

The Connection

San Bruno Park School District

February 2016, Volume 7

Superintendent's Corner

It is incredible to realize we are half way through the 2015-16 school year. We have been working hard to achieve goals set by the Strategic Planning Committee in September. We are nearing the March 9 date when we will reconvene to review our progress, revise our action steps and goals as necessary, and plan where to go next.

To keep you informed on our progress, for the goal **“To attract, retain, and develop highly qualified staff”**, we are about to begin negotiations for next year. We are seeking ways to provide raises, even a small one, to continue moving forward in a positive direction for our valuable staffs, as well as seek avenues to increase health and welfare benefits. In addition, we are providing mentoring to our new teachers this year while developing a comprehensive plan for professional development and support to be in place for new teachers next year. Our Unions also conducted a survey of staff members to solicit input on what we can do to improve working conditions for staff as well as information regarding why they choose to work in SBPSD. Survey data gave us great information and we are using it to plan for next year.

The goal **“Implement 21st century learning strategies and methodologies”** is moving right along as well. We have focused collaboration and district grade level meetings around topics of developing rigor, depth of knowledge, claims and targets into our lessons. We are piloting new language arts/ELD materials this spring to be adopted for the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. Additionally, as a district, we have implemented the Lucy Calkins Writer's Workshop for all students. We continue preparing our sites for a more in depth focus on educational technology. We are working with Kathryn Marinos on a survey to find out what technology we have, how it is being used, and then use that data to create an action plan to adequately prepare our students for 21st century learning and jobs. Lastly, we are working through our technology committee to



develop a parent portal that will be a resource for parents for homework help, gathering information, and other important facets.

The goal **“Become fiscally solvent”**, we continue working closely with the county office to monitor our budgets and spending. We are NOT deficit spending, and we are conserving any monies that could be used for compensation, and carefully allocating the rest of our money through our Local Control Accountability Plan so that the very best education reaches each child entrusted to us. We have also been able to cut our expenditures in the area of special education and transportation. We continue to plan for next year to bring back several programs to our own district, which will also save money.

Our last goal **“Develop, expand, and implement quality programs and courses to enable academic success for all students”** is also progressing nicely. Our Health and Wellness committee is meeting regularly to finalize our district Health and Wellness plan that includes counseling services, mental health support, behavior interventions, a streamlining of SST processes, establishing a Primary Intervention Class for students grades K-3 who struggle to self-manage their behaviors. This class will provide counseling, strategies for students to learn, support to families, and small class size so that learning is optimum for each. This will also help regular classrooms function efficiently and effectively – with all students able to learn without disruptions and teachers able to focus on teaching. This plan also supports the acquisition through LCAP funding next year, services from a nurse or LVN to support our fragile students, among other things. A committee is also researching the possibility of providing PE for K-5 students or a program with plans and resources, and the cost of music for elementary students. Currently we are grateful to our Education Foundation for their support in providing

band and orchestra to our 4th and 5th grade students two days a week after school at Parkside. What a wonderful opportunity! Lastly, a long term project within this goal is to seek additional electives and scheduling for our Parkside students. A committee has been working on this and has developed a possible plan for the future in this area.

We are excited to say that we are right on target in every goal. We look forward to March 9 when we gather together to plan the next six months of action steps! We will keep you informed. If you have suggestions or thoughts to share, I welcome them. You can reach me at the district office by calling 650 624-3110 or email me at colson@sbpsd.k12.ca.us I welcome input and feedback.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to remind you of the dates/times we have scheduled for chat times. The Chamber of Commerce graciously hosts monthly chats at the Entrepreneur Center on San Mateo Avenue.

Our upcoming dates include:

Wednesday, 2/10 10:30-11:30

Wednesday, 3/30 10:30-11:30

Wednesday, 4/13 10:30-11:30

Wednesday, 5/11 10:30-11:30

Similar Informational nights and chat times for parents will be hosted at the district office from 6:00-7:00 on the following evenings:

Thursday, February 18 6:00-7:00 pm

Thursday, March 17 6:00-7:00 pm

“San Bruno Park School District educates and empowers all students to thrive academically, socially and emotionally to be contributing members of society.”

Thank you! Most Sincerely,

Cheryl Olson



From the Classroom



Have you seen the parent newsletters from Eureka math for our students in grades k-5? The newsletters correspond with the beginning of each module or unit and have key vocabulary words, sample activities, the goals of the unit as well as the standards addressed. It also has samples of the activities the students will be completing. All the newsletters are available at the following link:

<http://greatminds.net/support/parents>

The newsletters are called Module Tip sheets. You will also find Homework Help and other resources on this webpage. Here's a sample of a Tip Sheet:

http://greatminds.net/maps/documents/tips-for-parents/Eureka_Math_Grade_3_Module_5_Parent_Tip_Sheet.pdf Check it out! PARENTS, this is a GREAT RESOURCE!

Kim Harper, Director Curriculum and Instruction



Student Services

California has a new vaccination law, Senate Bill 277, which takes effect for the 2016-2017 school year. Beginning July 1, 2016, private or public child care centers, preschools, transitional kindergartens (TK), elementary schools and secondary schools cannot admit children unless they are immunized against 10 diseases: diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae type b (bacterial meningitis), measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rubella, tetanus, hepatitis B and chicken pox.

As of January 1, 2016, parents may no longer obtain a personal belief exemption or religious exemption to

vaccinations. If a child had a personal belief exemption before January 1, 2016, that exemption remains valid only until they reach the next vaccination checkpoint (kindergarten or 7th grade). All incoming TK and kindergarten students must either be fully immunized, or show proof that they are on track for full immunizations as determined by their age, before starting school in August 2016.

There are two main exemptions to this law. 1. Student has a written medical exemption to vaccinations from a licensed physician; 2. Students are enrolled in a home-based private school or an independent study program. Students receiving special education through an Individual Education Plan (IEP) as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act cannot be prohibited access to special education services regardless of whether the child is vaccinated or not. This Special Education clause is being interpreted by legal authorities in different ways, and will be studied further.

TB screening continues to be required for all students per Health and Safety Code and Board Policy of the San Bruno School District. Documentation of negative TB test shall be provided prior to entry in the first grade or when entering school from outside the Continental United States. Student attendance may be prohibited for any person who fails to provide the required certificate.

Ellen Merritt, Director of Student Services & Special Education



Human Resources

We want to congratulate another new baby born to one of our teachers! This is the third baby born so far this year! We still three more to be born by the end of the year! We are very happy for the families and can't wait to meet the new little ones! It keeps us busy seeking quality substitutes to cover classes while the mamas are on maternity leave.

We also want to welcome Interim principal, Jeanne Elliott to El Crystal. She will serve at El Crystal for the remainder of the year, as long-time principal, Skip Johnson, retired in December.

Lastly, we welcome Judy Spooner as new Office Manager at Parkside. She took over for retired Mary Tordsen in January. She loves Parkside, and previously had served as librarian for Parkside and also helps promote and organize the Narita exchange trip.

It continues to be a very busy year!

Thank you, Jennifer Peponis & Cecille Mendiola



Student Nutrition

We are done with recruitment and all positions are filled! Wendy Balduras, coming from San Mateo School District will be our new cook at John Muir starting on February 1st. We welcome her!

In our six elementary schools, we tested 2 new foods this month; a breakfast bagel filled with strawberry cream cheese and also beef chili with beans. Both items were a hit and will remain in our February menu. We also started to adapt menus for kindergarteners who sometimes do not like some foods as much as older children. Parkside saw the triumphal return of spaghetti with turkey marinara sauce cooked from scratch in our kitchen! Coming soon are the new and much expected entrees the Gorditas and Cheesy Pull-Aparts.

In all schools next month we will have our ***Valentine's Special!*** Heart Chicken Nuggets, Potato Smiles, Hartzels Pretzels, and a very special treat, our new 100% fruit Swee'heart Cherry Ice Cup! So come and join us on ***February 11th!***

Thank you, Fran DeBost, Student Nutrition Services

Tech as a Learning Tool

This has been a very busy month. We have successfully downloaded all student data into the new data management system, Illuminate, so teachers will be able to access it in time for their training in the system.

Additionally, we continue to problem solve with CALPADS and PowerSchool, as well as create

spreadsheets and graphs for Curriculum and Instruction with CELDT scores. This information will enable teachers to use the data to inform instruction.

We are preparing to work with Kathryn Marinos on a free, comprehensive survey entitled EdTech Assessment from PriceWaterhouse Cooper and Silicon Valley Education Foundation. This survey will assess our current state of education technology and identify considerations in our EdTech strategies and execution through the assessment process. We will then determine next steps needed to create an Educational Technology Plan.

Thank you,

Don Hopkins, Network Manager

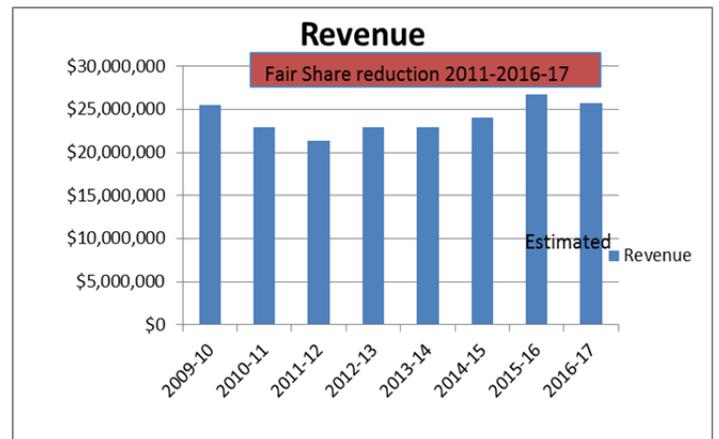


Dollars and Sense!



Governor Brown released his preliminary budget proposal for 2016-17 and he appears to be planning to spend \$2.4 Billion more on education than he did the year before. This spending increase is the result of the well performing economy. Personal income, Sales and Use and Corporation Taxes are projected to increase at 3% a year through 2017 while inflation is expected to increase at only 2.6 % a year. Yet, the Governor remains cautious about a potential recession, as California remains vulnerable to economic risk from drought, volatile energy prices, recovering labor markets and business policies that drive business and jobs out of the State.

Although the State Funds are improving, San Bruno Park School District is anticipating general fund revenues to be \$1 million less than the previous year of 2015-16, due to the one time discretionary funds decreasing. The good news is that over all, the revenues continue to rise and stay above the Pre-“Fair Share” levels above \$25 Million for 2009-10.



Thank you,

Sean McGinn, CBO

Have a wonderful February!

