Superintendent’s Staff Report

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

May 9, 2014

The Board of Education last week passed resolutions honoring California Day of the Teacher, National School Nurses Day and Classified School Employees Week. I’d like to add my thanks to ALL of our hard-working employees. Only by everyone working together will we achieve our goals. Have a nice Mother’s Day weekend. -- SN

**Graduation and Drop-out Data**

There is much to celebrate in the 2012-13 graduation and drop-out data released by the state last week. For the cohort of students that started together as freshmen in 2009-10, the graduation rate was 85.4 percent, up 5.6 percent from the previous cohort. SCUSD’s graduation rate is now higher than the state average (80.2 percent) and higher than neighboring Twin Rivers (75.4 percent) and San Juan (80.7 percent). Graduation rates rose for all student demographic groups and increased or stayed flat for all high schools.

The drop-out news was even better: SCUSD had the biggest year-over-year drop-out rate decline in the region. Of demographically similar districts, only San Diego Unified has a lower drop-out rate. A number of factors likely have contributed to our success: Work to build better relationships with students; our expanding credit recovery programs; our Alternative Education Programs; Linked Learning; and increased attendance efforts.

Thank you to the hard-working principals, teachers and staff who have made such a positive impact on our students.

**Superintendent Search Update**

During closed session on May 15, the Board of Education will discuss applications that have been received (the application process is now closed) for the permanent superintendent position. Interviews will likely be held at the end of May. The plan is to have a permanent superintendent in place by the time employees leave for summer break.

**Principal Appointments**

At the April 24 and May 1 Board meetings, trustees approved the appointments of several principals and interim principals:

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**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7-May 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>All Schools</td>
<td>CAASPP online testing window</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.</td>
<td>Serna, Training Room A</td>
<td>Infinite Campus Messenger Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9, 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Webinar</td>
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<td>Infinite Campus Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>(All SCUSD Users)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Serna Center</td>
<td>Principals Meeting</td>
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<td>May 14, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Cal Middle School Library</td>
<td>Inclusive Practices Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Serna Center</td>
<td>Common Core Math Training</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(Grades 9-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Serna Training Room A</td>
<td>Infinite Campus Scheduling Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Serna Center</td>
<td>Common Core Math Training</td>
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Please join me in congratulating these school leaders.

**Summer Matters @SCUSD**
Sacramento City Unified School District is continuing its work as a leader in the fight against summer learning loss with its free Summer Matters @SCUSD programs for children and teens.

According to the National Summer Learning Association (www.summerlearning.org), all students lose some math skills over the summer, but those from low-income homes lose math, reading and spelling skills at a disproportionate rate. Summer learning loss widens the achievement gap between rich and poor students, the association’s research shows.

Summer Matters programs are taught by credentialed teachers, highly engaging and project-based. The programs culminate in a summer showcase event that is attended by hundreds of students and parents.

Sacramento City Unified’s programs include:

- **SummerQuest**, a seven-week program for incoming first through sixth graders. Students strengthen their literacy, math and social science skills with project-based activities. They also learn about healthy eating and the importance of exercise.
- **Summer of Service** (middle school) gives incoming seventh and eighth grade students the privilege of working together to improve their community through service projects aimed at addressing neighborhood issues and concerns. SOS also serves as a great opportunity for students to get to know their new campus and to make new friends. Additionally, studies have shown that participation in the SOS Program can lead to higher academic, behavior and attendance outcomes in addition to a deeper school connection.
- **Summer of Service** (high school) gives incoming ninth graders the opportunity of working together to improve their community through service learning projects aimed at addressing community issues while getting to know their new classmates, school and teachers. Students that complete 120 hours of the program are eligible to receive five credits towards their graduation as well as the opportunity to participate in an overnight leadership camp at the end of program.
- **SOS Ambassadors** trains teens to work as group leaders in Summer Matters programs. Ambassadors who fulfill all responsibilities and duties can earn 5 credits and a stipend.
- **Summer at City Hall** provides incoming 11th and 12th grade high school students with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience while making a difference in their communities.
Selected participants get a chance to take advantage of working alongside decision makers to impact their city by working as an intern within a variety of City of Sacramento departments or with a community-based partner. Selected interns attend fun and informative classes at City Hall, where they have the opportunity to meet peers with similar interests and to learn from and network with City Hall officials and decision-makers. In addition to the experience, participants that complete the seven-week course and a 30-hour internship earn five high school credits and a stipend.

More information can be found at www.summeratSCUSD.org.

**Infinite Campus Update**

To ensure ongoing support during the transition to our new student information system, the district signed a one-year agreement with Infinite Campus University to provide all SCUSD users with one-on-one assistance.

If you have general Infinite Campus functionality-type of questions such as, "How do I do this or that?" or "Where do I find this or that?" you may call Infinite Campus University Support at 888-461-2004, Option 3. Be sure to select Option 3, or you will be routed to the wrong department. Between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. central time -- 5 a.m. and 3 p.m. our time -- a live support person will assist you with your Infinite Campus questions for up to 15 minutes per call.

Assistance with passwords, user IDs, log-ins, user access, computer issues, parent/student portal log-ins, district policies etc. will still be handled through our SCUSD support team.

Infinite Campus University also includes free webinars for our staff such as:

- "Teacher Tuesdays" -- Designed with teachers in mind and includes the newest instruction module tools. Once a month.
- "What’s Possible Wednesdays" -- Short overview sessions on cool things you can do in Campus. Once a month.
- "Core Course Webinars" - Learn how current and new features and modules function. Topics include census, report cards and transcript template creation, ad hoc, and data analysis, and a variety of other topics.

Please download the Infinite Campus University information [flyer](#) to learn how to register for these webinars.