Superintendent’s Staff Report

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

April 11, 2014

Between CAASPP testing, Common Core training, the conversion to Infinite Campus and the LCAP community budgeting process, this has been an incredibly busy spring. Thanks to everyone at our 75 schools and at facilities around the district for your hard work and positive attitudes in tackling these big initiatives. Spring is a time of renewal and I look forward to a renewed collaborative spirit as we move into the final quarter of the school year. Have a wonderful Spring Break. -- SN

Infinite Campus

As you are well aware, Zangle will cease to be available at 5 p.m. today. When you return from Spring Break on April 21, Infinite Campus will be in use. I know school site teams have been working hard to prepare for this transition amid all the other important work going on. I trust that schools are ready for this transition.

Starting Monday, April 21, schools will be using Infinite Campus to:

- Take attendance
- Input student grades
- Retrieve previous grade book data from Zangle
- Provide parents/students with the information they need to register

As with any new system conversion we know there will be some initial hiccups and we appreciate your patience in advance. We have expanded the support staff to help with any issues and extended the hours during which they will be available. Make sure you understand how to access that support by visiting the district website (click here). Our technical team has worked very hard to ensure that all information from Zangle is transferred correctly to Infinite Campus. However, we are keeping the old system and data as an archive to ensure that, should anything have been overlooked, we will be able to recover it.

As a reminder, Infinite Campus uses the same staff log-in as Zangle. (Parents and students will need new log-in information; instructions can be found here.) Important dates to remember are:

- April 11 (5 p.m.): The last day of Zangle use.
- April 12-20 (Spring Break): During the transition to Infinite

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, by 5 p.m.</td>
<td>All Schools Last day to enter information in Zangle</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Serna Center Training Rooms A, B Infinite Campus Training (Techs; Registrars)</td>
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<td>April 14-18</td>
<td>All Schools Spring Break</td>
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<td>April 17-18</td>
<td>Serna Center Serna Center is closed</td>
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<td>April 21, 5 a.m.</td>
<td>All Schools Infinite Campus goes live</td>
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<td>April 22, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Serna Center Community Advisory Committee for Special Education</td>
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<td>April 28-May 19</td>
<td>All Schools CAASPP paper testing window</td>
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Campus, neither Zangle nor Infinite Campus will be available for use.

- April 21: Infinite Campus goes live.

**Spring Testing**

Twenty-three of our 75 schools began Smarter Balanced Assessment field testing this week. Transitioning to online testing has presented a steep learning curve for everybody. Almost everything about spring testing is radically different: The logistics, the technology – the nature of the tests themselves. Yet there were not as many reports of testing gone awry this week as one might expect with such a huge shift. Yes, there were isolated glitches in a variety of areas but, in general, support staff, teachers and students solved the problems and made necessary adjustments.

In fact, many students said they preferred the new tests to the old CSTs. Some said the tests were “fun.” I doubt we would be hearing these positive comments if our staff was less prepared and resilient in the face of change. Thank you.

Our testing window continues through May 16. As a reminder, resources for teachers and staff are posted on the district website.

**Superintendent Search**

Leadership Associates, the firm contracted to conduct the search process, is meeting with stakeholder groups (bargaining units, community partners and other organizations) as directed by the Board of Education. If you have not done so, you may weigh in on desired characteristics of a new leader by taking the superintendent search survey.

**NCLB Waiver**

Yesterday, SCUSD and the Sacramento City Teachers Association jointly announced that the district will not be seeking to renew our waiver from No Child Left Behind, which was granted last August by the US Department of Education. As stated in Thursday’s staff letter, participation in the waiver impeded progress towards working more collaboratively to move our schools and classrooms forward. We have so much important work to do. Shifting to Common Core instruction, curriculum and assessments alone is a huge undertaking, as you know. Without the distraction of the waiver, we can better focus on our work to make this great district even better.

**Textbook Adoption**

As you are aware, the district is engaged in a textbook adoption process for K-8 mathematics, Integrated Math-1, and supplemental materials for English language arts that are in alignment with the Common Core State Standards. Cross grade-level committees of teachers, using a very comprehensive set of criteria, began reviewing the instructional materials in February and have narrowed the submissions to the following:

- **Math Adoption**
  - Elementary
    - *Envisions* by Pearson
    - *Go Math* by Houghton Mifflin
  - Middle School
    - *Big Ideas Learning* by Houghton Mifflin
    - *Go Math* by Houghton Mifflin
Materials will be on display for the public to review April 23-May 2 at a school near you. Click [here](#) for the schedule, which is also on the employee Intranet. You are encouraged to review the materials, talk with your colleagues and leadership team and share your thoughts and recommendations. **Also, please note, that your feedback is welcomed regarding whether the district should move forward with the math adoption now or take the 2014-15 school year to pilot the curricular resources.** Your engagement will add much value to the process and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

**Curriculum Maps**

In preparation for the full implementation of Common Core in 2014-15, the district has begun developing curriculum maps, which have embedded units of study, scope and sequence plus provide teachers with guidance and practical strategies for addressing the shifts required by the CCSS. The development of these resources is taking a huge amount of time. Nevertheless, we are committed to having them in your hands before you leave for summer break. In the meantime, the district’s training specialists will be sharing the work as it progresses with you and soliciting your feedback.