



September 12, 2025 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events

September 13: Fiestas Patrias Parade & Festival, 10:00 am, 24th St. & Barrett Ave (Line up for parade at 8:30 am at 24th and Barrett)

September 15: WCCUSD Stabilization Planning: Assessing the Budget with Community, 6:30 pm., HHS-Library

September 16: WCCUSD Stabilization Planning: Assessing the Budget with Community, 6:30 pm., RHS- Library

September 16: Quarterly Stege Community Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 960 47th St., Richmond

September 17: Special Board of Education Meeting, 5:00pm., Michelle Obama Elem. School

September 18: WCCUSD Stabilization Planning: Assessing the Budget with Community, 6:30 pm., ECHS- Library

September 19: Governance Committee Meeting, 9:00am, TBD

September 19: Superintendent School Site Visits, 1:00 pm

September 20: Richmond High School Groundbreaking Ceremony, 11:00 am, RHS

September 21: 30th Annual El Sobrante Stroll, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Superintendent Updates

Attendance

Two important conversations were had this week regarding WCCUSD's attendance campaign and advocacy efforts. The cross-departmental attendance taskforce was held on Thursday, September 11. During that meeting, leaders from across the district came together to review past analyses of attendance information, current attendance data, and barriers that prevent students from attending school on time everyday. We also shared ideas for strategies to combat chronic absenteeism. Later in the day, we also met with the community partners who make up the Schools and Neighborhoods Action Team and engaged in a root cause analysis discussion about chronic absenteeism. I am excited about the internal and external working groups dedicated to supporting students.

Media and Community Messaging (sent 9/12/25)

West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) confirms it will continue good-faith bargaining with United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) and Teamsters after both bargaining units declared impasse. Negotiations began in January 2025. The District's priority is maintaining high-quality instruction for more than 25,000 students in 54 schools while reaching a financially responsible agreement.

When an impasse is declared, state law provides a structured process to continue negotiations. The next step in the process is mediation facilitated by a neutral state-appointed mediator.

WCCUSD respects the bargaining process and will continue to engage in good-faith bargaining through negotiations. The District's responsibility is to support classroom learning and student success, exist as an institution, and ensure the District's long-term fiscal health.

"Our teachers are essential partners in student success. We remain committed to a fair, fiscally responsible agreement that supports excellent teaching and keeps students learning without disruption," said Superintendent Cheryl Cotton. "As we move through this process, we will continue to keep our community informed."

Supporting Details:

- Declaring impasse triggers formal next steps, which may include state-facilitated mediation.
- The District continues evaluating proposals with attention to compensation, student supports, and long-term fiscal solvency.
- Families and staff will receive updates as milestones occur in the process.

Business Services - Dr. Kim Moses

West Contra Costa Unified School District

WE ARE ONE WCCUSD

UPCOMING BUDGET MEETINGS

DISTRICT BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ALL MEETINGS ARE 6:30 - 8:00 PM
DEJEAN MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

September 30 - Committee Introductions, DBEC Bylaws, School Budgets 101: Unaudited Actuals - The Prior Year's Results

October 28 - Preparing for First Interim: What is SACS? How does SACS support effective accounting?

December 10 - First Interim Reporting Results: What do the numbers say?

December 30 - First Interim: What shifted and Why? What feedback do we have for the BOE

FISCAL STABILIZATION PLANNING MEETINGS
5 Session Series

SESSION 1: ASSESSING OUR FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

6:30 - 8:00 PM
September 15, Hercules High Library
September 16, Richmond High Library
September 18, El Cerrito High Library

SESSION 2: EXAMINING BUDGET IMPACT

6:30-8:00 PM
September 25, Richmond High Library
October 1, El Cerrito High Library
October 9, Hercules High Library

LINK TO ALL BUDGET ENGAGEMENT MEETING DATES

Learn More Email Kmoses@wccusd.net

PLEASE JOIN US!

Next week, WCCUSD will host fiscal stabilization meetings to share information and engage with community members in discussions related to our planning. Each session will repeat three times across our community.

This initial meeting is part one of a five-part series to learn about our district budgeting and gather input to inform our fiscal solvency planning. All meetings are available in webinar format using [this Zoom Link](#). The webinar is not interactive but does provide audio access to all meetings.

ONE DISTRICT, ONE BUDGET

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[Zoom Link to Fiscal Stabilization Planning Meetings](#)

College & Career (CTE & College Readiness/DE)- Summer Sigler (Jessica Petrilli & Team)

Richmond Robotics Students Bring Skills to the Community at the 2025 Fiestas Patrias Parade

On Saturday, September 13, 2025, students from Richmond High School's Robotics Program (Team 841 – The BioMechs) will proudly showcase their creativity, technical knowledge, and community spirit at the annual Fiestas Patrias Parade.

This year, the students are not just participating, they are designing and constructing parade floats from the ground up. Leveraging their Career Technical Education (CTE) training and work-based learning skills, students are stepping into leadership and technical roles that mirror real world industry teams.

- Design Directors are guiding the vision of each float, balancing creativity with functionality.
- CAD Designers are applying advanced computer aided design tools to model and prototype float elements with precision.
- Fabricators are using industrial tools, laser cutters, and shop equipment to turn those designs into full-scale structures.

The project highlights how STEM education translates beyond the classroom, preparing students with practical skills in teamwork, project management, and technical trades, while also building connections with their local community.

By combining robotics expertise with cultural celebration, Richmond Robotics students are proving that STEM education is not only about machines and competitions, it's also about empowering students to contribute meaningfully to their city and traditions.

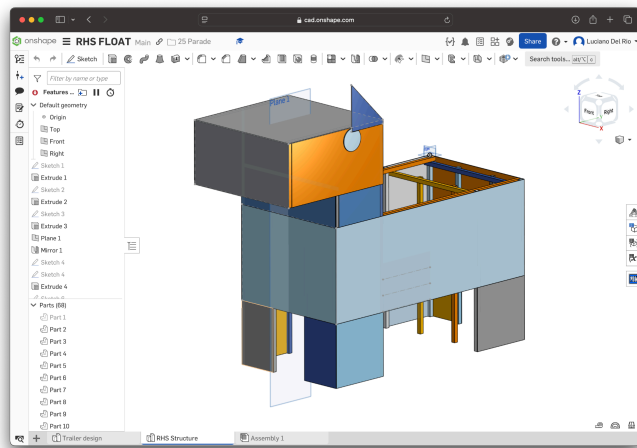
As the parade marches through Richmond and San Pablo, the floats designed and built by these students will stand as a vibrant symbol of youth leadership, cultural pride, and the power of education in action.



Students working on fabricating and building



Planning and communicating as a team.



Float Structure 3D Model on CAD software

Human Resources: Dr. Sylvia Greenwood

Balancing Classes

Elementary schools completed the class balancing process on September 9, the 15th day of school. Secondary schools are currently in the process of balancing classes to ensure compliance with contractual and educational standards.

Some secondary schools may need to consolidate sections or classes by September 19, the 23rd day of school. District staff are monitoring enrollment and staffing data closely to ensure minimal disruption to students and families during this process.

Labor Updates – UTR and WCCUSD

Representatives from the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) and the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) will meet at the UTR office for a mediation session on Monday, September 15.

Information Technology Update- Laurie Wong Roberts



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month!

Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a global initiative to raise awareness about online safety. The WCCUSD IT Department will be sharing more information next week to help all of our staff become more cyber-aware. We are also preparing activities for Digital Citizenship Week (October 20-24).

Chromebook Inventory and Survey: Strengthening Our Digital Learning Environment

We're actively working to enhance our technology resources by presenting a priority order for Chromebooks at the next board meeting, ensuring that all new students and Kindergartners have the devices they need for successful learning. TK students will not be allocated Chromebooks.

This fall presents an exciting opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate our 1:1 technology model, allowing us to make data-driven decisions that best serve our students' educational needs. As we move forward, we're committed to advocating for the meaningful integration of technology while maintaining the vital balance between digital tools and essential learning experiences. This assessment will help us establish a stronger foundation for student success in our evolving educational landscape.

Elementary teachers (K-6) are being asked to complete an anonymous survey about their students' Chromebook use.

Staff IT Update

We continue to boost IT's visibility through our weekly IT Update.  IT Update: 2025-26

Teaching & Learning - Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus

Fall Diagnostic Assessments in WCCUSD

This fall, students across West Contra Costa Unified School District are taking part in diagnostic assessments. These are not tests for grades. Instead, they give teachers valuable information about where students are starting the year, what skills they already have, and where extra support may be needed. This helps us make sure every child gets the right instruction and grows throughout the year.

Here are the assessments students are taking:

- **DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile):** Helps teachers understand the developmental progress of our youngest learners in transitional kindergarten and preschool.
- **mCLASS DIBELS/LECTURA:** Measures early reading skills in both English and Spanish to ensure children are building strong literacy foundations.
- **Eureka Math Squared Assessments:** Connect directly to what students are learning in their math classes and highlight areas for extra practice or enrichment.
- **i-Ready Math:** Gives teachers a detailed look at each student's strengths and growth areas in math.
- **i-Ready Reading:** Provides insights into students' reading comprehension and literacy skills.

By beginning the year with these assessments, teachers can tailor instruction, provide targeted support, and celebrate growth as the year continues. Our goal is to ensure every WCCUSD student is set up to

successfully meet their learning goals.

District Assessments			
All Schools	Grade	Subject/Content	Fall
DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile)	PK, TK SpEd (0-5 years)	Early Developmental Skills	8/19 - 11/12
mClass DIBELS/LECTURA	K-2	Reading Difficulty Risk Screener (RDRS) -Winter assessment is the WCCUSD RDRS	8/19-9/26
Eureka Math Squared Curriculum-Aligned Assessment	K-1	Math Modules 1 (Fall) and Module 4 (Spring)	10/6 - 10/31 Module 1
iReady Math	2-11	Math	8/19- 9/20
i-Ready Reading	3-11 Grade 2 Optional	Reading	8/19- 9/20
DLI Schools			
mCLASS Lectura	K-2	Spanish Reading	8/19-9/20
Pre-Literacy Chinese Assessment	K	Chinese Reading	8/19- 9/19
Level Chinese Reading Assessment (Kindergarten Spring window only)	K-8	Chinese Reading	8/19- 9/19
i-Ready Math	2-11	Math (Spanish or English assigned for the entire year, based on Time-Content Allocation)	8/19- 9/20
i-Ready Reading	3-11	Reading (English only)	8/19- 9/20

Bond, Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations Updates – Melissa Payne

Nominations for Outstanding Custodial Services

In anticipation of National Custodial Workers' Recognition Day, we are seeking nominations for extraordinary custodial staff across our District providing outstanding service to students, staff, and the community. Please submit your [nomination](#) by September 17, 2025.

Upcoming Facilities Community Events Flyers

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming facilities community events.



Community Meeting | Reunión Comunitaria

September/Septiembre 16, 2025 | 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Booker T Anderson Community Center
960 S 47th St., Richmond



Bond Project Newsletters

We welcome you to sign up for project newsletters via email to continue receiving project-specific updates for Lake ES, Shannon ES, Kennedy HS, Richmond HS, and/or Stege ES.

Sign Up For Newsletters

<https://forms.gle/TmkXUdP7rUMwVLPdA>



Monthly Suite of Bond Financial Reports & Annual Reports for Fiscal Year 2025

It's officially the financial close for fiscal year 2025 is complete. The bond team has prepared the monthly suite of financial reports for the Bond Program as well as the Annual financial reports for the fiscal year 2025.

Classroom Carbon Dioxide Sensor Informational Guide

During the summer of 2024, the district installed carbon dioxide (CO₂) sensors in various classrooms using grant funding from the California Energy Commission. The devices are typically near the thermostats on the heating units or walls. These monitors maintain records of measured maximum carbon dioxide concentrations and aid the district in making ventilation adjustments over time. If the CO₂ in the air exceeds 1,100 PPM, the device will display a visual indicator. The notification is a reminder to allow new air to circulate in the space.

We need your support to increase air circulation in our indoor learning environments. CO₂ is produced by body metabolism and is a normal component of exhaled breath. To increase air circulation, we recommend opening doors and windows. In addition, we recommend turning ON the fan function on your thermostat to increase circulation through mechanical ventilation. One of our HVAC experts always reminds us, "Air behaves like a solid mass; if you blow air through a room, the air eventually bounces from corner to corner. If you keep an HVAC fan running, you exchange the air repeatedly through the filtration system, cleaning the air."

We are here to help. If anyone needs help turning on the fan function, please ask your site custodian. If you believe there is an issue with your heating or cooling system, please submit a work order so our teams can assist.

Below are a few ventilation FAQs:

How can I decrease CO₂ levels in my learning space?

Increase the circulation of new air into your indoor space by opening your windows and doors. If you choose to open them, please remember to close and

lock them at the end of the day. New air circulation sources include outside air and inside air from interior hallways.

Why do I hear my heater on all the time? I don't want any more hot air.

Many of our mechanical systems have a fan function. The heating elements will turn off when the room temperature exceeds the set point; however, the fan will still be running. When the room temperature is too cold for the thermostat's set points, the heating element will turn on to temper the air coming into the room.

Communications Updates - Raechele Forrest

News of the Week:

❖ [Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year Announced | Contra Costa News](#)

Corey Spainhower, a science teacher at Liberty High School in the Liberty Union High School District, and **Kaitlin Marchesi**, a special education teacher at Vista Virtual Academy in the West Contra Costa Unified School District, have been named the 2025-2026 Contra Costa County Teachers of the Year. Their recognition took place during the 53rd Annual Teachers of the Year Celebration, held at the Hilton Concord on Thursday, Sept. 4. Both now advance to the California State Teachers of the Year competition.

❖ [West Contra Costa Unified School District presents 90-day fiscal stabilization plan | Grandview Independent](#)

The West Contra Costa Unified School District launched a 90-day fiscal stabilization plan on Wednesday to address a multi-million-dollar deficit and prevent the district from again falling under state control, as labor leaders warned that unresolved disputes could undermine student success. Superintendent Cheryl Cotton presented the plan during a school board meeting, describing it as a roadmap to engage families, staff, and labor groups in shaping a long-term financial strategy. "This is our roadmap to achieve fiscal solvency together," Cotton said. "This is not a numbers discussion tonight. We're not talking about numbers. The purpose of this presentation is to share the plan and the process to engage in future numbers discussions that will occur over the next 90 days."

Legislative Updates: None this week.