



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

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

MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME

Dr. Linda Adamson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Dr. Adamson opened the meeting by thanking members for serving as a member of the TAC.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. James Elsasser, Superintendent

At the December 2021 Board meeting, new officers were elected for the 2022 calendar year. Carrie Buck will serve as President, Marilyn Anderson as Vice President, Leandra Blades as Clerk, and Sean Youngblood and Karin Freeman as Trustees.

All Board meetings are now being live streamed. The link can be found on the District website on the day of the Board meeting. Meetings are typically the 2nd Tuesday of the month; April has a second meeting to work on the LCAP.

There are many questions surrounding Resolution 21-12, prohibiting the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT). This issue has brought out a number of public speakers to the Board meetings each month. There have been inquiries on how this resolution would affect what teachers can and cannot do. The Board has not voted to approve the resolution at this point. If a resolution is passed, Ed Services will send out a communication to clarify the meaning of the resolution. A draft of Resolution 21-12 can be found on the District website, so the public can see what is being considered.

A Tik Tok message was brought to the District's attention regarding bringing weapons to school; it was a nationwide social media threat that was deemed "not credible". The District will be sending out a communication to all staff and families.

The District is proud to announce that Eva Matthews will join Topaz Elementary as their new principal following the winter break. Dr. Christa Borgese has gone to Valadez Middle School to serve as their principal.

Schools to Watch is a national network of over 400 schools in 17 states. California is the largest state participant. Schools that apply to become Schools to Watch in the fall submit an application that is reviewed by experienced middle-grades experts in their state. If the application is approved, the school hosts a validation visit. If the school meets the qualifications, the school becomes a California School to Watch in March and a National School to Watch in June. The District is pleased to announce the Yorba

Linda Middle School was redesignated in 2021. In addition, there are two new PYLUSD middle schools that were added this year – Bernardo Yorba Middle School and Tuffree Middle School. Congratulations!

In addition, ECRHS applied for the model continuation high school award. Their application resulted in a validation visit on December 15.

Summer Haque, 5th grader at Golden Elementary, will soon be featured on Food Network's Kids Baking Championship starting in December 2021.

During the recent Superintendent's High School Advisory Council (SHAC) Dr. Elsasser's asked students the one thing they missed most while out of school due to Covid. The same answer was heard repeatedly – "connection with our teachers".

ACCESS AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Trena Gonzalez, Director of Student Wellness, Access, and Academic Achievement

The first committee meeting was held on November 2, 2021 with 35 stakeholders, which included parents, caregivers, students, and staff. There was such a high interest from secondary students, that a student focused platform was created. Their first meeting is scheduled on December 9, 2021. Dr. Gonzalez shared the Access and Inclusion Committee vision:

The PYLUSD Access & Inclusion Committee, comprised of 35 stakeholder volunteers (students, parent/guardians, and staff), will use data to identify needs by demographic groups, develop action steps that support these groups, and provide input and recommendations to district leadership and the Board. The goal is to embed values, principles, policies, and practices that promote diversity, access, and inclusion, thereby ensuring that all students in PYLUSD feel *Noticed, Needed, and Nurtured*.

These meetings are an opportunity to engage and allow everyone to share their perspectives. The next meeting will be in January 2022.

COVID UPDATE

Richard McAlindin, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services

The current Covid caseload is 156 students and 20 staff members, which is a significant increase from last month. It is consistent with nationwide and statewide trends as we head into the holidays. The District nurses continue to work weekends and holidays to keep campuses as safe as possible. Recently, there was a significant outbreak at Travis Ranch, mostly in the sixth grade. The District was able to push in additional supports – administrators, clerical, and health services.

CDPH recently made a couple of updates to their guidelines. The physical distance requirement for wind instruments was reduced from six feet to three feet. Players must continue to use the bell covers for filtration purposes, which were purchased last year. The second update requires everyone to wear a mask at all times while indoors, no matter their vaccine status or if students are present.

SOCIAL MEDIA POST

Richard McAlindin, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services

There was a recent social media post regarding bringing weapons to school that the District became aware of from local law enforcement. It was a nationwide threat, and there were several variations of the post. Any time a threat is received – verbal, online, etc – the District has an obligation to determine if it is credible, and then must communicate out to its stakeholders. The threat was deemed as “not credible” and did not affect any schools in Orange County.

FEBRUARY TAC MEETING

Richard McAlindin, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services

There is a conflict between the February TAC meeting with the middle school basketball tournament on February 24, 2022. The consensus was to keep the meeting as originally scheduled.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

Dr. Liz Leon, Director of Elementary Education

There will be an information night on January 6 for parents of students who have qualified for the GATE program. Parents can opt for their students to remain at their home school or choose to attend one of PYLUSD’s magnet GATE schools.

There will be two parent information nights for PYLUSD’s highly successful Dual Language Academy. They will be held on December 9, 2021 and January 13, 2022 at Glenview Elementary School.

Transitional Kindergarten parent information night will be held on January 20, 2022 at the Professional Development Academy (PDA). Transitional Kindergarten is available at all PYLUSD elementary school sites for students who will turn five years old by March 31 of the current school year.

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE TRAININGS

Renee Gray, Executive Director, Special Education/SELPA

There are approximately 450 instructional aides in the district. The work they provide is crucial to the success of Placentia-Yorba Linda students. A survey was conducted to discover the greatest needs. As a result, a myriad of professional development classes have been offered for aides. Special Education will continue to collaborate with Human Resources and hopes to offer additional trainings in the future.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Rick Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

There is currently an incentive for certificated staff to give early notification of their planned retirement. The first window closes January 7, 2022 (\$2,000); the second window opens January 8, 2022 (\$1,000).

There were 297 nominations for Employee of the Year. Cabinet looks forward to celebrating the successful employees with the Prize Patrol some time in February 2022.

BUILDING EFFECTIVE HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Linda Adamson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Dr. Adamson shared several handouts related to effective home-school partnerships (attached) and then led the group in an activity to share ideas on improving home-school relationships. Each table shared their ideas:

TABLE 1

1. District supports a protocol for communication regarding parent concerns (ex. Teacher, principal, district)
2. Assume positive intent

TABLE 2 (High School group)

1. Remind parents that it's ok to still be involved, check aeries, etc, while still empowering students to self-advocate.
2. Provide teachers with resources/support to be able communicate with non-English speaking families. Translators? Community liaisons?
3. (Math) Educate parents at elementary level about the impact of accelerating math pathways in high school for students who many not be ready. Allow high school to help guide this message.

TABLE 3

1. Love and Logic offered in more languages.
2. Celebrations that include the community/awards
3. Social media/Instagram/Class Dojo/Parent Square
4. More access to translators
5. Regular (weekly) communication from principal to families

TABLE 4

1. Positive communication sent home
2. Site parent nights
 - a. Educate on why school is important
 - b. Love & Logic
 - c. How to help at home
3. Allow more parents back on campus
4. Emphasize allowing students to experience natural consequences to build resiliency and other skills

TABLE 5

1. Weekly bulletin
2. Two-way effective communication with neediest students
3. Use students to promote/facilitate the relationship
4. Make everyone feel NNN for everyone (teachers and parents, too).

TABLE 6

1. Being proactive – frontloading upcoming changes (ways District can communicate other than newsletters – people don't read)
2. Community connection – tab on website?
3. Family night activities on campuses

The following ideas were shared during the report out sessions:

- Love & Logic is amazing. With so many other languages coming into our schools, it would be beneficial to offer in other languages, such as Spanish and Chinese.
- Offer more site level parent nights to educate parents how to help their students and let their students suffer natural consequences.
- Advocate for SEL. Went to Love & Logic during the summer and have interest to further education in SEL. Would be interested in joining “Read for Change” program. How do we make our parents feel noticed, needed, and nurtured? We want to forge better relationships with parents, so they know they are valued and we are here to work with and support them.
- Host family nights at school site level (not District) (e.g. Halloween event)
- Educate parents on accelerated math pathways
- Support protocol for parent communication – teacher first, then principal, and District last
- Assume best intentions

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

1. *Rose Drive is experiencing an issue with bug bites. What can be sprayed?*

There is a new strain of mosquitos in California. When teachers leave classroom doors open, it allows bugs to come inside. If any school site is experiencing an issue, please send in a work order. The county is currently working on a solution to permanently eliminate this issue. (Bradd Runge)

2. *The thermostats at El Camino Real High School (ECRHS) are set to 69 degrees. Staff members are bringing in space heaters. Can these be adjusted?*

The District set points should be set to 72 degrees (cool) and 69 (heat). If any site is having trouble maintaining the correct temperature, please submit a work order so the District can make any necessary repairs. (Bradd Runge)

3. *There is a concern at ECRHS that elective credits are being waived.*

For the last two years, there is a bill that allows students to graduate by meeting the minimum state requirements and we are required to inform students about that option. (Gina Aguilar)

4. *Is there a way to streamline Board approvals for field trips, instead of having to go through the process of getting approval every year for the same events?*

Anytime there is a contract, it must go to the board for approval. In some instances, master contracts have been developed that serve multiple school sites, such as the Outdoor Education Program. (Dave Giordano)

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Next Meeting:

January 27, 2022 (LCAP Input)

3:30 p.m.

Board Room