



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

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 3:30 p.m.  
Board Room

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Welcome/Introduction**

**Dr. Linda Adamson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services**

Dr. Adamson opened the meeting by welcoming this year's Teacher Advisory Council. She expressed thankfulness to all of this year's council members for their time and for stepping up to be representatives for their schools. Each member took a moment to introduce themselves and share their happiest or most proud moment so far this year. The common themes heard were the first day of school, having students back in person, no zoom, small class sizes, smiling faces, energy of the students, and seeing the "lightbulb" go on for students during various lessons.

#### **TAC Meeting Dates/Format/Responsibilities**

**Dr. Linda Adamson**

Dr. Adamson reviewed the 2021-2022 TAC dates. These meetings will be an opportunity for the District to share updates and announcements for members to take back to their sites. TAC members will be asked to bring the teacher's perspective, share ideas and best practices, and be active participants. There will always be a time for items from the floor. Depending on the nature of the item, those may be addressed at that meeting or brought back as an agenda item for a future meeting.

#### **Superintendent's Updates and Announcements**

**Dr. Jim Elsasser**

It was a very busy summer with hiring, as the result of many promotions and retirements. We had a wonderful opening to the new school year. Cabinet divided into teams and visited each of the school sites to provide support. The common thread throughout the sites was that students were happy to be back in school.

PYLUSD is seeing a decline in enrollment, as most districts throughout CA are experiencing. PYLUSD is down approximately 600 students from last year. The District will monitor those numbers and make adjustments, as needed. We will continue to keep the TAC updated.

Dr. Elsasser expressed thanks to everyone for hanging in there with masks. The District checked with attorneys, and the mask mandates must be enforced. There are a lot of opinions; ultimately, we follow the mandates of the CDPH. There is rumor that there will be updated mandates in late October/early November. There are changes made all of the time, which are monitored closely. When the CDPH makes a change, the District will adjust. Currently, San Diego Unified is mandating student vaccinations. Currently, it is still a district choice and PYLUSD is not planning to make the vaccine mandatory unless the state makes the vaccine mandatory.

There was a recent incident with a Yorba Linda High School student creating an inappropriate poster and posting it on social media. There are multiple news outlets reporting on the story. The District is

working with both schools (YLHS and EHS) and administrators to restore unity and cohesiveness. On Tuesday morning, a threat was made against the YLHS ASB student who created the poster. That threat was deemed a non-credible threat through police investigation. There is a letter going out to all students of YLHS and EHS in an effort to reunite students. School rivalry weeks will be reevaluated and done differently in the future.

Dr. Elsasser was able to complete several school walkthroughs – the best part of the job. It is heartwarming to see the students so engaged, and everyone is anticipating a great year. Dr. Elsasser thanked all of the members for agreeing to be part of the Teacher Advisory Council.

## **Start of School**

**Dr. Linda Adamson**

The plan for this school year was to allow students to ease back into school. It is important for them to have balance after not being on campus for almost a year and a half. The goal was to allow students to acclimate to being back on campus. Dr. Adamson expressed her thanks to all the teachers for making that transition so smooth. Things are starting to get back to normal with activities, such as PTA family nights, Homecoming dances, jog-a-thons, kindness crew, successful Back-to-School nights, assemblies, and a week of welcome.

While there are certainly some gaps and learning loss, the initial data from the first iReady Diagnostic for grades K-8 provides us with the most realistic scores since the fall of the 2018-2019 school year. The theme for the 2021-2022 school year is Rebound - Reignite – Reestablish:

- **Rebound** from the past year and a half
- **Reignite** the joy of learning
- **Reestablish** relationships with each other

## **Noticed – Needed – Nurtured**

**Dr. Trena Gonzalez**

The purpose of the Noticed, Needed, Nurtured campaign is to ensure students have social-emotional support and a sense of belonging while in school. The campaign was born out of genuine care for students and a commitment to provide a caring learning environment while they are away from home. Dr. Gonzalez expressed her thanks to teachers for being that source of comfort. There have been many supports put into place, including books for K-5 teachers, Noticed-Needed-Nurtured bracelets for all students and staff, school banners, anti-bully assemblies, and a new wellness team in place.

## **Mental Health Support**

**Dr. Trena Gonzalez**

To ensure teachers have all the tools needed in the classroom, Dr. Gonzalez requested teachers' input on where to put the next resources, divided into three categories: Academic, Safety, and Social-Emotional. Following are those shared ideas:

- Academic
  - Small class size
  - RTI support
  - Smaller class size
  - No combo classes
  - Support with aides
  - Honor Roll – breakfast burrito at break each quarter

- Safety
  - Supervised play at recess
  - Games
  - Something for our kids that don't play
  - Smaller class sizes
  - No combo classes
  - Aides (support)
  - Supervision
  
- Social-Emotional
  - Smaller class sizes
  - No combo classes
  - Community business within a school
  - Small group – friendship skills
  - Support with Aides
  - Train teachers: Breath for Change Trauma informed SEL/Yoga/Meditation to implement in class to teacher students to self soothe and calm mind and body
  - Make posters with QR codes for secondary kids to make appointment with mental health clinicians
  - Elementary students could contribute to school communities by performing routine jobs, like in the classroom
  - Move attention to the mid-kid (HS esp.) – growth, change

## **COVID Update**

**Richard McAlindin and Rick Lopez**

(Richard McAlindin)

There will be a standing item on the agenda for COVID updates. Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) updated the student symptom decision tree over the summer. There is now a different pathway for vaccinated versus unvaccinated students. With more students in the classroom, there are more close contact cases. It can be a difficult conversation with families of non-vaccinated students with close contact, as they cannot participate in extracurricular activities for 14 days. There is an option for a modified quarantine, allowing students to stay on campus, monitor symptoms, and participate in periodic testing. Students can take home a COVID test kit from school, or do their own testing. Tests are provided by Ambry at no cost for the lab kit or processing (billed through the federal government). Parents can decline the modified quarantine and keep their student at home. Symptoms from the decision tree have not changed – if a student displays symptoms, they must stay home until resolved. CDPH did not give an explanation for their decision tree, but conversations with the agency surround the desire to have students in class five days per week. Everything outside of the classroom is considered extra, and not essential. Test kits are only offered for those identified as having a close contact. A booster shot will soon be available for eligible employees. The District is in the process of scheduling this. The boosters are only for those with the Pfizer vaccine.

(Rick Lopez)

The governor announced that school employees must provide proof of the vaccine by October 15<sup>th</sup>, or participate in weekly testing. The District will be using the same vendor as we do for student testing. All testing will be done on Tuesdays, and samples must be dropped off by 4:00 p.m. at each school's designated area. More detailed information will be coming out from the school sites. The first testing date will be Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. The District is looking into the option for employees to get tested, even if they are already vaccinated.

## **Human Resources Update**

### **Rick Lopez**

The Human Resources department has done an incredible amount of hiring through retirements, promotions, as well as one time monies. There is more work to be done, in the areas of aides, substitutes, child care, and nutrition. This is a high priority for the district. HR is in the process of hosting an internal job fair, creating a promotional video, and asking current employees to spread the word. This employee shortage is a common problem across school districts, and is not unique to PYLUSD. The District will continue to do everything they can. QR cards with a link to PYLUSD EDJOIN were handed out.

HR will be bringing back the teacher leadership seminar this year. There are letters going out on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. It will span five months, cover various aspects of leadership, and be hosted by the executive cabinet. Note that it is not the same as aspiring leaders. District is very excited to be able to bring back this professional development opportunity.

## **Items from the Floor**

### **Dr. Linda Adamson**

There are students that struggle with internet connectivity and the new hotspots given out are not working. Where can they get help?

*Hotspots were supposed to be reactivated and Technology discovered that it had not actually been done; that has been resolved and all hotspots should now be working. (Jeremy Powell)*

It was mentioned that the District is down 600 students. How many total students are we down?

*Last year the District lost 800; down another 600 this year. Countywide, enrollment is down 5%. PYLUSD is down less than the average. (David Giordano)*

Is there any chance of RTI returning?

*Intervention support has been in mind since the beginning of the year. Dr. Leon is currently looking at the best model in helping students bridge learning gaps. She is working to communicate to principals how to address multiple levels of support and looking to see where the supports are needed most. She is hoping to offer intervention support to teachers in grades K-6 (Dr. Liz Leon).*

Students at BVVA can become isolated. Is there any plan for a social-emotional outreach to students to help them reconnect?

*Dr. Trena Gonzalez will be working to see how those students can be supported.*

TK has extra supports at the beginning of the year. Can the Kindergarten students get that, too?

*Dr. Linda Adamson and her team will look into the option of adding it next year.*

**Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

### Next Meeting:

October 28, 2021

3:30 p.m.

Board Room