

**Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
October 17, 2023
5:30 - 7pm
Willow Creek Center**

MDUSD Representatives: Jennifer Sachs, Dr. Adam Clark

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, including updates from Dr. Clark and presentations on relevant topics affecting MDUSD.

II. Dr. Adam Clark - District Updates

Gregory Gardens hosted a Special Olympics event a few weeks ago. It was a special time for families to see their students participating in activities.

October 6th was a Professional Development Day for the district. The District held morning and afternoon sessions, a total of 47 different trainings were offered for both certificated and classified staff. The trainings included professional development on our English Language Arts curriculum, math curriculum, Professional Learning Community, common core instruction and much more. For the first time, training sessions specifically for substitute teachers were provided.

Northgate High School commemorated Harvey Milk Prop 6 Debate on October 16, 2023.

The District's Teacher of the Year finalists Danya Townsend and Joseph Alvarico were honored at the Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year ceremony. The County had four finalists overall which then went on for Teacher of the Year for the state. Joseph Alvarico, an engineering teacher at Ygnacio Valley High School, was announced last week as one of the State Teacher of the Year.

III. Food and Nutrition Services Presentation - Alexandra Emmott, Director of Food & Nutrition Services

Alexandra Emott has been working in food service for 20 years and for the past 13 years, she has been working in school districts. Alex is passionate about school meals and supporting students' health. Over 20,000 meals are served every day in the Mt. Diablo Unified.

California became the first state to adopt Universal Meals in the 2022-23 school year and continues during the 2023-24 school year. All students, regardless of income eligibility can receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. The State of California supplements the funding from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Our Food & Nutrition Services Department offers meat and vegetarian menu options daily. All meals come with fresh fruits and vegetables.

The USDA has complex rules and 5 food groups are required (grains, proteins, fruits, vegetables, and milk) for each meal. Students must take a fruit or vegetable with every meal. New menu items began in October including more variety on elementary menus.

Eat Real Standards has ten standards which are:

- Reducing added sugars
- Fresh produce
- Increase whole grain
- Reduce fats
- Reduce processed foods
- Support local growers
- Animal welfare
- Menu flexibility
- Waste reduction
- Connect students to their food through nutrition education and dFarm to School

Farm to School is piloting purchases from Micro Farms such as Healthy Hearts and Family Harvest. Both farms are in Pittsburg, CA.

Harvest of the Month is partnering with CARES to do monthly taste tests for new items, featuring Harvest of the Month Produce. This month is pumpkins, November will be persimmons and December will feature butternut squash such as butternut squash mac & cheese and raviolis.

The Food & Nutrition Department is working with the Teamsters to evaluate and equalize labor distribution and create permanent subs.

IV. Public Service Announcements

- Career Education Fair - October 18th, Concord HS
- Fentanyl Awareness Night - October 19th, College Park HS
- Growing Healthy Kids Autumn Harvest - October 21st, Riverview MS

- College & Career Fair - October 26th, Ygnacio Valley HS

V. Future PAC Meetings

- November 14, 2023
- December 19, 2023
- January 16, 2024
- February 20, 2024
- March 19, 2024
- April 16, 2024
- May 21, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 7pm