



FONTANA UNIFIED FORWARD NEWSLETTER

February 2022

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



Dear Fontana Unified families,

We have experienced a busy start to 2022, full of students reaching high levels of achievement, the announcement of new and expanded programs in the District, and more initiatives that continue to propel Fontana Unified forward. As you may know, the Board of Education adopted Resolution No. 21-29, indicating the Board's intent to comply with the California Voting Rights Act, and has taken the next steps in the process to transition from at-large to by-trustee area Board elections. The District has, and will continue to hold, public hearings regarding the transition to by-trustee area elections. We encourage the community to attend these hearings and continue providing input throughout this process, such as on the proposed maps and information for the District to consider as boundaries are created. To view the proposed trustee area maps, please visit the FUSD website.

As the school year progresses and we work to uphold our continued commitment to supporting the health and safety of our students, employees and community, I want to encourage families to remain diligent in protecting themselves against COVID-19. As we see an improvement in our community regarding COVID-19 cases, it is important to continuing doing our part to minimize exposure to the virus and follow the health and safety protocols – such as keeping your child home if they are sick. For information on current District COVID protocols and resources, please visit fUSD.net/coronavirus. Please be mindful that as the pandemic progresses, COVID-19 protocols will continue to evolve. The District will continue to keep students, employees and the community informed of any updated health and safety practices.

Randal S. Bassett
Superintendent

Save the Date

Monday, Feb. 21

President's Day Holiday – No School

Wednesday, March 2

Board of Education Special Meeting

6 p.m.

John D. Piazza Center

9680 Citrus Avenue, Fontana

Wednesday, March 9

Board of Education Meeting

Open Session: 6:30 p.m.

John D. Piazza Center

9680 Citrus Avenue, Fontana

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Dec. 15, 2021

The Board of Education held election of its President for 2022. Mr. Perez and Mr. Armendarez nominated Dr. Quezada, who accepted. Dr. Quezada nominated Mr. Serna. Dr. Quezada was approved to be president.

The Board held its election for Vice President Clerk. Mr. Perez nominated Mr. Armendarez as Vice President; no other nominations were made. Mr. Armendarez accepted the nomination and was approved.

The first public hearing was held to receive community input on the compositions of possible trustee areas for the Board of Education and how to designate the areas. The District's legal counsel presented information to the board. Two comments were made during the public hearing.

The Board approved an agreement with Terris Barnes Walters Boigon Heath Lester, Inc., DBA TBWBH Propositions & Measures, to provide public outreach and communications services regarding a potential bond measure in the estimated amount of \$149,000, effective Dec. 16, 2021 through Aug. 15, 2022.

An amendment was approved to the District's agreement with CleanStart Cleaning Services, Inc., to provide temporary custodial support services in the estimated amount of \$1,484,000, for a new total estimated amount of \$2,506,000, and extend the contract term through May 27, 2022.

The Board of Education approved a Positive Certification of the District's First Interim Financial Report as of Oct. 31, 2021.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 21-27 concerning the review of the Annual and Five-Year Reportable Developer Fees Report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and the findings thereon, in compliance with Government Code Sections 66006 and 66001.

The Board voted to adopt the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Plan 2021-2026 (EEF).

The Board approved the material changes to the Schoolwide Plan for Student Achievement for North Tamarind and Ted Porter Elementary Schools in accordance with Education Code.

The District presented information on the District's COVID travel policy and approval of out-of-state field trips,

reiterating there are California Department of Public Health (CDPH) protocols that should be followed to keep students safe. The Board motioned to require PCR antigen testing immediately after return from out-of-state field trips and upon receiving a negative result, student may return to school (no additional quarantine period is needed) in order to ensure they are not COVID positive, while allowing students back to school as quickly as possible. The motion was approved.

A Board member requested discussion and/or action on the COVID-related information used by the District to make policy recommendations/decisions. The Board requested all employees be tested weekly regardless of vaccination status, and the District confirmed it



will work with the current testing vendor to see if capacity can be filled. The Board approved a request for all employees to be tested weekly upon confirmation that capacity can be handled.

Board member Perez presented an updated version of a COVID-19 resolution, which was approved. The Board requested that the District still follow mitigation practices, regardless of this resolution, in order to keep our staff, students, and families safe.

The Board approved the adoption of Resolution 21-30, Supporting Assembly Bill No. 75, Kindergarten-Community Colleges Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2022.

Jan. 19, 2021

Superintendent Bassett requested Mr. DiGiulio provide an update regarding new testing options, home

testing kits, and updates regarding COVID mitigation procedures for both employees and students. Additional information will be communicated to parents and employees soon.

A third public hearing was held regarding input on the compositions of trustee area maps for the Board of Education.

The Board voted to accept the 2020-2021 Audit Report as completed by the firm Nigro & Nigro, PC. An unmodified opinion was provided to give a clear financial picture of what the financial information looks like, including the savings of \$54 million to the public by refinancing the past bond. No audit adjustments were needed.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 22-01 declaring an emergency and award of contract without advertising for bids for immediate canopy structure repairs required at Fontana High School to Harik Construction, Inc. for an estimated total amount of \$491,700. Structures were being bid and were significantly damaged due to the rain, requiring immediate repair.

Amended project authorizations with Architecture 9 PLLP were approved for the HVAC replacement projects at Locust, Palmetto, Randall Pepper elementary schools, and Southridge Tech Middle School, in the estimated amount of \$141,844, for a new total estimated amount of \$323,044.

The Board approved an agreement with Emerging Beauty, Inc to provide an Enrichment Program for Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) Youth at an estimated cost of \$27,000, effective Jan. 20, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

The Board of Education approved an amendment to the agreement with Paper Education Company Inc. to extend online tutoring services through June 30, 2022, in the estimated amount of \$220,970.90, for a new total estimated amount of \$885,282.15. The current contract expires in February as it was started in March due to COVID, and the current shortage of tutors requires an option for the 1,000+ students who are using this service.

The Board accepted the first readings of revised Board Policies as provided: 0420.4 Charter School, 0420.41 Charter School Oversight, 0420.42 Charter School Renewal, 0420.43 Charter School Revocation, and 7160 Charter School Facilities as provided.



Around Campus: Elementary Schools

Almond Elementary School Launches After-School Video Production Program



Almond Elementary School students are being encouraged to put on their director's caps and call out "lights, camera, action!" through the Pacer Production Studios after-school video program, where Almond students are learning the basics of filmmaking with the assistance of Summit High School TV production students.

Nearly 50 Almond Pacer fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students meet three days a week to learn a variety of film production techniques, including lighting, camera positioning, editing, scriptwriting, adding music and title sequences and how to be an on-air personality.

"Pacer Production Studios has really resonated with our students. We want to give them those relevant experiences and let their creativity shine through video production," Almond Elementary Principal Tim McCaffrey said. "Our kids have top-notch equipment and a great partnership with Summit High School TV production students, who come to Almond and serve as mentors."

Almond has renovated its computer lab to resemble a recording studio, where students can hone their skills in two learning tracks: one for traditional filmmaking and one to produce daily, student-led morning bulletin announcements.

Around Campus: Middle Schools

Truman Middle School Students and Teacher Recognized by Learning Company

Truman Middle School eighth-graders Iris Tovar and Keila Molina Hernandez have been recognized 2021 Houghton Mifflin Houghton (HMH) 180 Award winners – an honor given to just 30 students across the country – for their perseverance in overcoming past struggles with math and displaying academic progress.

Tovar and Molina Hernandez were lauded for exhibiting engagement, consistency, and perseverance in class, where Truman Middle School math intervention teacher Sahar Yahya uses the HMH Math 180 curriculum to help students learn and grow through a digital framework that provides daily goals and instant assessments.

Yahya was also recognized as a 2021 HMH 180 Award winner, one of just 20 educators in the U.S. to receive the distinction. Yahya was one of the first Fontana Unified teachers to implement Math 180 into their curriculum, introducing the program to Truman in 2013.

"This is very encouraging to me. I can see how the program is changing the attitudes of my students. The award will push me to do even better," Yahya said. "Math 180 is about developing a growth mindset in students who feel they can never succeed. I am so proud of Iris and Keila. They are rising to the challenge and pushing themselves hard. It's a wonderful thing to see."



School Shout Outs High Schools

College Application Events Celebrate FUSD Seniors



Fontana Unified will offer Spanish dual-language immersion (DLI) instruction at Sequoia Middle School in 2022-23, providing a continuum of learning that fosters bilingualism, biliteracy and sociocultural competency while preparing students for success in college and career.

Sequoia Middle School will be the District's third DLI school, building on the foundational instruction provided to students in kindergarten through sixth grade at Dolores Huerta International Academy and Redwood Elementary School.

Students promoting from Dolores Huerta International Academy in June 2022 will be the first to receive DLI instruction at Sequoia next fall, where they will take a minimum of two courses that are conducted in Spanish.



College Application Events Celebrate FUSD Seniors

Fontana Unified's comprehensive high schools honored the Class of 2022's commitment to pursuing higher education during recent College Application Day celebrations. Each year, FUSD high schools dedicate a day for students to complete and submit applications on campus, aided



by counselors, staff and District administrators. Their efforts are celebrated with spirited events, featuring lively music, boldly decorated campuses with signs of encouragement and photo opportunities, free t-shirts and memorabilia, and more. The campus celebrations are part of a Districtwide effort to boost college and career readiness by removing barriers and increasing access to information and financial support. Fontana Unified provided approximately \$80,000 to cover college application fees, offering financial



support to 1,500 students who do not qualify for California fee waivers. The District also hosts financial aid workshops to guide students and families through the process of applying for financial aid and providing support in completing FAFSA and CA Dream Act applications.



A.B. Miller High School Aviation Students Earn Their Wings through Shades of Blue Training Course



Taking their first steps toward a lucrative career in aviation, 16 A.B. Miller High School students received certificates of completion after finishing a 10-week training course designed to inspire careers as commercial airline pilots. Shades of Blue, a free course held on Saturdays at Ontario International Airport, provides students with access to pilots, engineers, mechanics, air traffic controllers and other aerospace professionals, who guide them through the basics of aviation and pilot training. A completion ceremony was held Dec. 18 at the airport.

"Shades of Blue offers a unique opportunity for A.B. Miller students, getting to work with experienced pilots and industry professionals," A.B. Miller Assistant Principal Tim Yelin said. "The students are making connections that will help them if they want to proceed on to commercial flight."

Summit High School Forensics Students Receive Professional Tutorials from Fontana PD

Summit High School Advanced Cyber Forensics and Cyber Forensics students received a series of professional tutorials on crime scene investigation (CSI) techniques when three members of the Fontana Police Department visited their classroom in December. The officers gave a



presentation on Workplace and School Violence, covering a wide range of forensic topics related to CSI, including protocol on dealing with active shooters and barricaded suspects, lockdown procedures and the priorities of law enforcement at a crime scene. The forensics class has been a part of Summit's Public Safety career technical education pathway since 2019. The class is designed to prepare students for careers in law enforcement, CSI and criminal justice, as well as establish opportunities for internships. "Cyber forensics provides a lot of hands-on learning. It's interesting and fun," Summit High forensics teacher Anoop Advani said. "It is a very popular class, especially among females, who make up two-thirds of all the classes."

FUSD Superintendent, Educators Recognized by UC Davis as C-STEM Instruction Innovators



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Fontana Unified students cheered with delight as Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and their team of festively dressed volunteers bestowed them with gifts during the District's 24th annual Fontana Santas event. Lively holiday music filled the air as families drove through the District office parking lot on Dec. 18, where students from Fontana Unified's elementary schools received gifts, supplies for a holiday dinner, stuffed stockings and more. Middle- and high-school families received

gifts earlier in the week. The event culminated the District's annual toy drive, in which District employees, students, families and community organizations come together to gather donations and support Fontana Unified families in need during the holiday season. The tradition began 24 years ago when Fontana School Police Officer Cindy Evaro and District employee Lydia Wibert learned a Fontana boy ran away from home after Christmas because he did not receive any presents.

Evaro, Wibert and Fontana School Police collected toys and donations from local organizations and delivered them to students during the holidays.



Fontana Unified graduates have gone on to attend prestigious colleges and universities across the country – including Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins, UC Berkeley, USC, UCLA, Northwestern and Boston College!

FUSD Superintendent, Educators Recognized by UC Davis as C-STEM Instruction Innovators

For overseeing the successful implementation of an innovative new curriculum designed to help struggling students discover a love for mathematics, Fontana Unified Superintendent Randal S. Bassett was recognized by the UC Davis C-STEM Center as its 2021 Superintendent of the Year.



Additionally, North Tamarind Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Janice Taylor and Elementary Instruction Coordinator Dr. Honey Sacro Swem were recognized as C-STEM Teacher of the Year and C-STEM Administrator of the Year, respectively, during the center's annual conference. Fontana Unified introduced C-STEM (computing, science, technology, engineering, math) into its middle school curriculum in 2018, as both an intervention measure and a pathway, and made it available to elementary school teachers at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. C-STEM is now available at 23 FUSD elementary schools, five middle schools, and one high school. "I was shocked to win the award; I'm doing this because I see the difference it's making in the students, and their attitude toward learning," Taylor said. "I've seen their mindset and attitude change immediately. Students that are not inspired by traditional math programs are excited by this, and they are working together and want to help each other. It tells me this program is worth our time."