June 17, 2011

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE FINAL BOARD UPDATE OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

Teaching and Learning

Linked Learning Funding, District Implementation Team Meeting

SCUSD received word yesterday that the Board of the James Irvine Foundation unanimously approved funding to ConnectEd, which enables that group to continue support for the district's Linked Learning Initiative for an additional two years.

ConnectEd will be making a two-year grant to the district of $1,150,000. This represents $150,000 more than we had initially requested, and these additional resources are intended to support the need for data that will better inform all of our work over the next two years. In an email to SCUSD, ConnectEd president Gary Hoachlander wrote: “The grant is a tribute to your deep commitment to Linked Learning and the hard work you have done these past three years to better prepare all young people in Sacramento for lasting success in both further education and career.”

In anticipation of continued funding, 12 members of the SCUSD Linked Learning District Leadership Team met in the California Room to review the draft Linked Learning Implementation Plan, 2011-13. Members participated in a “Gallery Read”; working in pairs they moved from station to station, reviewing sections on Leadership, Pathway Development, Work Based Learning, Student Supports, etc. Within two hours, each section received three complete reviews, which included questions raised and additional programming suggested.

The plan is designed to guide the work of SCUSD’s high school reform initiative SCUSD Pathways to Success and has an overall theme of increasing student engagement in rigorous pathways that link a college academic core to a demanding technical course sequence.

A major goal of the plan is to support SCUSD career and college pathway programs as they strive to complete the extensive Linked Learning Certification process. Similar to the process high schools complete to receive Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation, a visiting team examines evidence on the pathway prior to the visit and then spends two days studying the pathway and conducting focus group interviews. Two of SCUSD’s Linked Learning pathways have completed certification visits; Sacramento
New Technology High School and Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School. Results of the certification are pending.

SCUSD’s work in Linked Learning has provided approximately 3,000 students with a highly relevant high school experience that is not only preparing the young adults for post-secondary success, but provides essential 21st century career skills. Students have extensive interactions with industry professionals as well as post-secondary partners. They graduate from high school understanding a broad industry theme with a command of post-secondary options available – ranging from one year technical certificates to four year university based degrees. Counseling is provided to students regarding their college and career choices; so each family and student can strive for programs and careers that meet their needs.

A SCUSD District team of leaders will travel to Stanford’s esteemed Institute of Design School this summer to study Customer Based Innovation and Program Prototyping as part of a James Irvine Foundation funded institute on Linked Learning. Participants will spend time with Professor Michael Kirst and engage in dialogue regarding the next generation of performance assessments as well as “prototyping” effective models to support sites as they implement the Linked Learning Model.

Operations

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Review

The California Department of Education (CDE) visited the district this week (Wednesday through today) to begin the administrative portion of their review. The focus will be to validate the district’s April claim for meal reimbursement with the back-up documentation for each meal served at each site for the month of review. This is also substantiated by comparing Nutrition Services daily sign-in/sign-out sheets and meal transport records compared to the Child Development Department Child Care Enrollment documents. The auditor already conducted reviews at the following sites on April 26 and 27 and on May 5:

- American Legion Infant Program
- Marian Anderson Head Start – Room “O”
- Capital City Head Start – Afternoon Lunch
- Off School Hours Child Care Program at Bret Harte – Room 1
- William Land Elementary – State Pre-School Lunch

The district is required to provide enrollment documentation for those sites, signed-off by the center or certifying official verifying student enrollment. This information is being gathered from all five sites. October enrollment information on the Head Start Programs will also be provided.

During the site-visit portion of the review, only one area required correction: a proper system for point-of-service counts for each student taking an afternoon snack at Bret Harte.
Candy was sold at the door. Although selling candy is not a fiscal “ding” in CACFP, it does not look good. At the time of her observation, the reviewer conducted some on-site training and asked staff to serve and record the snacks properly. The reviewer may/may not choose to collect money back from this site for the snacks. This will be known after her visit this week. In the future, staff will be re-educated on CACFP snack training to ensure our review of those programs meet the State’s requirements. Overall, the district has done well on the site reviews.

Substitute Teacher Survey

The Human Resources Department has initiated a project to increase the efficiency and quality of the substitute teacher process. Last week, a survey was sent to principals and school office managers seeking their input. Data gathered from this survey will guide the work this summer with the goal of implementing an improved process for the opening of schools this fall.

Fruit Ridge Update

Students returning to the newly upgraded Fruit Ridge Elementary School in Oak Park from their temporary campus on the Bear Flag site on Friday were surprised with a tour of their remodeled campus and an ice cream party.

Fruit Ridge has been closed since February 18, after workers installing wireless technology came in contact with attic insulation containing a small concentration of asbestos fibers. Buildings throughout the country constructed prior to 1977 often contained asbestos. Fruit Ridge was built in 1937. In the months since the school’s closure, SCUSD maintenance and operations crews have completed an extensive asbestos removal project and made other facility improvements – including a brand new floor for the multipurpose room. Workers also repaired roof leaks and dry rot, patched walls, painted and upgraded the school’s aging electrical system.

Originally, the work at Fruit Ridge was scheduled for completion on August 1. However, crews pushed hard to finish the project nearly two months early and about $200,000 under budget.

The event today, in addition to honoring students and families for their patience and understanding, also recognized hard-working SCUSD staff that helped with both the transition to Bear Flag and the clean-up of Fruit Ridge. Those staffers include: Bus drivers Geneva Davis, Shelly Hiibel, Michelle Fisher, Ricardo Martinez and Nai Saechao; asbestos supervisor Don Benning; asbestos worker Rick Martinez; carpenters John Hug and Steve Drews; roofers Rodger Jones, Richard Bryant and John Wellborn; electricians Randy Hunt and Chris Nagel; Mike Compton and Wes Stout, electronics; glaziers Sam Buhagiar and Jeff Stanley; Chuck Shaver, flooring; plumber Adam Miller; Project Manager Paul Breckenridge; and Tommy Greer’s crew of laborers and gardeners.
A special kudos to Principal Yee Yang for his leadership during this challenging time, to the teachers and staff for modeling flexibility, patience and grace under pressure to their students, the parents and community volunteers that provided countless support during this temporary transition and especially to the students themselves who inspired us to make this change and reminded us that change can be good and is a part of life.

Healthy Foods Task Force

The Healthy Foods Task Force is working with Nutrition Services on a number of initiatives focused on improving the nutritional value and taste of food served students, increasing the number of students participating in SCUSD’s lunch and breakfast programs and improving the culture of school cafeterias. As a result of this focus:

- Plans are underway for Matsuyama Elementary School to pilot the use of flatware instead of plastic “sporks” next year.
- Principals have been given spreadsheets with data on the number of free- and reduced-price lunches served at their sites in February.
- Nutrition Services conducted two healthy hot dog tastings: One at Phoebe Hearst on June 8 and one at Leonardo da Vinci on June 15.
- Policy is being drafted that would implement an online pre-payment system to allow families to pay for lunches in advance.
- An online meal eligibility application to be used to Enrollment Center staff this summer is in the works.
- A BreakfastFirst initiative to increase participation in SCUSD’s breakfast program is under way.
- Nutrition Services is working on a K-6 menu that includes more dinner-style choices such as pasta marinara, chicken teriyaki and mini-sliders. These selections would include as much “scratch” cooking (cooking from scratch) as possible and as many locally sourced ingredients as possible.

Community Engagement

Matriculation and Orientation Center (MOC) to Test Students

Starting July 5, Matriculation and Orientation Center staff will administer and hand-score the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to 960 incoming kindergarten students registered at our district for the 2011-12 school year. While students are being tested, the parents will receive an orientation regarding our district policies and procedures in Spanish, Hmong, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese.

School sites will receive the CELDT results for their students prior to the beginning of the school year for aid in correct placement of students and appropriate use of teaching strategies for students.
Hiram Johnson Focus Groups Meet

Focus groups consisting of students, parents and staff at Hiram Johnson High School convened on Tuesday and Wednesday at the school. The focus groups were asked to describe the current state at the school and begin to envision what the new design might look like -- what is important to keep, what needs to be added, what concerns and needs do students have that will enable the school to move forward. One quote from a staff member who attended is “At this point, we need solution talk, not trouble talk.” All agreed that communication is a key issue at the site. The initial Design Team meeting for Hiram Johnson will occur on June 29 and will consist of staff, parents, community members and students. The work of the team will be facilitated by Transformation By Design, which conducted the focus group. The purpose is to begin to structure a design framework that all parties can support and assist in communicating to the wider Johnson community.

Tdap Update

Health Services sponsored a poster contest to promote the Tdap requirement for seventh through 12th grade students. The winners are Jose Rodriguez, a sixth-grader at Woodbine Elementary School; Asia Herron, an eighth-grader at Will C. Wood Middle School; and Vanessa Soto, a junior at Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School. The winners will be honored at the SCUSD Board meeting on June 23. Health Services inoculated more than 600 sixth- through 11th-grade students with the Tdap vaccine at clinics in May and June. The department also sponsored a clinic after school at Luther Burbank High School on May 5 that immunized 300 people from throughout Sacramento County, bringing total SCUSD immunizations to about 900. Immunizations will be given at the Enrollment Center beginning July 7 to students on Medi-Cal or with no insurance.

The Enrollment Center’s immunization clinic will be open every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. In August, there will be vaccine clinics scattered throughout the district to help students that have not received their Tdap vaccine.

Sacramento Goes Back to School

The Office of School, Family and Community Partnerships is facilitating planning for school-site celebrations marking the first day of the upcoming 2011-12 school year. Sacramento Goes Back To School is an opportunity for SCUSD schools to welcome parents and community members into their schools on the very first day of school. Parents and community members who participate in first day celebrations send a powerful message to students about the importance of education. Studies confirm that schools that create a welcoming environment for parents and community partners on the first day of school set the stage for strong year-long parent engagement.

SCUSD is requesting that all school sites:
- Encourage their school families to accompany their children to the first day of school
- Decorate their school with welcoming banners, balloons etc.
- Have a designated team assigned to welcome parents at the front entrance to the school
- Organize a parent reception with coffee, tea and sweets and present ways in which parents can become active partners with the school such as volunteer opportunities and parent involvement programs

At the start of the 2010-11 school year, 65 schools participated in Sacramento Goes Back To School by organizing activities at their sites. It is a SCUSD goal to have all school sites engage in celebratory activities on the first day of the 2011-12 school year.

The Planning Committee is encouraging school sites to form teams to organize Sacramento Goes Back To School events and will provide each site with banners, balloons, buttons and stickers.
### Monday, June 20

- 10:30 a.m. Judy Kushner, Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Interviews
- 2:30 p.m. Jay Schenirer and Koua Franz, Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Kevin McCarty, Meeting

### Tuesday, June 21

- 7:30 a.m. Lois Graham and Virgil Price, Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Cabinet
- 1:00 p.m. Koua Franz, Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. Nancy LaCasse, Meeting

### Wednesday, June 22

- 7:30 a.m. Gustavo Arroyo, Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Robert Garcia, Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Patty Hagemeyer, Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Olivine Roberts, Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Gabe Ross, Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Board Members, Phone Calls
- 4:00 p.m. Arthur Fong, Meeting

### Thursday, June 23

- 8:00 a.m. Joe Landon, Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Bonnie Ferreira, Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. Board Meeting, Closed Session
- 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting, Open Session

### Friday, June 24

- Out of Office