

The Connection

San Bruno Park School District

November 2016, Volume 3

Superintendent's Corner

Our incredible music students from Parkside Intermediate School were asked to perform for City Council this past month and also for the Senior Citizens. We are so proud of them and are grateful to and for their instructors, Elyse Mahfouz and Ciana Whitfield. A big thank you to them for sharing their talented students with our community! They also received a proclamation from City Council. What an honor.

We are in the midst of holding multiple community and staff information meetings regarding our current budget issue. We will provide updates to our community after each meeting so that everyone has the most updated information. We are working hand in hand with School Services and also San Mateo County Office of Education to develop a plan to rectify this situation. The next community meetings are as follows:

Community meeting at District Office 11/7 6:00-7:00 pm
Community meeting - Belle Air 11/10 8:30-9:30 am
Community meeting at District office 11/10 6:00-7:00 pm
Community meeting at Allen 11/28 8:30-9:30 am
Community meeting at Portola 12/1 8:30-9:30
Community meeting at John Muir 12/8 8:30-9:30 am

In addition, we are holding two board meetings each month, with one designated for Budget related items and planning only. The budget board meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, November 30 at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, January 25 at 6:00 pm

We welcome and invite your thoughts and suggestions. We trust you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Cheryl Olson



SBPSD Mission Statement:

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

SBPSD goals are as follows, in no priority order:

- Attract, develop and retain highly qualified staff
- Implement 21st century learning strategies and methodologies
- Achieve and maintain fiscal solvency
- Develop, expand and implement quality programs and courses to enable academic success for all students
- Engage and promote parents as partners with our schools

Dollars and Sense



Fiscal updates: We closed the books for FY 2015-16 and are now subject to an independent auditor's review. Chavan & Associates were here from 10/20/16 to 10/21/16 and they will be back on 11/01/16 to do more work. It is our goal for the Audit Report to go to the board in December.

As we know the fiscal (accounting & budgeting) is a never-ending cycle. We are now working on the First Interim Report which is due to the board and San Mateo County Office of Education in December.

It was very unfortunate that we closed the book with a huge disappointment fiscally. Identifying issues early is the key to success when it comes to maintaining fiscal efficiency. We have fiscal challenges ahead of us, for sure, but we are determined to solve the challenges once and for all. To that end, we have scheduled meetings (open to the public) and will continue to work closely with SMCOE and School Business Services to focus on fiscal issues and resolutions. We will keep you informed all along the way.

Proposition 39 California Clean Energy Job Act: The District is proceeding with its Proposition 39 Energy Project funding application, currently slated to be submitted to the California Energy Commission in November. If it is approved by the CEC, we are looking at potential funding somewhere around an additional \$500,000.

After a thorough evaluation of the District's energy use profile, District Staff and our Proposition 39 Consultant, IES, have determined the District's lighting systems create the best opportunity for the District to reduce energy costs and enhance facilities.

The first priority for the funding will be to replace our exterior lighting systems with high efficiency, bright LED technology systems designed to last much longer than our current systems while cutting energy use by over half. If funding remains, interior lighting systems will be selectively retrofitted, with prioritization based on facilities with the largest use first.

Again, I thank the community for their support and care. We will keep you informed as we develop our action plan to resolve our budget issues once and for all.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Shieh, Associate Superintendent, Business Services



Student Nutrition

There's a new manager for Student Nutrition Services. His name is Jerry Waki. He comes most recently from San Francisco Unified School District, but he has worked at various school districts in the Bay Area. With over 8 years of experience in the school foodservice environment, Jerry hopes to slowly integrate new programs focusing on the improvement of the health and well-being of our students, staff and community. A graduate from UC Santa Cruz, Jerry also attended the California Culinary Academy's Le Cordon Bleu culinary arts program in San Francisco. He has worked in both fine dining and corporate settings and taught culinary courses at The Art Institute of California in Sacramento.

The district thanks former director Fran Debost for her service as she has moved on in her career. We especially thank Janel Constanzo, for holding the department together as Jerry continues to learn our district.

Currently, the department is working on grants and other funding sources such as Fuel Up to Play 60, a program that incorporates school nutrition and physical activity put on by the National Dairy Council and the NFL, and can potentially get schools up to \$4,000 in funds.

From the Classroom



We want to invite interested parents to our next **DELAC** and **ELAC** training session to be held at the district office, **Monday, November 28, from 5:00-7:00**. We seek parent participation!

You will hear directly from Cheryl Garrett next month!

Tech as a Learning Tool

Technology has become an invaluable tool in today's schools. Teachers are increasingly using online learning resources, video lectures to deliver instruction and perform administrative tasks, and digital tools that facilitate blended learning. Schools have turned to web- and mobile-based services to communicate with staff,

parents, and communities. And, most recently, the state has replaced paper-and-pencil standardized tests with online assessments.

As technology continues to transform the way teachers teach and students learn, a large number of schools will need to upgrade – and in some cases, overhaul – their technology infrastructure. The federal government has an ambitious goal of connecting 99 percent of America’s students to high-speed broadband and wireless in their schools by 2018; at the state level, more than \$2 billion has been allocated to support technology infrastructure improvement in schools.

Our District has done a great job preparing our infrastructure for 21st learning. With the support and help from San Bruno Cable, we have been able to expand our bandwidth for the increase in devices and use. We will continue to work hard to provide our students with the appropriate technology enabling them to access content and devices as needed.

Thanks,
Don Hopkins
Network Manager

**Technology
& Learning**



Student Services

Student Services

The month of December will be focus on attendance month for San Bruno Park. I will be asking schools to communicate with parents the importance of good attendance and have students commit to being in school every day. The month will culminate in students receiving certificates for perfect attendance and the school with the highest attendance percentage will receive a special visit from Superintendent Olson and me for a special activity.

So far this year we have improved our attendance rate. Traditionally SBPSD attendance rate has dropped significantly during the holiday season. This brings our average daily attendance down below the 95% mark in most years. This year to date we are at 96.78% ADA which is almost to our goal of 97%. To put in perspective

the difference in school funding if this were to continue the remainder of the year it would increase our districts revenue about \$358,000 over our typical rate of 95% attendance along with an additional 8500 days in which students are in school. Our LCAP goal this year is to increase our attendance rate 2% so we need to keep up this great improvement and commit our students to being in school every day.

Special Education

Our special education staff is working hard to support our students identified with disabilities. In 1973 section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act guaranteed protections and rights for persons with disabilities including protections against discrimination. In 1975 the IDEA was passed, originally known as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA), it gave rights to disabled students in schools including the right to a free and appropriate public education. There are six pillars in which this act was designed having an individualized education program, having assurances that students had a free appropriate public education, that students would be placed in the least restrictive environment, that there would be appropriate evaluations of students, that parents have a right to participate in the development of the program, and that there are procedural safeguards and due process rights included for special education students. These pillars are key to providing our special education students the support they need to be successful now and into their future.

Thank you, Leigh Schwartz, Director of Student Services and Special Education

Human Resources

SBPSD is actively seeking individuals who can be hired as an outside contractor to interpret for conferences, meetings, and other such times! We are also looking for individuals to translate documents. If you are interested and able, please contact Cheryl Peruchetti for information!

Thank you,
Jennifer Peponis and Ceceille Mendiola

