



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.1

Meeting Date: September 20, 2012

Subject: Summer of Service: Summer Matters

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Office/ Youth Development Department

Recommendation: N/A

Background/Rationale: In the winter of 2011-12, the Youth Development Support Services launched the “Summer Matters @ SCUSD” Campaign. The Campaign was aimed at sharing the importance of summer learning to parents, students, and stakeholders. Summertime learning is vitally important. A growing body of research clearly shows that a lack of summer learning and enrichment opportunities leads to “summer learning loss” – a loss in students’ academic skills and knowledge during the summer months. The Campaign was the first of its kind in the District and the region to take a bold approach in combatting student summer learning loss. This past summer, SCUSD engaged over 50 various community partners to aggressively offer summer learning programs to over 3000 students across the District.

“Summer Matters @ SCUSD” included: SummerQuest, Summer of Service, Summer at City Hall, SCUSD/Way Up Student Leadership Camp, Geek Squad Camp, Vision 2000, Health, Education, and Career Conference, and a host of school site based programs.

Financial Considerations: A Total Budget of \$700,000 was multi-funded through the following foundations: The California Endowment, Packard Foundation, Sierra Health Foundation, state and federal funding, and a host of community partnerships through in-kind contribution.

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 15 min presentation; 10 min Q&A

Submitted by: Koua J. Franz, Chief Family and Community Engagement Officer

Approved by: Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

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I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

Introduction to “Summer Matters @ SCUSD” June 18th-August 22nd, 2012:

Summertime learning is vitally important. A growing body of research clearly shows that a lack of summer learning and enrichment opportunities leads to “summer learning loss” – a loss in students’ academic skills and knowledge during the summer months. Research shows that:

- Most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains (Cooper, 1996).
- About two-thirds of the ninth-grade achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college (Alexander et al. 2007)
- Children lose more than academic knowledge over the summer. Most children—particularly children at high risk of obesity— gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school during summer break (von Hippel et al. 2007).¹

There was a strong need for summer programming in the District, as recent budget cuts have forced our summer school offerings to be limited to credit recovery. Budget constraints have also impacted our communities resulting in less structured learning program for students. Understanding the student and family needs, SCUSD aggressively sought grant funding to provide additional supports and programming that kept learning central in summer time. In 2010, SCUSD was awarded \$250,000 from Learn and Serve America to start the Summer of Service Program focused on transitioning 8th graders. Due to the incredible success of the program, funders such as The California Endowment and David and Lucile Packard have since invested over \$ 750,000 into SCUSD Summer Learning programs (“Summer Matters @ SCUSD”).

The success of the Summer of Service program called for expansion into both elementary and high school age programs. The “Summer Matters @ SCUSD” Campaign called together a host of community partners to provide structured, meaningful, and relevant learning opportunities for our highest need students.

¹ National Summer Learning Association; retrieved from www.summerlearning.org

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II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

Summer Learning is aligned with preparing students with “Pillar I” Career and College readiness. During summer we have the opportunity to engage students in a structured but less restrictive environment.

Students are also able to explore what true service to their community means and learn how they can become civically responsible. Students learn how and why their communities are in their current state - and are empowered to make change today. They are engaged as contributors to positive change with a relevant connection to their academics.

Our summer learning efforts are also directly aligned to our District Strategic Plan. We started with end goal of creating college and career ready students and students that are agents of change in their communities. Our summer learning programs were created to connect students to their schools and community. Students are challenged with being problem solvers and utilizing 21st century skills to discover solutions. The summer learning framework is deeply connected to service learning and social justice youth development while employing Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), youth voice and action, and partnership building skills.

“Summer Matters @SCUSD” is intentional about closing the achievement gap and decreasing student drop-out. The programs target students that may need extra assistance, engagement and support. Youth Development continues to work closely with student behavior, mental health, counselors, teachers, principals to locate the students that may have been marginalized in other settings.

Summer learning is also re-energizing teachers. Our teachers who work in the summer feel they are more prepared; have relationships built with students; have a better understanding on how to work with partners, increased time management, and more.

III. BUDGET

“Summer Matters @ SCUSD” was multi-funded from foundations (The California Endowment, Packard Foundation, Sierra Health Foundation, etc), state and federal funding, and a host of community partners.

Total Direct Service Budget- estimated at \$700,000.

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IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MEASURES

Summer of Service Programs (Middle School):

- All students will complete 100-120 service hours.
- Students will develop a positive orientation to campus, school connectedness, and confidence in their transition.
- Students will have an understanding of their civic responsibility and how to influence their communities to support healthy lifestyles or address environmental issues.
- Students will develop leadership skills in youth-led service learning projects.
- Students will have increased civic responsibility and community awareness.

SummerQuest Program (Elementary School):

- Students will strengthen or advance their current grade level reading skills.
- Each program school site will collectively read at least 100,000 page.
- Students will acquire the skills to work collaboratively with their peers and to resolve issues in constructive way.
- Students will be engaged in active learning opportunities through the implementation of an integrated academic curriculum that is aligned with STEM and Common Core Standards.
- Students will be engaged in health awareness and physical fitness activities to promote their health and wellbeing.
- Students will be given opportunities to develop and enhance leadership and peer collaboration.

Summer at City Hall (High School):

- Prepare students for five week internship.
- Provide students with strategies for professional communication.
- Provide students with strategies to handle conflict.
- Provide students with information and understanding of appropriate professional behavior and dress.

Way Up Student Leadership Program (SYLP) Camp @ CSUS (incoming 9th graders):

- Students will leave with a clear vision of the type of life and lifestyle they want to have in the future.
- Students will create life goals based on their passion and vision.

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- Students will leave with a blueprint for reaching their life goals.

V. MAJOR INITIATIVES

Our summer learning is focused on student needs and a community-call to action: academically, social and emotionally, and preparation for post-secondary. "Summer Matters @SCUSD" encompasses the following programs:

Summer of Service 2.2 (2nd Year Program): The Sacramento City Unified School District's 7-week Summer of Service 2 (SOS 2.2) program will give rising 6th and 7th grade at-risk and high needs students that will attend Albert Einstein, California, Rosa Parks, Fern Bacon, Kit Carson, Sam Brannan, Sutter and Will C. Wood Middle Schools, the opportunity to participate in meaningful service-learning activities that focus on literacy, math development, social justice, healthy eating and lifestyles, and physical activity activities and needs in their community. The program will focus on supporting at-risk students during this critical transitional summer between elementary to middle school by orienting them to the new environment and increasing their feelings of school connectedness. SOS2 will incorporate high quality service, collaboration, youth voice, civic responsibility, and evaluation, all integrated with academic learning content.

Summer of Service 1.3 (3rd Year Program): The Sacramento City Unified School District's 7-week Summer of Service program will give incoming 9th grade students from disadvantaged circumstances the opportunity to participate in meaningful service-learning activities that address societal and social justice needs in their community. John F. Kennedy, Hiram Johnson, West Campus, CK McClatchy, Rosemont and Health Professions High Schools serve as implementation sites. The program will focus on supporting at-risk students during this critical transitional summer between middle and high school by orienting them to the new environment and increasing their feelings of school connectedness. To demonstrate the program's commitment to innovation and youth leadership, students will use social media tools to track their reflections and assist with program evaluations.

SummerQuest (1st Year Program): The Sacramento City Unified School District's 6-week Summer Quest program serves rising 1st through 6th grade at promise students the opportunity to participate in meaningful and engaging summer learning program to strengthen their literacy, math, social science, healthy eating and physical activity skills. Embedded within the program will be opportunities to promote students interest and access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities and supports.

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The program will focus on eliminating the summer learning loss that impacts many of our at-risk students during the summer months by engaging them in youth driven activities and learning exercises to ensure their academic, social and emotional success in the fall. The Summer Quest Program incorporates high quality teaching, collaboration, youth voice, positive culture and evaluation elements that are integrated and aligned with academic learning content.

Summer at City Hall (2nd Year Program): Summer at City Hall provided students high school students with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience while making a difference in their communities. Selected participants got 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 within a Community Based partner. Selected interns attended fun classes at City Hall, where they had the opportunity to meet peers with similar interests and to learn from and network with City Hall Officials and Decision-makers

WayUp Student Leadership Program (SYLP) Camp @ CSUS (1st Year program): WayUp Sacramento, Sacramento City Unified School District, City of Sacramento and California State University partnered to hold a 3-day/2-night camp at Sacramento State University that will mentor 375 incoming 9th graders within the Sacramento City Unified School District and teach them to stand as leaders in their schools, communities and within their own lives under the camp theme "Evolution 2 Revolution: Leadership is Not an Option." The WayUp Sacramento Youth Leadership Program was created to improve student performance by increasing connections to their schools and communities. By providing professional development for teachers and skills development for students, the goal of the program is to ultimately improve student engagement, student voice and leadership, and the overall school climate.

Geek Squad Summer Academy (2nd Year program): is a community sponsored event by Best Buy. At Geek Squad Summer Academy, Best Buy teach students over two days about the latest technology in a fun, interactive environment. Team building activities in classes such as PC Build, Programming, Digital Photography, and Digital Music build friendships and self-confidence. This year, two Academies were held, one at John Still in July and the other at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Sacramento in August. Overall, 400 students participated.

Health, Education, and Career Conference (6th year): The 6th Annual HEC Conference was held at Sacramento City College. The event was a culmination and preparation for our foster youth, pregnant teens and foster parents to access a variety of resources. The

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program hosted 150+ students and families with various workshops and resources including updated information on AB12.

VI. RESULTS

- The District is excited to take this type of programming to scale. This year we served over 3000 students.
 - Our initial goal was to serve 2000 students
 - Created framework to engage younger grades into a successful model
- Each program ended with an end of program showcase.
- Leveraging of existing District dollars- utilizing our 21st Century after school funding; youth development and foundation funds to maximize opportunities for students.
- Summer students showed positive statistical gains in attitudes and skills related to school and community connectedness, civic involvement and environment stewardship.
- All students are being tracked and participating mid-year assessment on outcomes from the summer.
- We have created effective partnership initiatives that help our communities align their resources and expertise to address the achievement gap and high dropout rates. By focusing on the needs of the Whole Child and harnessing a range of community resources, the school district has designed a system to achieve better student outcomes.
- Primary strengths are: (1) at-risk young people who are at a transitional age (6th – 9th grade) become engaged in the program and develop an increased connectedness to school; and (2) participating students increased their community awareness and understanding of civic responsibility. These strengths can be attributed to experiential learning, as the participating students were exposed to diverse perspectives, and they examined the broader social and civic context for the identified community need. They engaged in reflection activities to examine changes in their knowledge and attitudes, and they measured their progress toward meeting specific service goals and learning outcomes. A student survey from the SOS project shows a positive impact on the participants, with a greater percentage of students reporting positive attitudes and a belief that they can personally make a difference at school or in the community.
- Summer at City Hall: In addition to the experience of working at City Hall, participants that completed the 6 week course and a 27 hour internship **earned five (5) high school credits and a stipend of \$270!**
- We have high expectations for our students; no child is kicked or pushed out in the summer. We accomplished:
 - HIGH EXPECTATIONS!
 - Discipline (restorative justice approach).
 - Community Learning.

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- Built Environment - Institutional Players.
- Documentation that everyone can “buy-into” – we have two articles published about the work. Accountability from students, staff, and administration.
- Flexible - Can do Attitude - Solution Oriented.
- CELEBRATE YOUTH!!! – We celebrate with a performance assessment in the form of a showcase for all involved students.
- Increased internal partnerships- Nutrition Services, Transportation Services, Maintenance and Operations, Academic Office, and a host of integral departments working together.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED / NEXT STEPS

Youth Development is hosting a debrief with program partners on September 17th, 2012. Lessons learned will be presented at the September 20, 2012 Board meeting.

Staff and community partners are working on strategies to keep summer learning integrated all year round for teachers, students, and families.

“Summer Matters @ SCUSD” is being recognized statewide and nationally for our intentional focus on summer learning. Representatives from Youth Development are continuously presenting and sharing out our best practices with our campaign and programs.