



# Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

November 8, 2013

## Teaching and Learning

### *2013 Fall Graduation*

Members of the Class of 2013 who fell short of completing graduation requirements last spring accepted their diplomas Monday at an intimate ceremony highlighting their achievements held at the Charles A. Jones Skills Center. SCUSD is one of few districts in the area to honor post-June graduates with their own ceremony. The ceremony was presided over by Superintendent Raymond and Board Members Darrel Woo, Christina Pritchett and Diana Rodriguez. The ceremony was followed by a reception for the students and their families. Because cohort graduation rates have increased, fewer students are graduating in the fall and more are graduating on schedule in the spring.

### *SCUSD School Site Visited for Math Common Core Implementation*

On Wednesday and Thursday, a group of elementary, middle and high schools participating in the Math Common Core work were visited by two representatives from the philanthropic organization that has provided funding for the initiative. During the visits, the representatives were able to interact with students and see how teachers are implementing what has been learned in the professional learning sessions.

This is the district's second year transitioning to the Math Common Core Standards and the implementation has expanded to include grades K-12. The representatives were pleased with the progress teachers are making thus far. They are excited about the direction that the district is taking with the Math Common Core work and how it is beginning to transform teaching and learning. Subsequent site visits are scheduled for the spring when the representatives will have the opportunity to see how the work has continued to advance.

### *Foster Youth Services*

The Foster Youth Service (FYS) Department provides two Independent Living Program classes for SCUSD foster youth. The YOLO Series (You Only Live Once) serves foster youth ages 17-19 and focuses on the transition into adulthood covering various topics including: Financial literacy; post-secondary education and vocational options; self-advocacy; career exploration; self-expression; health and wellness; housing options and job readiness. Get WISE serves foster youth ages 15-16 and focuses on team building; health and nutrition;

friendship and relationship building; social and emotional development; and high school success. Both courses are designed to build Social-Emotional Learning competencies. In addition, field trips and college tours are built into both programs. Both classes are held afterschool at C.K. McClatchy High School during the fall and spring semesters. Currently, 38 foster youth from around the district are enrolled in the courses.

## Facilities and Operations

### *7-11 Committee*

The 7-11 Committee has been busy holding meetings and tours at the recently closed school sites. To date, the committee has met seven times and toured five sites. Attendance at each meeting has varied, ranging from less than 20 to a high of 70. A “Request for Usage of SCUSD Closed School Properties” form has been developed and is posted to the webpage. The form has been widely circulated to organizations and entities through the district’s Family and Community Engagement Department, Youth Services Department and other district staff. Completed forms are shared with the committee at each meeting. Translation services are offered as needed and requested. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, at Mark Hopkins Elementary and begins at 4:30 p.m.

### *Bond Committees*

The Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) held its quarterly meeting on Tuesday at Ethel I. Baker Elementary. The group toured the site and information was shared on the improvements completed at the site funded by Measure Q. Staff shared the Measures Q and R Bond Allocation Summary through 2020 presented to the Board in September. The Committee reviewed the initial project expenditures for both Measures Q and R. Staff shared that a Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently circulating for a Construction Cost Accounting Software Program. The BOC has requested to be kept apprised of the activities of the Bond Steering Committee (BSC). It was shared that the BSC recently met with students, faculty and administration at West Campus to discuss Career Tech programs and the site’s goals for a robust STEM academy.

As mentioned above, the Bond Steering Committee (BSC) met on Thursday at West Campus for the first time since the school year started. Career Tech faculty, students and Principal Greg Thomas engaged the group in a discussion of improvements desired at the campus. One particular focus area was around creating an environment to promote a robust STEM academy program. Robotics is also a component that the site would like to address during the core academic renovations scheduled to begin in 2015. Additional meetings with site and facilities staff will be scheduled to further the conversation. The next BSC meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 15, at 3:15 p.m. at C.K. McClatchy High School. The focus of this meeting will again be on career technical programs and site needs. A meeting at Kit Carson Middle School will be scheduled for early December.

## *Architect Interviews*

Staff recently completed two full days of interviews with architectural firms interested in working with the district on future projects. The group was very pleased with the caliber of the firms and has chosen a well-rounded and qualified pool of architects. Notices to the firms will be sent out within the next week.

## *Aspiring Leaders Program*

This weekend, the second cohort of the Sacramento Aspiring Leaders Program (formally titled Emerging Leaders) will complete their intensive four-day preview of district leadership. The Sacramento Aspiring Leaders Program is designed for district employees interested in taking positions of leadership within the next two to three years. These individuals may or may not hold appropriate certification for administrative/leadership positions but enter the program to build a strong foundation for the qualities, competencies and responsibilities associated with being a SCUSD principal and leader. The Sacramento Aspiring Leaders Program provides content in leadership development and styles, career pathways in education leadership, what it means to be a 21st century principal, case studies and scenarios and multiple principal panels. This spring, SCUSD will launch the first cohort of the LEARN Program, the second step for emerging leaders to develop within our system. Look for more information on when the application process will go live over the next few weeks.

## *SCUSD Honored at Green California Schools Summit*

SCUSD was honored on Wednesday with a Leadership Award at the Green California Schools Summit in Pasadena. The award is in recognition of the district's achievements in green building and energy efficiency. The awards were established by the Summit's Advisory Board to honor individuals and school districts on the leading edge of school sustainability.

SCUSD has made green policies and practices a priority for the way it educates students and conducts business at all levels. The district's efforts focus on resource conservation, green building, energy monitoring, innovative transportation and recycling efforts. SCUSD also focuses on health and wellness, providing salad bars at every school, purchasing local produce and utilizing green cleaning products.

Sustainable practices can also be found integrated into student learning, emphasizing school gardens, Project Green and student green teams. Green teams have been created across the district and teachers, parents, staff and community experts work with each team to draft recommendations for green improvements. The district's Project Green provides real-world applications to classroom instruction about the environment and sustainable living. Students present their recommendations to a panel of local experts and non-profits. As a result, 15 SCUSD schools were awarded \$5 million of redevelopment funds over the past three school years to implement their recommended green school projects.

## *504 Workshop*

A workshop on Section 504 accommodations was provided this week to more than 85 school site administrators, counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers and other staff. Presenters included Barbara Kronick, Integrated Support Services Director, Pam Whipple, Health Services Coordinator and Dan Osher, an attorney with Lozano Smith. The objective of the workshop was to increase awareness and understanding of Section 504 as it relates to the provision and implementation of educational programming and services to eligible students. The focus was on policies and procedures, case law, as well as a review of the documentation requirements. A discussion of home hospital instruction guidelines was also included. Each participant received a toolkit to assist them with this process.

## **Community Engagement**

### *LCAP Advisory Meeting*

SCUSD hosted a forum on Wednesday to begin learning and engaging with the community, and gathering valuable input, on a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), the creation of which is a state requirement under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The forum, held at the Serna Center, was well-attended. Sam Starks of SMUD facilitated the discussion and Jannelle Kubinec of WestEd made a presentation on both LCFF and LCAP. On a related note, the state Board of Education began this week receiving feedback on its draft regulations related to the new school funding law. The state has until March to complete its work.

### *Community Planning Process*

SCUSD has begun a community planning process to collect valuable feedback on the Guide to Success, a comprehensive data management tool that is currently under development. With the Guide to Success, data related to the district's efforts to prepare every student for college and careers will be available to the community in one place. The goal is to engage with stakeholders on a personal level to better understand which metrics to include in the Guide to Success. In the first cycle of this process, 50 Public Education Volunteers (PEVs) engaged in conversations about SCUSD schools with a wide range of community stakeholders. Altogether, 560 people were contacted. Of those 560, 85 percent participated in an online survey. Cycle 2 of Community Planning will begin this month.

### *Avenues Block Party*

Pacific Elementary School and several community partners sponsored a block party last Saturday in Pacific Park. The event, coordinated by the Avenues Community Group, which meets at Pacific, had the goal of bringing community pride and connections to the area.

### *Sacramento County DHHS STD Steering Committee*

Health Services Coordinator Pam Whipple participated in the Sacramento County STD Steering Committee this past week. The group is charged with formulating the county's action plan to address the current epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases, especially in Sacramento-area youth. Of particular note to local school districts is the need for education and accessible, confidential services.

### *CARES Steering Committee Strategic Initiative for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention*

This past week, Integrated Support Services Coordinator Lawrence Shweky and Pam Whipple, Coordinator Health Services, attended the CARES (Center for AIDS Research and Education) Steering Committee meeting, with other key organizational and community stakeholders to address Unmet Need Data in the Sacramento Transitional Grant Area. The percentage of people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS who are not in care has decreased significantly in the last five years due to the efforts of CARES. The group will decide the focus of future efforts, including a 25 year anniversary next June.