

Santa Paula Unified School District Farm Advisory Committee

November 15, 2018, 5:00PM

SPUSD Board Room

Meeting Notes

1. **Present:** Erin Valenzuela, Genevieve Valenzuela, Christine Schieferle, Anna Arroyo, Douglas Henning, Sheri Staszewski, Alex Flores, Ed Cora, Laurie Arnold
2. **Project Update - Mr. Henning**
 - a. Construction: County has not yet signed off on permits, those we need to occupy. We are waiting; no action steps for us to take. County fire added some additional requirements which we have met, and we have received final sign off from county fire.
 - b. Additional requests/needs - status: need an additional drain quote; need to install and procure remainder of pens (we have 25-30%); have pricing for additional fencing and additional gates. Much discussion regarding keypad to include hours of access. Tentative plan for access is 6-9 am, 3-8 pm, with override access code for meetings special needs such as sick animal. Discussion included various keypad systems, investigating scanning ID cards and revisiting security cameras.
3. **Naming update – Mr. Cora:** The process has been completed, and the next step is board approval. Mr. Cora is working to design signage for the main access gate and the two barns. Proposed is wrought-iron, powder-coated, with cut out lettering. Grand opening has not yet been scheduled. Discussion about freestanding sign at main entrance vs. signage on the gate. (follow up: photos emailed, taken from the suggested Black Mountain and others on Ojai-Santa Paula Road).
4. **Standard operating procedure update – Ms. Staszewski:** The JPA has reviewed our documents and recommended revisions. We are in the process of reviewing and revising with the intention of moving them as an Informational item at the December board meeting and hopes of approval at the January board meeting. These include items Field Trip Procedures, Agriculture Safe Practices, liability release/assumption of risk.
5. **Field trips – Mr. Flores:** Two types of tours are proposed to be offered, guided and non-guided. A variety of topics on animals and agriculture will be offered for guided tours. A suggestion is to develop a “self-guided tour” for teachers who opt to take students on the non-guided tours.

6. **Additional items discussed:**

- a. **FFA:** Mr. Flores updated on the plan to obtain a variance so Ms. Fahey may be an FFA advisor. He will complete that as soon as we are back from the break.
- b. **Ag Program Items:** Mr. Flores shared Mr. Beard, our regional ag director, will be making a district visit on December 7 to review the Ag program and ensure 11 Elements of a High-Quality CTE program, per federal guidelines for CTE programs. The Ag Advisory Committee meeting was held last Thursday.
- c. **Growing the Ag Program:** Ms. Schieferle shared plans are in place to plan for fall 2019, emphasizing there needs to be student demand for ag classes to grow the program. Three new sections would need to be in demand and created in order to have a second, full-time Ag teacher. Noted also, any added sections will displace existing SPHS elective courses. Areas to address include working with counselors; promoting Ag Business in the grade 9 class, on an equal or with even more emphasis than the existing well-established academy; ensuring the Marketing class is a second group of students (doubling the number of ag student); students take the Marketing class with plans of it being year 1 of a 2 year pathway (not a stand alone elective); continuing to build and working more closely to align SPHS with the middle school program to generate interest in Agriculture; promoting Ag Business pathway through FFA.

7. **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019