of students who qualify to be in FFA; this is being researched.

6. Policies: Farm policies need to be developed. Mr. Cora shared we do not need to reinvent the wheel in creating policy with regard to hours, access, emergencies, etc. He has consulted with Fillmore Unified regarding policies, and is seeking other districts with farms off site to use as a guide. Andrew, who is an FFA officer, reports Nipomo, Santa Mara, Templeton have farms. The next step is to write policy using other district policy as reference. Many suggestions were made to include: regarding keypads and Fillmore's keypad access; SBR Signs suggested to consult for signage, as owner is an Ag Alumni, Rob Lemons. He has moved back to Santa Paula, lives locally. Ana will review draft documents shared by Mr. Flores and provide feedback. She also mentions knoxbox needs to be set up with key for emergency access. Discussion of gate access, changing code to manage security. Logistics to be worked out include gate access. Dr. Williams suggests signage to address emergency services, so in event of emergency response, they will understand farm layout. (Meeting follow up 9/21/2018: Knox box has been secured to gate for emergency services; Mr. Flores has been provided with directions in using keypad to "hold open" the gate.)
7. Next Meeting: Scheduled for Wednesday, October 24
8. Concerns/Other:
 - a. Dr. Williams: Engagement in grade 9 class? Students report enjoyment of hands-on activities, college tours, etc
 - b. Continued conversation about SPHS Ag teachers working together for the benefit of students.