

## **Highlights: January 19, 2023**

### **Welcome/Announcements/Introductions**

Superintendent Melissa Bassanelli welcomed participants to the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee (SPAC) meeting and acknowledged the board members in attendance.

### **Communication Survey Results/Website Feedback**

Becca DeMos, Communication Specialist II, and Raj Rai, Director, Communication, provided background information that was shared with SPAC on September 29 regarding the district's proposal to re-examine the communication process and functionality of the district and school websites. The communication team has recently researched the communication practices and preferences of district staff, parents/guardians and students. In total, 866 staff and 1,224 family participants took part in the communication surveys. Ms. DeMos and Ms. Rai provided a summary of the feedback that was gathered. Below are some of the key findings from the survey and feedback sessions.

Key findings from the family survey:

- Families are frustrated by the fragmented tools set in use between classrooms, schools and district departments.
- Over communication and overuse of specific tools is a frustration point for families.
- Email and two-way text messaging are at the top of the preferred communication tools list.
- Responsiveness in communication will improve trust.

Most important things that families want to be informed about:

- School Safety
- Student's academic performance
- Emergency information
- School events
- Student achievements

Key findings from staff survey:

- Direct email and Behind the Scenes e-newsletter are employees' preferred tools for receiving communications.
- An updated and refreshed intranet.
- Prompt communication will improve trust.

Recommended actions:

- Establish approved communication tools and streamline the protocols.
- Adopt a two-way texting tool.
- Simplify the district's website and intranet presence.

Anticipated next steps:

- Explore two-way text vendors (RFP process and committee for selection).
- Redesign website and intranet for a simpler presence.
- Audit all communication tools and establish set tools for toolbox.

The full survey results are available at [www.sanjuan.edu/surveyresults2022](http://www.sanjuan.edu/surveyresults2022). The report will be used to guide efforts to improve communication practices.

Q: Is two-way chat just for teachers and parents?

A: The plan is to begin with parents and teachers.

Q: Is Early Childhood Education (ECE) included?

A: ECE currently uses a different system, but it is the district's hope to eventually include ECE.

## **Student Dress Code**

Darrin Kitchen, Director of Secondary Education and Holly Cybulski, Director of Elementary & K-8 Schools, provided a quick recap of the information that was presented to SPAC on September 29 and what has happened since. Dr. Kitchen reviewed some common themes and trends that emerged from the student, staff and family surveys, as well as what the dress code committee determined to be the top considerations moving forward. These considerations include gender neutral terminology, safety, consistency across all schools, clarity around hats, hoodies, pajamas, drugs and violence depicted on clothing and being more culturally relevant and inclusive. Dr. Kitchen acknowledged the importance of providing training and/or guidance on how to enforce the dress code policy. Next steps include reviewing research and best practices around dress codes, researching and examining other school districts that have completed this process, drafting a new policy, attaining community feedback on the draft policy, presenting the proposed policy to the board, and, if approved, implementing the new policy in 2023-2024. In the spring of 2024, the school community will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the new policy and determine if revisions are needed.

Q: Is ECE included?

A: We are not clear on this, but staff will bring it up with the committee.

Q: Exclusion is happening now? How?

A: There is no consistency across the district.

## **Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Listening Session**

Gianfranco Tornatore, Director, Continuous Improvement & LCAP, shared some background information related to the Local Control and Accountability Plan. He explained that the LCAP is a three-year plan that is revised annually. It describes how services are provided to improve the performance of English learners, low income and foster youth students, as well as the performance of all students in the state priority areas. The LCAP is developed with input from the district's educational partners, which include students, families, staff and community members.

SPAC representatives were asked to participate in a listening session activity and share their perspectives and experiences as they relate to the district's four LCAP goals.

Dr. Tornatore thanked the group for participating in the listening session activity. The feedback that is being gathered will be used to help inform the district's next steps and improvement work as staff plans for the 2023-24 school year and beyond.

## **General Q&A**

Q: Is there a follow-up regarding graduation requirements?

A: Revised graduation requirements were taken to the board and approved in December. Conversations are happening with principals and are being communicated with counselors. Counselors will follow up with students in terms of what is needed between now and graduation. It is important to note that the changes are specific to the class of 2023, but staff will also be monitoring the class of 2024. It is important to note that the district does not want to keep the lower requirements in place longer than necessary.

Q: Does the district have partnerships with community colleges?

A: There are some partnerships and dual enrollment opportunities. Families are also encouraged to reach out to the institutions that their student is interested in attending.

Q: Will the district be lowering K-3 class size to 20 students per class?

A: Class sizes need to go through the bargaining process. The district must also consider facility needs.

Q: Can best practices be shared for each site, such as how they create welcoming environments?

A: Yes, this can be done.

Q: What can the district do to help students who don't speak English?

A: The district has programs in place. However, the district has enrolled approximately 135 new Russian and Ukrainian students over the past 90 days. We are in the process of hiring additional bilingual instructional assistants.

## **Conclusion**

Superintendent Bassanelli thanked everyone for attending the SPAC meeting.

[The next SPAC meetings will be held on April 27, 2023]