



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

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 3:45 p.m.  
PYLUSD Board Room

### TAC MINUTES

#### **WELCOME**

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

Dr. Adamson opened the meeting and discussed her visit to Ruby Drive during their AVID showcase. Typically Dr. Matthews would be in attendance to give an update on happenings around the district, but he is currently attending a conference and will be back for the final TAC meeting in April.

#### **BEST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ORANGE COUNTY**

**Alyssa Griffiths, Director of Communications**

Alyssa discussed Niche, an online platform that connects schools and school districts with students and families. Niche creates a profile for schools and districts which provides students and families with a one-stop-shop to compare campuses and organizations in any given area. In recent years, the district has invested time into updating its profile to be sure we are highlighting our schools, programs, and achievements. The information we've shared on Niche is above and beyond information the platform automatically shares about our district and all others such as student enrollment, programs offered, test scores, and cost of living in the area, just to name a few. Alyssa also shared about how district leaders have been intentional about encouraging educational partners to [write reviews about the district on Niche](#). Beyond digital marketing solutions, Niche also releases annual rankings of schools and school districts based on publicly available data and reviews. PYLUSD was highly ranked in several categories, including #4 Best School District Overall in Orange County, #14 Best School District in the Los Angeles area, and #33 Best School District in California.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**

**Dr. Rick Lopez, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources**

There are numerous summer employment opportunities for teachers through ELOP, ESY, IMPACT, and enrichment. The application deadline is April 17. The new hourly rate for teachers will go into effect on the first day of summer. The application process has been streamlined to make things easier. Interested applicants need only upload their resume. HR is currently working on hiring for the fall. The transfer window closed March 1.

## **CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

**Jeremy Powell, Chief Technology Officer**

The District has made good progress with the classroom technology upgrades. There are only eight remaining schools scheduled, and completion is planned for the week after school ends. Additional microphones have been ordered for those sites that requested them. If any school site requires additional training, the site principal can contact Jeremy Powell to schedule a follow up training at the site.

## **BUDGET UPDATE**

**Dave Giordano, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services**

The District closed out last fiscal year, 2021-22, with a small operating surplus and a healthy general fund reserve. For the current year, 2022-23, the Board approved the District's Adopted Budget in June of 2022. The adopted budget, and the District's 2022-23 Second Interim Financial Report approved on March 14, 2023, are balanced, leaving us well-positioned in the current year as well. Included in the 2022-23 Second Interim Financial Report is the 7 percent ongoing salary increase for all staff retroactive to July 1, 2022. For 2023-24, the State is facing a budget shortfall of approximately \$22.5 billion. This is primarily due to a significant decline in State revenues over the past several months. Fortunately, the education budget is better positioned next year than other areas of the State budget due to actions taken in the current year. However, education funding is dependent on State revenue collections. If State revenues were to deteriorate further, or the economy were to slip into a recession, this would negatively impact education funding next year. Regarding the District's outstanding debt issued during the modernization program, the District has refunded (refinanced) the majority of this debt at significantly lower interest costs, which will provide local taxpayers significant savings over the life of the bonds.

## **FACILITIES UPDATE - SUMMER PROJECTS**

**Bradd Runge, Director of Maintenance and Facilities**

The facilities team conducts annual site walks with administration to discuss any potential safety related issues, repairs and improvements, and any wish list items. Safety related items are prioritized along with any required repairs. Once all site visits are completed, funding sources are identified and projects are prioritized for the coming year. This summer, there are several roofing projects planned throughout the District, painting at Valencia High School, numerous concrete projects, asphalt work, flooring projects, and other high priority projects districtwide. Additionally, the district was awarded a CALSHAPE grant that will fund HVAC system repairs throughout the district. To help facilitate completion of the summer work, the operations team will offer short term hours to approximately 60 support staff.

## **CHAPMAN HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST RESULTS**

**Gina Aguilar, Director of High School Education**

The theme for this year was “The Strength of Love and the Will to Survive”. All of PYLUSD’s middle and high schools participated in the art and writing contest. There are participants from all over the world. PYLUSD had an eighth grade finalist from Travis Ranch, Khiana Antoszek, with her film submission.

## **ASSESSMENT CALENDAR TIMELINE PLANNING**

**Dr. Liz Leon, Director of Elementary Education**

The district has heard various concerns about the current and past assessment calendars and have tried to be responsive. They have worked on several versions of a revised timeline; there are numerous factors to consider when making the timeline, including required testing, multiple assessments, trimester timelines, and parent conferences. The draft revised timeline will be shared with principals to request feedback from teachers. We will work together toward a finished product that is agreeable among everyone. The goal is to distribute the new assessment calendar in May.

## **LCAP FEEDBACK DATA**

**Dr. Shelley Spessard, Director of Student Achievement and Support**

LCAP input participation from teachers was 100% with 1,099 responses. Dr. Spessard reviewed the survey data. The result trends are consistent with the student and parent results.

## **ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

- A concern was shared that teachers and counselors don’t have enough information about the new State Seal of Civic Engagement opportunity to be able to effectively guide students. Staff is concerned how projects are distinguished from the graduation requirement for 40 hours of community service.

*The flyer ([linked here](#)) that was sent out to students was shared with site principals to be posted on campuses and shared with staff. Ed Services assembled a committee of teachers and administrators to evaluate the applications. All of the information about this new opportunity for students can be found on the district website. [Here is a direct link](#) to that page. (Gina Aguilar)*

- Teachers shared a concern about the honors music students being pulled during the middle of day to do rehearsals. There have been multiple interruptions, as band, orchestra, and choir are held on different days.

*Phil Mortensen coordinates this effort. Ed Services will explore ways to make this more efficient for next year. (Dr. Linda Adamson)*

- There were students involved in the honors choir rehearsal that ran for four (4) hours; students didn't have a break or food during that time and returned in the middle of lunch.

*Ed Services will connect with Phil Mortensen to ensure oversight of this for next year.  
(Dr. Linda Adamson)*

- Music teachers at Morse Elementary are wondering if they will be displaced from their portables for the remainder of the year due to roof issues.

*Maintenance and Facilities will do repairs to get teachers back into classrooms as soon as possible. (Bradd Runge)*

- Kindergarten teachers inquired about the possibility of support for their classrooms. TK has the support of an aide, while Kindergarten's day is twice as long without an aide.

*The District is looking to provide additional support for the first two weeks of school, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year (Dr. Linda Adamson)*

- A question was raised about who makes the policy for TK versus Kindergarten to use the larger classrooms with bathrooms attached. Is it set by the district or is it an individual site decision?

*It is a joint decision. It is advantageous for younger students to have those restrooms in the classrooms. Expanded Learning is working with teachers and admin to have a positive outcome for all students and teachers. (Dr. Linda Adamson and Dr. George Lopez)*

Adjournment at 4:47pm

Next Meeting (final TAC meeting for 2022-23):

April 26, 2023

3:45 p.m.

Board Room