SCUSD Instructional Aides Participate in CCSS Professional Development

SCUSD’s instructional aides on Tuesday attended their first professional learning session focused on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that will be implemented in the 2014-2015 school year. The instructional aides play a vital role in assisting students in meeting the demands of the new standards and achieving academic success. The session introduced instructional aides to the various components of the (CCSS) and allowed them to view and discuss classroom practices that they can utilize to support students in meeting the standards. The instructional aides will participate in three Common Core professional learning sessions during the 2013-2014 school year.

Twin Rivers USD Territory to Sacramento City USD (McKinley Village)

On Tuesday, the Sacramento County Committee on School District Organization approved the joint petition of Twin Rivers Unified School District and SCUSD to transfer approximately 48 acres of uninhabited territory to Sac City.

One member of the public spoke in favor of the transfer at Tuesday’s hearing. There were no other speakers. The committee approved the resolution transferring the uninhabited territory by a vote of 6 to 1. There is a 30-day notice of appeal period to challenge this resolution to the California Department of Education. No appeal is expected.

A concurrent resolution was approved to authorize an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A notice of exemption will be filed with the County Clerk to require any challenge, on CEQA grounds, to be made within 35 days. No such challenge is expected.

The next steps are:

1. SCOE sends the committee’s resolution authorizing the transfer of territory to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors;
2. The Board of Supervisors approves the transfer (Ed Code 35765); and
3. The transfer becomes effective on July 1, 2014 (Ed Code 35534).

**Fremont Property**

The Sacramento City Council approved the plan to convert the former Fremont Adult School site property into an office and rehearsal campus. The approval represents the culmination of many years of lobbying and efforts by the Studios Operating Group to secure permanent space for the arts community. The agreement was approved in November by the SCUSD Board of Trustees with City Council approval on Tuesday. Staff looks forward to working with the Studios Operating Group to provide much needed arts opportunities for our students and families.

**CORE Waiver Update**

Superintendents from the eight CORE Districts met in Los Angeles on Thursday to finalize the Social-Emotional and Culture and Climate indicators to be piloted this year. It was a thoughtful session that included recognition that authentic implementation of the School Quality Improvement System (SQIS) requires Social-Emotional assessments, but also authentic support for the Social-Emotional Learning work. More specifically, adult social-emotional competencies need to be supported and developed. Culture and Climate indicators also need to reflect adult needs in addition to the student needs.

Internally, the SEL team, along with Assessment, Research and Evaluation (ARE) is designing an SEL assessment pilot to enable select schools to identify strategies for targeting SEL support. Today, CORE Reward and CORE Priority schools are registering and gearing up to send their teams to learn at the two-day institutes with Michael Fullan at the end of January. Meanwhile, members of district staff are looking forward to the Peter Senge workshop, also at the end of January, on becoming a learning organization to ensure coherence around the CORE work.

**Community Engagement**

**SCUSD Receives Bullying Prevention Grant**

Integrated Support Services (ISS) submitted a grant to the Ben Cohen STAND UP Foundation on behalf of the B.R.A.V.E (Bullies Really are Violating Everyone) Society. This week, ISS received word that the grant was funded to support SCUSD’s bullying prevention efforts. To truly impact school climate and culture, a comprehensive layered approach (staff training, parent training, curriculum for students and a school assembly) is the best approach. The funding received will provide school site assemblies to address bullying prevention and bystander empowerment. However, the bullying prevention specialist continues to be available to provide staff, parent and curriculum trainings.
**ISS Helps Fill the PTA Clothes Closet**

Integrated Support Services staff, who support the social-emotional needs of our children on a daily basis, recently gathered together for their annual holiday breakfast meeting, and proved they also support the heads, necks, hands and feet of our students. ISS staff collected more than 100 hats, scarves, gloves and socks for the district’s PTA Clothes Closet. So many of our students arrive at school under-dressed for the cold winter months that staff strongly felt it is important to give to the neediest of our students. Next year ISS hopes to invite other departments to join in the effort to keep our students warm.

**Capital Christian Supports the Students and Families at John Still K-8**

John Still K-8 School’s community partner Capital Christian donated more than 100 jackets and 50 sets of gloves and scarves to the school. The organization also contributed to the school’s food closet and provided a dinner for more than 200 families.