

Board Meeting 4/25/2024

This survey will be turned off at 3:00pm 4/25/2024, no late entries will be accepted.

Name:

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Address/Affiliation:

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Is this for Open Session or Closed Session?

Open Session

Closed Session

What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

math

.....

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

- When agenda item comes up
- During the public comment section

Comments:

Other school districts have compacted advance math courses in middle school. (Couldn't compaction been part of the math adoption criteria?) There are overlaps in math standards, particularly in 8th and Algebra. To subject kids to two sections of math based on no real data and in the guise of completing all the standards is simply lazy. Work harder. Do you want kids to hate math more? If you have no one knowledgeable enough to figure out compaction, just copy another school district's pathway. This is not a novel idea.

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Comments:

It is disheartening that the people who have barely any math expertise or diverse teaching experiences made such a big decision on the math pathways. They didn't consult teachers or engaged the community. The double math appears to be for high achieving students and there is no support to help others get into the pathway. How is this equitable?

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Name:

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Address/Affiliation:

Parent
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What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

Advance math curriculum
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Comments:

What's the difference between advance 7th math and 7th math? Does it have a different book? How will the new curriculum help my child get into advance math?
.....

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Board Meeting 4/25/2024

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Name:

Kaitlyn Mulligan

Address/Affiliation:

Buri Buri Elementary School Teacher

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What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

Math adoption

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

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Comments:

In regards to our new math adoption, I would like to make sure the board is aware of the following comments about our potential new math adoption.

- Our district is trying to move forward with technology in our district. IM does not have a robust online presence. It is not adaptive to our learners and feels like a step backwards for the district.
 - IM is very whole group focused. The teacher is needed for every step of the lesson. There is no time to pull students for intervention, which is in direct conflict with the innovative intervention schedule Buri has adopted this year.
 - Instead of being more unified, adopting a curriculum that is opposed by the majority will further fracture our district. Some teachers are refusing to use this curriculum so it will only make our schools less unified.
 - I am very concerned, as a member of the pilot team, that the district is NOT sharing the votes from the pilot group publicly and with the school board. It seems they are hiding the fact that elementary teachers are not excited about IM.
-

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Name:

Melissa Wood

Address/Affiliation:

Teacher and SSF resident

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Math Pilot

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

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Comments:

Dear SSF School Board and Cabinet,

I am disappointed to write this letter to the school board because lessons were not learned by the District Administration when it comes to piloting educational materials. Last year I wrote you concerning the poorly run phonics pilot in which data was manipulated by District Leadership in order to purchase phonics materials of which the majority of teachers in the pilot committee did not approve. Despite concerns expressed by teachers on the phonics pilot team, the district leadership decided to purchase materials anyway.

Unfortunately, this situation has happened again with the math pilot. The majority of teachers did not agree with the district's choice. The district is fraudulently presenting information to the Board that contradicts the recommendations of the math pilot team. Surveys were conducted in secret and data was manipulated again. Where is the required transparency? This math program does not meet the needs of our diverse population. This math program does not have sufficient practice and lacks ELL support. It expects kindergarten students to be independent learners on the first day of school. Why does the district form pilot committees and then not respect their recommendations?

The District Administration is once again disrespecting teachers and not following the piloting guidelines required by the California State Department of Education. There is a disconnect between district initiatives and the realities of what is happening in classrooms. It is also problematic that no one in District Leadership has taught in elementary school. As a teacher with over 30 years of elementary classroom experience, it is very frustrating to be part of a committee that is asking for my professional opinion and simultaneously having that opinion ignored in order to promote a district agenda.

Please do NOT approve the new math pilot that will be presented at the board meeting. Any approval will be constituted as a misappropriation of funds and a detriment to the students of South San Francisco. Listen to the teachers and show that you care. They work with children every day and have their best interests at heart.

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Name:

SSFUSD Parent

Address/Affiliation:

South San Francisco

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What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

Middle School Math Curriculum Change

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

- When agenda item comes up
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Comments:

I strongly urge the board to reject the district's proposal to change the math curriculum in our middle schools. It's essential to prioritize both quality and accessibility in education. The district's proposal to eliminate advanced math track options in middle school will lower academic standards for our students.

The goal should be to provide diverse pathways that cater to different learning styles and aptitudes. We should aim to accommodate students who are eager to tackle more challenging material.

Why deny them these opportunities and limit their access to higher learning? Why force a choice between pathways when we can offer both, as we have done in the past?

Furthermore, the district has not presented concrete evidence to suggest that the accelerated program is ineffective. Instead, they are proposing that advanced students should concurrently enroll in multiple math courses, thereby sacrificing one of their electives. However, would we expect students to take Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 simultaneously? This approach contradicts the fundamental principles of math education, a sentiment echoed by many math educators.

We should be raising the standards and not eliminating classes that challenge our students who wish to pursue higher-level learning. For a district in the heart of Silicon Valley and technology, it is disappointing that the district is taking the opposite path by reducing the quality of fundamental math classes.

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Name:

Anonymous

Address/Affiliation:

CSEA Member & Employee

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Comments:

It was very disappointing to see that only one board member and no district administrators came to the CSEA Townhall meeting held last week. Your employees thoughtfully and eloquently presented their struggles, taking time out of their busy lives, and you didn't show up.

Our concerns are real and affect the students, staff, and educators of the campuses where we work. The words brought up most often were: overworked, undervalued, and frustrated. Classified employees are the unseen heroes of our schools, doing our jobs so that students are taken care of, teachers have support, and campuses remain safe and in good repair.

We wanted you to be at the meeting to hear our concerns. We weren't looking for immediate answers or on the spur solutions - we wanted to be heard by the people who can actually make the changes. I hope that in the future, you will make more of an effort to show support to the classified employees - especially those of you who are paid to be good administrators.

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math pathway data
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Comments:

<https://www.ssfusd.org/apps/pages/middle-school-math>

If the district doesn't listen to teachers or use data to make decisions for the math pathway, what do you use?

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math adoption
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Comments:

Last year multiple teachers spoke up against the financial literacy curriculum, but it's still passed. On page 104 of the board agenda, where is the relevant data that shows support for the new math curriculum? Again, if the district doesn't listen to teachers or use data to make decisions, what do you use?

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Chris Stone

Address/Affiliation:

Buri Buri Elementary School

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Elementary Math Adoption

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

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Comments:

While I was not on the committee to pilot for the math adoption, I have been watching and asking questions of the pilot teachers. We had a meeting at Buri Buri to discuss the two choices. We spent over an hour discussing the pros and cons of each program. We had three people from our school who were on the committee and they clearly favor I Ready. I trust them and so should you. If we want to have students excited about math, we need to give them a program that teachers endorse and are excited about too. The proposed program might be a good fit for middle and high school, but it is not a good fit for elementary. Please reconsider adopting a program that isn't fully endorsed by the elementary staff.

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Name:

Grace Rhee

Address/Affiliation:

SSFUSD Math Teacher

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Math Adoption

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Comments:

Part 1:

My name is Grace Rhee and this is my 18th year teaching as a math teacher at the secondary level. First I was speaking on behalf of the elimination of advanced math, which was very upsetting to begin with. Now I'm thrown another curveball and this is the new curriculum that the district is proposing. Throughout the years, I've used numerous different types of math curriculums, ranging from CPM to Holt, and many more. Out of these, IM - the one the district is pushing for - has got to be the lowest ranked out of ALL curriculums I've used. I am on the math pilot committee this year and we've met for multiple days throughout the year, even during the summer of 2023 - to narrow down our choices. The facilitators from the district encouraged us to share our thoughts on our choices, and so we did - however - to no avail because I don't believe any of it was listened to. I feel denied of my opinions and suggestions that I have given, just to have it all decided by the upper level individuals who are pushing for IM despite the numerous outcry from teachers in K - 12.

One example I can give is that for the 7th Grade curriculum, Unit 1, Lesson 7 on Scale Drawings - it tells students to TALK about 2 drawings, then THINK about what the scale tells you, the without measuring determine the area, then shifts to comparing buildings and how tall they are. Then for the Practice Problems which is the Independent work (typically HW), it tells to to actually solve the problems but there is no bridge from "thinking" about it to "actually doing it".

This is a lot of theory based front loaded with very word heavy lessons - to expecting kids to get it on their own later at home. Just talking about it and expecting the kids to "get it" might work for one group of students, but it is not for all.

Part 2 Continued

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Name:

Grace Rhee

Address/Affiliation:

SSFUSD Math Teacher

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Comments:

Part 2

This is not family friendly, student friendly nor does it meet the needs of ALL learners. I've had many parents voice their concerns (me included) on how they can help their children. I actually have no guideline to give them because there were none. For my Spanish speakers, due to the heavy and wordy language - it was extremely difficult for parents to help their kids at home as well.

I also wanted to ask you to PLEASE request for the unedited and raw data from the teachers. I know not all of our comments will be presented, just like on the advanced math webinar where only certain questions from the Q&A were posted - depending on what is in favor of the district's decision. I've already given so much of my time advocating for my students outside the classroom - writing speeches, emailing you my concerns, attending the board meetings, and I don't want to stop, but you're making it extremely difficult for me to continue doing so while expecting me to be a full time teacher who will acquiesce to all of your demands.

I feel like I'm juggling 3 balls, but more is being thrown at me while you are ready to kick the stool I'm standing on.

End of Part 2.

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Name:

Kerry Cianciarulo

Address/Affiliation:

168 Stanley Ave. Pacifica, CA 94044- SSFUSD teacher

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Math Adoption

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Comments:

IM (also known as Illustrative Math) is not equitable. It is very language based. Vocabulary, sentence frames and similar supports are not included, forcing teachers to heavily supplement to reach English language learner.

We are trying to move forward with technology in our district. IM does not have a robust online presence. It is not adaptive to our learners and feels like a step backwards for the district.

IM is very whole group focused. The teacher is needed for every step of the lesson. There is no time to pull students for intervention, which is in direct conflict with the innovative intervention schedule Buri has adopted this year.

Buri teachers who are also parents in the district have expressed that IM is not family friendly.

Instead of being more unified, adopting a curriculum that is opposed by the majority will further fracture our district.

In ignoring the expert recommendation of the pilot team, the district is undermining and disregarding their year of hard work and professional. It is hard to trust a district that asks educators to pilot curriculum and then ignores the results of the pilot.

The pilot team is very concerned that the district is NOT sharing the votes from the pilot group publicly and with the school board. It seems they are hiding the fact that elementary teachers are not excited about IM
Bottom line: we are urging the board to reject the districts proposal and adopt IReady instead for K-5. If this is not possible, the board should reject all proposals and continue to look for a better curriculum that fits the needs of all learners.

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