

**Mt. Diablo Unified School District**  
**Parent Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**March 21, 2023**  
**5:30 – 7pm**  
**Willow Creek Center**

**MDUSD Representatives:** Jennifer Sachs, Dr. Adam Clark, Samantha Allen, Susan Hartwig

I. Welcome & Introductions

Jennifer Sachs welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves and reviewed the role of the Parent Advisory Committee.

*The Parent Advisory Committee supports the district in implementing and monitoring programs and activities for all schools in the district. PAC meetings include the opportunity to connect with District departments, includes updates from Dr. Clark and presentations on relevant topics affecting MDUSD.*

II. Dr. Adam Clark – District Updates

March 13<sup>th</sup> was a professional development day. Classified and certificated staff attended trainings on various topics at Concord High School. The MDUSD is BEST day also occurred on March 13<sup>th</sup> where dozens of Career Technical Education teachers from District high schools took on the roles of students as they visited 12 local companies, organizations or public agencies to learn more about the jobs they are preparing their students to go in the future.

Applications are open for the Student Trustee for next year. The position is open to all juniors and seniors at our high schools.

Cesar Chavez day is March 31<sup>st</sup> and then spring recess is the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>.

WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation week started March 19<sup>th</sup> with a team visiting Northgate HS this week and College Park High School next week.

III. Susan Hartwig – Ethnic Studies Presentation

Since 1968 Ethnic Studies has developed into a field of study that centers on people that have been historically marginalized, challenges students to think critically about their communities, and take action towards justice, and challenges students to cultivate empathy for themselves and their communities.

In 2021 Governor Newsom signed legislation making California the first state to require all students to complete at minimum a semester-long course in ethnic studies to earn a high school diploma. The mandate will take effect starting with the graduating class of 2029-30, although high schools must start to offer courses starting in the 2025-26 school year.

This will happen in four phases:

- ❖ Phase 1 – Introduction and intention setting in the Spring/Fall 2022
- ❖ Phase 2 – Ethnic Studies Program Development 2022-2023
- ❖ Phase 3 – Teacher support and course development 2023-24, 2024-25
- ❖ Phase 4 – Summer training institute 2024 or 2025

Ethnic Studies in the classroom will have students engage socially and politically and to think critically. Students will document the experiences of people of color, construct counter-narratives, develop a complex understanding of the human experience and see the advantages of inclusion. Students will also develop a respect for cultural diversity and challenge racism, discrimination, and oppression as well as interrogate the systems that perpetuate inequality.

One of the guiding principles of Ethnic Studies is that they be centered in the community that they are presented in. Local history and the experiences of people in the school's community that are often underrepresented must be included.

The District's Ethnic Studies work group is working together to provide feedback and oversight for teachers developing their courses. Below are some of the questions whose answers will inform the work of course development are:

- ❖ What are some topics that should be included in an Ethnic Studies course?
- ❖ What are some stories that we might include in the curriculum?
- ❖ What areas of conflict should we be aware of?
- ❖ What are some questions that you have about the curriculum?
- ❖ What do you hope this curriculum will accomplish?

Starting 2023-2024, Ethnic Studies elective courses will be introduced in the following schools:

- ❖ Ygnacio Valley High School
  - 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> grades year long course
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade (semester course) will be paired with a Health course
- ❖ Northgate High School
  - All grades yearlong course
- ❖ Mt. Diablo High School
  - 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> grades yearlong

Community meetings will continue through the pilot process.

IV. PAC By-Laws – Jennifer Sachs

A draft of the PAC By-Laws has been written and was presented for discussion. The District recommends that the membership be at least one PAC representative and an alternate, making sure we have more attendance, and getting a diversity of voice.

Feedback Survey [here](#)

V. Future PAC Dates

April 18, 2023 – LCAP Input

May 16, 2023 – Approve bylaws

Meeting adjourned at 7pm