



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

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 3:45 p.m.
PYLUSD Board Room

TAC MINUTES

WELCOME

Dr. Linda Adamson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Dr. Adamson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their time and commitment to this advisory group.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Mike Matthews, Superintendent

The new Board president is Shawn Youngblood. District staff will help to ensure a smooth transition. The Board agreed to move forward with looking into moving the school calendar to an earlier start date. This is an option that makes a lot of sense for high schools but has minimal benefits for elementary schools. The district will study this option and seek feedback from different stakeholder groups before reporting back to the board with its findings.

Dr. Matthews has now been able to visit all of the school sites and is currently beginning his second round of visits. He has felt extremely welcomed into the warm environment of the classrooms.

DISTRICT SCHOOL CHOICE WINDOW

Richard McAlindin, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services

The district receives approximately 1,200 school transfer requests every year. The 2023-24 school choice application window will be open from January 11-February 22, 2023, with notification going out on or before March 31, 2023. Requests are processed on a space-available determination; the approval rate is typically 85-90% of those seeking choice transfers. Applications are primarily online, but a hard copy is available in the Student Services office. Priority has been historically given to students with a sibling at the same school or parent working at the requested school. The district has added language to give additional priority to parents who are employees anywhere within PYLUSD.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Richard McAlindin, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Services

The district has seen an increase in Covid cases among staff and students, consistent with state and national trends. As of December 14, there were 132 students and 66 staff positive cases. The daily symptom check is still required for employees as part of the Cal-OSHA requirement. They are meeting in December to reevaluate the standards, including the required symptom check.

One of Mr. McAlindin's responsibilities is to respond to all Public Record Act (PRA) requests. As a reminder, any emails sent and/or received on the district server are subject to PRA. Emails that contain information about students are part of student records, which can also be requested. Emails that are deleted from your mailboxes are not deleted from the server. Those can be included in a PRA request. If an employee uses their personal phone to conduct company business, those phone records are also subject to PRA. Be cautious about what you include in emails. The recommendation for best practices is to pick up the phone or meet in person to resolve an issue.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Shelley Spessard, Director of Student Achievement and Support

The committee is preparing for its second meeting. They will analyze CAASPP data, broken down by different student groups (English language learners, foster youth, etc.). Dr. Spessard thanked the group for supporting the district's monthly *District, Equity, and Inclusion* calendar. She will continue to bring updates to TAC.

HISTORY-SOCIAL SCIENCE ADOPTION PILOT

Gina Aguilar/Keith Carmona/Dr. Liz Leon, Directors, Ed Services

Elementary science adoption pilot committee members are currently piloting their second publisher, TCI. This publisher uses a more hands-on approach than McGraw Hill, which is more traditional. Middle school members are also in the midst of piloting two publishers - McGraw Hill and National Geographic. Once a consensus is reached, recommendations will be made to the curriculum council committee. From there, a proposal will be brought forward for Board approval, before placing the approved materials on a 30-day public display (typically at the PDA). The process is expected to be finalized at the next Board meeting for final approval and adoption. A high school committee met in October to select publishers. World History and US History will be piloting Savvas and National Geographic. US Government will be piloting Savvas and McGraw Hill and Economics will be piloting Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and McGraw Hill. They will collect feedback from teachers and students. They hope to bring recommendations to the April Board meeting.

COGNITIVELY GUIDED INSTRUCTION (CGI) UPDATE

Dr. Liz Leon, Director of Elementary Education

CGI was first introduced to the district in 2015; PYLUSD has since hired 350 new teachers. The December 6 CGI professional development opportunity was highly attended with over 40 participants. CGI is an approach to teaching mathematics that uses the students' own mathematical thinking; it is an asset-based approach. Students are encouraged to use and develop a variety of self-selected strategies and models to solve problems. They are held accountable for explaining exactly how they solved the problem. The goal is for students to see themselves as mathematicians and to be proficient in math. This approach is beginning at the elementary level but will grow into the middle and high schools. The next training will be on January 24th from 3-6 pm at Rio Vista Elementary School.

SCIENCE IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Linda Adamson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Additional hourly compensation for PD and time required for implementation will be provided and assigned to all science teachers in January and once again in June. Timecards are not required. The compensation will be automatically added to paychecks. There was discussion around issues with the Smart and Final purchase orders. Dr. Leon explored this matter further and has the following feedback to share: It has been confirmed that all site secretaries have the necessary information regarding open purchase orders which have been in place since September of 2022. In moving forward, teachers are asked to please check with their school secretaries well in advance of making or requesting a purchase to allow office staff sufficient time to place the orders in a timely manner. Teachers are not expected to purchase items on their own.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Dr. Rick Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

The early notification incentive was approved at the November Board meeting. This helps the district to get a jump start on backfilling positions. The \$2,000 incentive window closes on January 13, 2023. The \$1,000 incentive window will be open from January 14-February 28, 2023. HR feels the urgency in trying to fill vacancies during the national labor shortage. Although PYLUSD is not alone, the district continues to make strides in addressing the needs. HR is working on adding additional benefited positions to attract and retain quality employees. There are 385 people in the current active sub-pool. There are almost 50 student teachers in PYLUSD who will be graduating in December; HR has sent them an invitation to sub until they are able to secure a permanent contract in the fall.

A question was raised about repairing the district's relationship with CSUF. Dr. Matthews has reached out and will be meeting with them about their concerns and how to come together.

The Employee of the Year nominations just closed. There were 301 nominations. The district is grateful for employees who took the time to nominate a fellow employee. The prize patrol will be going out in February to congratulate this year's winners.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

1. A concern was raised about the sites struggling with the i-Ready diagnostic tool. This time of year poses challenges with holidays, sickness, and the trimester timing.

Adjustments were made to the diagnostic window last year. The teachers use the data differently; some need the data earlier to be predictive in nature, and some prefer later testing to show student growth. The district cannot have two different testing dates. The tests should not be part of the grade, although teachers can show growth in the report card. District staff made note of the feedback and will review the dates for next year. (Dr. Linda Adamson and Dr. Liz Leon)

2. A question was asked if i-Ready is developmentally appropriate for kindergarten students. These students sit on computers for extended periods of time and get frustrated as they struggle with taking a test for the first time and learning how to manipulate a Chromebook.

Some teachers don't see a correlation with state standards for math. The diagnostic asks questions that are not covered, and parents get concerned when they see their student's scores.

Dr. Adamson would like to receive more specific feedback and shared that questions regarding the use of i-Ready have been included as part of the stakeholder LCAP surveys that are due to go out in February, as a means of gathering input from all teachers. She will bring an update to this group at the February meeting. (Dr. Linda Adamson)

3. Teachers were told not to use "+" or "-" on grades, but there is still an option on the drop-down menu.

Technology has made this correction in the system. (Jeremy Powell)

4. One member asked if it would be beneficial to add TOSAs to this advisory group.

Executive Cabinet will consider that for future meetings. Attendance at these meetings is specific to site teachers, given the nature of the information presented, but we definitely see value in including our TOSAs as part of presentations specific to areas of oversight and expertise. (Dr. Linda Adamson)

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next Meeting – LCAP Input:

January 25, 2023

3:45 p.m.

Board Room