Teaching and Learning

Fall Graduation

Fifty-eight seniors from nine SCUSD high schools who fell short of completing graduation requirements last spring accepted their diplomas before their cheering families on Tuesday at the district’s annual Fall Graduation. Held at the Charles A. Jones Business/Education Center, the traditional ceremony included teens in caps and gowns and the customary procession to “Pomp and Circumstance.” Board of Education President Gustavo Arroyo delivered the commencement address. SCUSD is one of few districts in the area to honor post-June graduates with their own ceremony.

City Year Press Conference

A press conference was held Wednesday at Oak Ridge Elementary School to kick-off the district’s partnership with City Year, an international non-profit that gives young adults opportunities to engage in public service to schools. Also this week, a City Year planning team arrived at Oak Ridge Elementary School, the first participating campus.

City Year “near-peers,” enthusiastic young people, will support our efforts to improve student literacy – key to accelerating the rate of learning. City Year will be focusing first on Oak Ridge and on planning for expansion to our other Priority Schools next fall.

Operations

Cleaner-Burning Buses on the Way

Seven of the nine new buses purchased through Proposition 1B funding source are slated for delivery early next week. The buses will replace others purchased in 1981 -- 30-year-old vehicles due for replacement. The new buses use cleaner burning diesel and have seatbelts.

Additionally, district transportation instructors have completed training 15 new bus drivers. The drivers successfully completed 20 hours of classroom instruction and now are in the second phase of California Highway Patrol written testing, fingerprint clearance and drug testing. Then they will start the behind-the-wheel phase of training and another round of testing with the CHP.
**School Closures and Consolidations**

At Thursday night’s Board discussion of school closures and consolidations, trustees directed staff to conduct further research, begin community engagement outreach and initiate the Design Team process at several sites. Specifically, staff was directed to schedule community meetings for three schools recommended for closure (A.M. Winn, C.P. Huntington and Freeport) and two schools recommended for consolidation (Edward Kemble and Cesar Chavez).

The Board also directed staff to begin the Design Team process (a team of stakeholders explore opportunities to create a “Dream School” with desirable programs for students and families) at schools under consideration for structural changes, programmatic changes and/or consolidations. Those schools include:

- Leonardo da Vinci/Hollywood Park (exploring consolidation and programmatic expansion)
- Kit Carson Middle School (exploring programmatic design and configuration options)
- Caleb Greenwood K-8 (exploring programmatic design and configuration options)
- School of Engineering and Sciences (exploring programmatic design and configuration options)
- John Still Elementary/John Still Middle/Freeport (exploring becoming one K-8 school and programmatic options)
- West Campus (exploring a co-location with Sacramento Charter High School on the Sacramento High campus or moving to Sacramento High and relocating Sacramento Charter to the current West Campus facility)

Input and community feedback gathered at meetings will be brought to the Board at its December 8 meeting.