



PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 3:30 p.m.
PYLUSD Board Room

MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME (Dr. Linda Adamson)

Dr. Adamson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and sharing a video "Pulling Together" as a reminder of the importance of teamwork and positivity. The message included a reminder that different leaders emerge when needed, and encouragement from behind is vital. Dr. Adamson opened the floor for members to share some positive moments seen at the sites.

THANKFUL FOR PYL EMPLOYEES (Alyssa Griffiths)

Alyssa Griffiths shared information about the "Thankful for PYL Employees" campaign, which has been in place since 2017. It is a program intended to highlight the hard work and dedication of teachers. This year the campaign includes classified staff as well, and will run November 1 through November 30 on the District's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). People can get involved and show support by going on to these sites to "like" or comment on the posts.

COVID UPDATE (Richard McAlindin)

Richard McAlindin advised that the PYL nurses are currently managing 85 active Covid cases. There have been a couple changes since the last TAC meeting. The quarantine time for athletes has been reduced. Students are able to test and return as early as day 8. There were additional sports identified as a choking hazard while wearing masks – volleyball and basketball were added to cheer and wrestling. Athletes in these sports are able to participate in weekly testing in lieu of wearing a mask during competition. The second change involved a communication regarding volunteers on campus. PYLUSD has teachers that count on their volunteer support. Upon entering a school campus, volunteers must now show their vaccine status or a negative Covid test (weekly). There remains volunteer opportunities for those who do not want to share their vaccine status. Volunteers for outdoor activities (e.g. jog-a-thon or valet) are critical supports; outdoor volunteers do not require any vaccination screening.

CRISISGO (Richard McAlindin)

The District foreshadowed the launch of an Emergency Communication app last year. The CrisisGo app can now be downloaded at no charge (completely voluntary). The app allows teachers on campus to communicate in real time if an emergency occurs. Not only can it communicate during an emergency, it has the ability to indicate if there is a fire, take class roll, check in to notify that people are okay, and has an optional help button for staff. A school map will be included, as well as the school safety plan. The roll out will take place in three phases:

1. Import the infrastructure of data
2. Training staff – Principals and APs
3. Roll out – a communication will be coming out in the next couple of weeks

There is not any student medical information uploaded into the app. There was discussion about a possible legal ramification of having student data on personal phones. Teachers can choose whether or not to download the app; it is a voluntary tool for communication.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (Rick Lopez)

Rick Lopez gave an update on the current hiring efforts. Human Resources has done a tremendous amount of hiring over the past several months. The aide shortage is a daily focus. There are currently over 10 million vacant jobs in the nation; it has been coined "The Great Resignation". HR is getting creative in finding new ways to bring in qualified employees. QR cards were handed out to everyone to share with anyone looking for employment.

An announcement was made that it will soon be time to think about the Employee of the Year nominations. The timeline is driven by the county, and will be rolled out on November 9. There were 318 employees nominated last year. Three winners are awarded in each category – Classified, Certificated, and Manager. All nominees receive a letter to let them know they were nominated.

Questions:

- A concern was raised by George Key about getting new employees, spending the time and money to train them, and then those same employees leave to get 5 hour positions. HR is aware of the issue. They have been able to create 35 new benefited aide positions with the one time funding, some which were placed at George Key.
- There are special needs students who want to participate in after school extracurricular activities (such as a dance). A question was asked regarding how to provide the needed aide support. Rick Lopez asked to have those principals reach out to HR. The desire is to have the opportunity for all students to participate in extracurricular activities.
- A question was asked about expediting candidates who are waiting to clear. Typically, candidates that are pending clearance have failed to submit a required item. HR is not aware of anyone that is pending clearance from the District's side. If anyone knows of someone waiting on the District to be cleared, please contact HR.
- The point was raised that neighboring districts pay subs \$160-\$200 per day which hurts PYLUSD in being able to recruit much needed subs. HR is currently addressing those issues and exploring means to stay competitive.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRAMURAL SPORTS (Keith Carmona)

As students returned to in-person learning, the District knew they needed to find ways to connect students to school, as there were social-emotional gaps in addition to the learning gaps. This year there will be four middle school intramural events: volleyball, cross-country, basketball, and track meet. Over 300 student athletes participated in the inaugural volleyball tournament. It was put on by the Esperanza High School girls volleyball team. Both gyms had two courts and students played in a round-robin format, and culminated with the championship games. It felt like a return to normal. The next round is taking place now for cross country. The final event will take place on November 5 at Yorba Linda Middle School. The final 2 events will be basketball in the winter, which will culminate in a 3 on 3 championship, and then the annual spring track meet at Yorba Linda High School. The feedback from the parent and student communities have been overwhelmingly positive.

HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE EVENTS (Gina Aguilar)

It is exciting to be able to offer this event back in person. These events will be held on each of the high school campuses so students can see firsthand the individual culture, energy, and specialized academies each site has to offer. There is more information on the PYL website as well as its social media platforms. Families are encouraged to attend and find the best fit for their students.

- El Dorado – November 4
- Valencia – November 9
- Yorba Linda – December 1
- Esperanza – December 8

CURRICULUM COUNCIL (Gina Aguilar)

There will be an email going out on October 29 with the dates for the 2021-2022 school year. The first meeting will be on November 30 at the PDA. Gina is looking forward to getting the team back together.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- *Where can the District approved novel list be found? How do books get added for elementary?*

The approved novel list can be found on the Ed Services page of the website. Novels for approval go through the Curriculum Council. There is a new process that will be shared at the November meeting. The list is also available on the grade level hubs. (Dr. Liz Leon/Gina Aguilar)

- *Is there a standard curriculum for Elementary PE that teachers are supposed to follow?*

Nate Babcock oversees the PE teachers. Following are those guidelines:

Each PE Teacher has been given a Resource to add to their PE Binder. The binder is divided into 3 set: Binder #1 Sept/October, Binder #2 November/December/January, Binder 3 Feb/March/April/May. Each binder has resources and lesson plan templates which focus on different physical fitness skill sets. (Dr. Liz Leon)

- *There are gates at some sites that have a special key to open the gates. Is it possible for teachers to have access to the key to open these gates?*

Dave Giordano will look into gate options for teachers and report back.

Upon further investigation, it was determined that all Wagner staff have keys to access all gates including the back gates, with the exception of the drive thru service gates. NOKE locks are placed on the walk thru gates in order to allow user groups access to the field areas that are managed by the Use of Facilities Department. The Principal has communicated this information with staff. In the event school site staff have problems with gate keys, please let the office staff know to place a work order for Maintenance and Facilities to issue a new key. (Dave Giordano)

- *School site has technology issues. New microphones are needed, especially while wearing masks. Also, are the smart boards being taken down?*

Microphones are no longer in stock, so the only option is to buy used or repair what we have. If teachers have equipment that is not working, please submit a work order. Technology is looking to do a complete overhaul of the District's classroom technology with the one time funding. All items would be replaced, except speakers. The District is looking at options to replace current smartboards, iPads for all students, and touch screen TV for the younger grades. (Jeremy Powell)

- *Will there be buses coming to Bryant Ranch when there is severe wind and/or heat?*

Richard McAlindin met with the Yorba Linda emergency coordinator. They are in the process of setting up a meeting with the OC Fire Authority to create a plan for emergencies. The District will be prepared to have busses ready for Bryant Ranch in case of a fire threat.

- *Can smart boards/TVs be moved?*

Jeremy will walk every room to evaluate technology needs and capabilities.

- *There is no A/C in the Valencia locker rooms and a lack of airflow. The fans are not strong enough to make a difference. Students complain of feeling faint.*

All locker rooms currently have exhaust fans and heaters, and the offices attached to the locker rooms have heaters and air conditioning. During a recent facilities audit, District staff identified a couple of exhaust fans that were not functioning properly and will schedule needed repairs. The request for installation of HVAC in all locker rooms has been placed on the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) List for future consideration as funding becomes available. (Dave Giordano)

- *Glenknoll expressed their thankfulness for the SEL support. With the deficit in academics, can RTI be considered?*

RBTs were hired in lieu of RTI teachers. This same concern has been heard from many sites. Staffing is a challenge. The District is looking to partner with a company that provides some of the staffing and supports. When evaluating programs, the District will be looking at those sites with the greatest needs. (Dr. Linda Adamson)

- *Would the District consider using Classwize?*

This has been asked before, and it is still on hold for now. This is not to say it is not an option in the future. Ed Services will make a note of the request. (Dr. Linda Adamson)

- *Are teachers not allowed to confiscate cell phones? What is the protocol?*

There are two parts to the protocol:

1. Confiscating – There was recent guidance that came out and is being reviewed now. This will be addressed in the minutes or at the December meeting. The advice is to be cautious. The issue is the liability when the teacher takes possession of a student's phone. What happens if it gets broken or lost?
2. Reviewing Content – This should never be done by a teacher (only a site administrator).

Any type of disruption (phones or otherwise) should be addressed with an administrator. (Richard McAlindin)

- *There are teachers at Fairmont (and other sites) that have 30 students in full-day kindergarten. There are some classes that have only 14-16 students. Is there any support that can be given for those with classes that are so large – especially in the first year of full-day kindergarten and so much learning loss?*

The enrollment is somewhat unevenly balanced across grade levels this year. Typically, there would be a need to create combination classes at the elementary level, but this is a practice we have tried to avoid to the greatest extent possible this year, to lessen the added burden this tends to place on teachers. This may, however, heighten the imbalance when comparing some sites and grade levels. This year is just highly unusual. The trend we are seeing across the District this year is a higher enrollment in kindergarten. It is especially more impactful, given the need to reduce parent volunteers. (Dr. Linda Adamson)

- *There are issues in the elementary classrooms with students wearing watches that are phones.*
Richard McAlindin will work to develop guidelines with the elementary school principals to include in their school's Code of Conduct.

ADJOURNMENT at 4:57pm

Next Meeting:

December 16, 2021
3:30 p.m.
Board Room