BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Date: November 21, 2014

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER – GABE ROSS

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CHIEF OF STAFF – KOUA FRANZ

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From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Gabe Ross, Chief Communications Officer  
Contact Email: gabe-ross@scusd.edu

Subject: Bee Editorial on Health Benefits

The Sacramento Bee editorial board is planning to weigh in on issues surrounding the changes to health benefits. They have discussed these issues with SCTA and with our administration. We expect an editorial to run sometime in the coming week.

Approved by:

José L. Banda, Superintendent ☒  
Date: 11/21/2014
From the Office of the Superintendent

To the Members of the Board of Education

Prepared by: Gabe Ross, Chief Communications Officer  
Contact Email: gabe-ross@scusd.edu

Subject: LCAP Parent Advisory Committee Application

As discussed at last night’s meeting, I have been in conversation with Board Member Rodriguez today about incorporating more community feedback into the application for the LCAP Parent Advisory Committee. As such, we have adjusted the application to reflect comments heard at the meeting. The plan moving forward is to “soft launch” the application on the district’s website (www.scusd.edu/post/lcap-advisory-committee-application) to give Board members a chance to review it. However, we will not begin promoting the application until after Thanksgiving break. Please note that we will also make paper applications available in all threshold languages.

Approved by:

José L. Banda, Superintendent  
Date: 11/21/2014
As you recall, SCUSD, in partnership with UC Davis Center for Regional Change and Community Link Capital Region, examined chronic absenteeism from 2010-11 through 2012-13 to identify patterns that can inform intervention and prevention. Chronic absence – defined as missing at least 10% of school – is associated with lower levels of academic learning; disconnection from peers, teachers and schools; poor health; lower rates of graduation; future unemployment; and future incarceration. We were able to identify that this issue is a pervasive problem in our district. In the 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13 school years, an average of 5,482 students—more than one in ten-- were chronically absent each year. This translates to more than 1 million lost school days, annually. These lost days have significant impact on student and community quality of life.

These findings are available in several briefs that discuss characteristics of chronically absent students, persistently chronically absent students, and severely chronically absent students; geographic distribution of chronically absent students; barriers leading to chronic absence; and factors that encourage attendance among chronically absent student populations. To review the briefs, see the links below:
http://communitylinkcr.org/services/research-data-report-center/

For the 2014-15 school year, the SCUSD Chronic Absence Work Group comprised of Barbara Kronick and Jacqueline Rodriguez from Student Support & Health Services; Ken McPeters from Student Hearing & Placement; as well as, community partners from UC Davis Center for Regional Change & Community Link are focusing on identifying successful interventions to reduce chronic absenteeism district wide. This has included a multi-tiered approach:

• Principals were trained on the current data and trends on SCUSD chronically absent students and strategies for schools to increase regular attendance for their chronically absent students. These strategies include accessing student and site chronic absence data and utilization of the newly developed Chronic Absence Toolkit that contains interventions for improving attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism at the school level.
• Office Managers were trained on how to utilize Infinite Campus to identify their chronically absent students and generate excessive absences reports as well as how to use the Attendance Toolkit for supporting overall school attendance.
• Monthly attendance messages are posted on the Principal’s Bulletin Board and on the SCUSD online newsletter, e-Connection, to engage & inform parents in the importance of daily attendance.
• Four SCUSD schools have volunteered to pilot chronic absence interventions and collect data on the results of these interventions in order to identify effective strategies for reducing chronic absence. These four schools are: Oakridge Elementary, Pacific Elementary, Rosa Parks K-8, and Will C Wood Middle School. The interventions will be coordinated and implemented by the Student Support Center staff.
• Presentations are being made to local community businesses, agencies, & faith-based organizations to inform them about how chronic absence is a community issue and to engage them in supporting our students and schools.

We are currently receiving partial funding from The California Endowment- Building Healthy Community grant to support this ongoing project. The Chronic Absence Work Group will present the data and results of this phase of the project to the Board in Spring 2015.

Approved by:

José L. Banda, Superintendent ☒ Date: 11/21/2014