

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee

Highlights: October 5, 2023

Welcome/Announcements/Introductions

Superintendent Melissa Bassanelli welcomed participants to the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee (SPAC) meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Ms. Bassanelli provided a beginning of the year update that included various topics such as enrollment and attendance, new communication tools, income verification forms and the district's efforts to open the year with warm, welcoming, inclusive environments. She shared that this year's enrollment is at 38,279, which is over projection by 276 students and attendance is up for the months of August and September (any increase/decrease in attendance can equate to an increase/decrease in revenue for the district). This year, the district launched a [new logo](#) and website and introduced two-way texting. Ms. Bassanelli explained the importance of submitting the income verification form, due by October 30, as the money it generates helps the district increase services and revenue for our schools. We have the potential to receive between \$6M - \$11M in future years.

Local Control and Accountability Plan 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 help 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 regarding some of the things that the schools are doing well to support students and families, and some of the things the schools should do differently to improve support for students and families.

Dr. Tornatore thanked the group for participating in the listening session activity. The feedback that is being gathered from this group and other educational partners will be used to help inform the district's next steps and improvement work as staff plans for the 2024-25 school year and beyond. The proposed LCAP will be presented to the Board of Education in June 2024.

Curriculum Adoptions

Nicole Kukral, Director, Professional Learning and Curriculum Innovation, and Nicole Naditz, Program Specialist, Instructional Technology and World Languages, provided an overview of the curriculum adoption process. The professional learning and innovation team's goal for the year is to obtain input on instructional materials for each of the 2023-2024 adoptions. Recognizing that traditional engagement strategies with families have been less effective in capturing diverse perspectives, the district is adopting a more creative approach, emphasizing community engagement to provide families with greater access to the input process. This year, new materials will be introduced in various subjects, including history social science (advanced placement - U.S. history, psychology, sociology), science (advanced placement physics C: mechanics), special education (independent living skills) and world languages (advanced placement Spanish language and culture, international baccalaureate Spanish 1

and 2). The review process for new materials was explained, as were the options for reviewing materials which include in-person and online review opportunities and submitting feedback using an online form. All information, as well as the feedback form can be found at www.sanjuan.edu/academics/curriculum. You can also click [here](#) to view the complete presentation.

Q: Do these adoptions only affect high school students?

A: They affect high school students and special education students in the independent living skills (ILS) program.

Q: Is there a regular time period for new course adoptions?

A: Yes, it is generally every seven years, but can change based on state parameters. For TK-8 adoptions, districts must wait for the state to adopt the framework and materials first.

Q: Are the International Baccalaureate Spanish 1 and 2 materials for Churchill Middle School?

A: No, they are for Mira Loma High School.

Q: Do AP courses transfer to college?

A: They are designed as lower-division college level courses; however, students are required to take an AP exam to receive college level credit.

Welcoming Environments

Kristan Schnepf, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education and Programs, and Amberlee Townsend-Snyder, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education and Programs, shared information regarding this year's welcoming activities at school sites. Participants were invited to share feedback regarding their site's activities, specifically, what welcoming activities worked well, what activities weren't as impactful or beneficial for them or their students, and what other activities they would recommend to help create welcoming, inclusive environments. Below is a small sample of the feedback and common themes.

Activities that work/worked well:

- Back-to-school night (elementary)
- Teacher meet & greet prior to the start of school
- Family Nights
- Student mentors/guides at orientation
- Fall performances/food trucks/book fair
- Grades 5, 6 and kinder buddy program
- Field trips
- Dances
- Where everybody belongs (WEB) / link crew

Activities that weren't as impactful or beneficial:

- Families with special needs students have a difficult time attending events (could help by recording or live streaming back-to-school night, open house and awards events)
- Grades K-8 do not receive the same WEB support
- Back-to-school night for secondary families felt chaotic/rushed
- Not being able to celebrate or learn about holidays – information could be provided in a historical context so that all students can participate

Activities you would recommend:

- Better communication regarding upcoming activities
- Multicultural events

- Involve more parents from diverse groups (e.g., Black student union, gay/straight alliance)
- Parent affinity groups
- Parent buddies
- Meet and greet with special education staff/case managers for new students at high school level
- Find ways to increase participation from our English learner families in PTA, etc.
- Provide a singular district communication that lists all high school information nights on one calendar

Ms. Schnepf and Ms. Townsend-Snyder thanked the group for their feedback. The information from today's meeting will be compiled and shared with principals.

General Q&A

Q: How do you prioritize facility projects?

A: We have a Facilities Master Plan that was developed approximately ten years ago. The district will be going through the process again in the next couple of years.

Q: Are the fencing (safety) projects on track?

A: Yes, fencing projects will be done in three phases for logistical purposes. We are also looking at installing lock blocks on all doors. As certain sites go through modernization, security access is being reviewed. The district is also looking into upgrading our camera system on campuses.

Q: Is the site priority list available?

A: Yes, Nan will forward the list.

Q: Do we know if the IAs that were hired with one-time funds will continue at sites?

A: One-time funding expires on September 30, 2024, but the district is hoping to retain some positions using new one-time funds and other funding sources. A recommendation is expected to go to the board on October 24, 2023 (Board item I-2 Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant).

Q: Is there a vision of how the district will sustain improvements and provide services after one-time funds have expired?

A: The LCAP is our policy document that will help guide decisions. We also look at quantitative and qualitative data, as well as how students are doing socially and emotionally. We will also be looking at other one-time funds and revenue.

Q: Does the district have any plans to bring back home-to-school transportation or provide transportation for athletics?

A: No, the cost of offering home-to-school transportation to general education students is cost prohibitive. Transportation is implementing some pilot programs for specific populations such as foster youth and homeless. The district is also looking into alternative transportation options for extracurricular activities and athletics.

Conclusion

Superintendent Bassanelli thanked everyone for attending the SPAC meeting.

[The next SPAC meeting will be held on January 18, 2024]