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CEEK 5K

OCTOBER 12, 2026



Dear CUSD Community,

Thank you to the Garden Gate staff and students for inviting me last Friday to spin into one of their four houses. A program that sets Garden Gate apart is their 4-house system: Altruismo (Givers), Amistad (Friendship), Isibindi (Courage), and Rêveur (Dreamers). All students and staff spin into a house, which creates a sense of community for each house. This tradition adds a layer of magical wonder

to the Garden Gate environment. On Friday, I was “spun” into Rêveur, the dreamers, which somehow feels just right for me. I have many dreams for our district and look forward to putting dreams into action.

In our last edition of CUSD Connect, I invited you to share your perspective on screen time in the classroom. One action we are exploring is to turn off District-issued devices for our middle students who take them home. Specifically, we are looking into turning off devices from 10 pm to 7:30 am, with a parent override function if needed. We will likely make this change during winter break, which means the change would begin in January. Thanks to those of you who responded to our survey on this topic. If you have not yet provided input, please include your thoughts on this topic [HERE](#).

I also want to provide an update on our budget, as we continue to analyze ways to reduce our expenditures to align with our revenue. On October 1st, we held another Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting where we reviewed all our revenue sources and invited the committee to share additional ideas. The committee broke up into groups to make suggestions, and we came away with many good ideas to explore. **Our next BAC meeting is scheduled for 10/19 at 11:30 am here at the District Office:** 1309 South Mary Ave. Suite 150, Sunnyvale. At this meeting, we will take a closer look at expenditures, including inviting suggestions from the group about how we can make reductions. **All are invited**, and I am grateful to our BAC members for their wise questions and suggestions.

You may be wondering how this structural deficit happened. There are several factors that led us to where we are today. First, when the pandemic occurred, the State allocated funds that were recommended to mitigate the impact of learning loss and mental health concerns associated with the pandemic. These funds were allocated as “one-time”; however, many districts, including ours, hired staff that remained even after the funds were no longer available. In addition, CUSD previously had a parcel tax that totaled over \$8M, and when this parcel tax was not renewed, the loss of revenue in 2023 created a significant impact on the operating budget. The District began making reductions in 2024-25 and 2025-26; however, we still have a deficit of \$7M, which means we need to either increase revenue and/or decrease expenditures by next year,

with another \$3M needed in reductions in the following year. We look forward to sharing more about our budget adjustment efforts in the coming months.

Educational Excellence

Parent Education Resources



CUSD values our strong partnerships with parents because we know that when families and schools work together, students succeed. We offer a variety of parent education resources to support parents:

Parent Venture Virtual Speaker Series and Video

Library: <https://www.parentventure.org/>. We send upcoming Parent Venture events weekly on Tuesday evenings.

CUSD parenting workshops focused on behavioral, physical, and mental health:

 **Video recordings and resources.**

Challenge Success: Well-Being Webinars. Drawing on the latest research on child development, these interactive workshops (Nov. 12 and Nov. 18) will focus on creating routines that nurture joy, balance, and connection at home.  **Sign up here.**

FUHSD Portrait of a Graduate

Cupertino Union School District developed its Portrait of a Learner Competencies in 2024. Our neighboring high school district, Fremont Union High School District, is now doing the same. Developed in collaboration with staff across FUHSD, this framework defines the skills, competencies, and personal qualities every Fremont Union graduate should possess by the end of four years of high school. While academic excellence remains foundational, the Portrait of a FUHSD Graduate includes the communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and character traits that will help students thrive in college, career and life. **FUHSD is holding four community input sessions.** [🔗 RSVP here.](#)

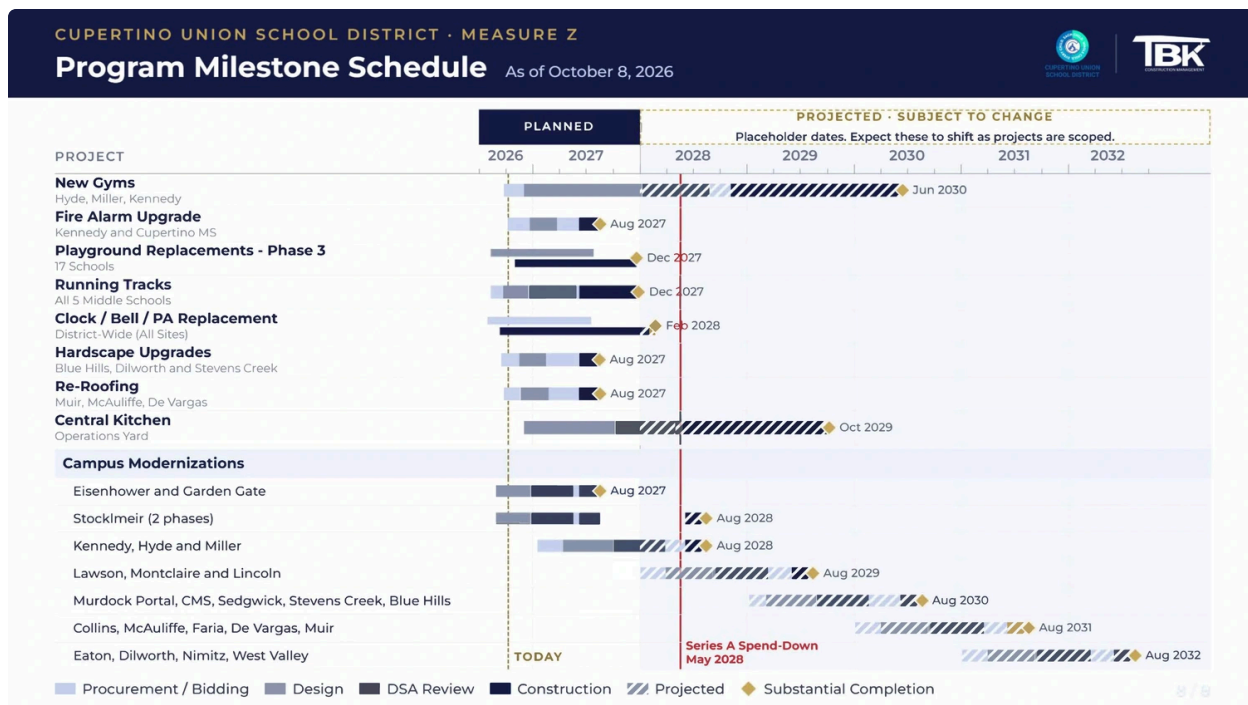


- Thursday, Nov. 19 at Sunnyvale Community Center (550 E. Remington Drive) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 1 on Zoom (<https://fuhsd-org.zoom.us/j/98964419910>) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 21 at Cupertino Senior Center (21251 Stevens Creek Blvd.) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 28 on Zoom (<https://fuhsd-org.zoom.us/j/94581882351>) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Bond Update

Multi-year Timeline

CUSD continues to make progress using the Measure Z Bond to create safer, modern, and inspiring learning environments for students. At the October 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, staff presented an updated preliminary multi-year program timeline through 2032. There is exciting work ahead!



District Highlights

Classified Employee of the Month



Payal Sen

Classified Employee of the Month



🎉 Congratulations to the October 2026
Classified Employee of the Month: **Payal
Sen, Behavior Interventionist II, CAP.**

Payal was recognized at the October 8, 2026 Board Meeting. She is described as an indispensable pillar of the CAP team, known for her expertise and unwavering "student-first" mentality. She makes a lasting impact on everyone around her every single day with her positivity, empathy, and trademark humor. Thank you, Payal!

Save the Date! CUSD 5K — March 20, 2027



Join CUSD families, students, staff, and friends for the **CEEF 5K & Kids Dash!**

Saturday, March 20, 2027



It is more than a race.



It is a fun morning that brings our CUSD community together while supporting opportunities for our students and teachers.



Mark your calendars - Registration will open soon!