



Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

December 6, 2013

Teaching and Learning

Hiram Johnson Challenge Day

Hiram Johnson High School held a Challenge Day program on Thursday for 125 students. Challenge Day is designed to sensitize students to issues related to oppression with particular emphasis on ending bullying, harassment, racism and homophobia. Through a combination of fun, team-building activities for the larger group and intensely personal sharing exercises in small “family” discussion groups, Hiram Johnson students built connections with each other and with the nearly 30 adults that supported the event. Adult participants represented a diverse array; school staff, district staff, parents, recent Johnson graduates and representatives of AmeriCorps, Sacramento State, Health Corps, La Familia Counseling Center and Asian Pacific Community Counseling all took part. The event was coordinated by the Hiram Johnson Student and Family Support Center through the school’s Safe and Supportive Schools grant from CDE. This was Hiram Johnson’s fifth Challenge Day in recent years.

Bret Harte partners with WayUp and UC Davis

Bret Harte Elementary School third-, fourth- and fifth-graders recently visited UC Davis Medical School as a capstone fieldtrip to a trimester-long “Health Sciences Careers Exploration” project.

The Youth & Family Resource Center (YFRC) at Bret Harte partnered with Sacramento City Councilman Jay Schenirer’s WayUp Sacramento initiative, the UC Davis Health System and Sacramento State nursing interns to inspire students to “think big” about their futures by exposing them to careers in the health sciences profession and teaching them about what it takes to get into those positions.

The three-pronged project began with in-class lessons on six of the 100-plus careers in the health sciences field. Sac State nursing interns on their community health rotation developed and presented interactive “career chats” over a three-week period. In the second phase of the project, students each selected and completed a research project on one career, where they were asked to explore the roles and responsibilities of that career, the education and training requirements, whether they could see themselves in that career,

and why or why not. This piece of the project not only allowed students to explore career options, but to begin to contemplate their futures tangibly.

On November 20, the students, their teacher and the YFRC Coordinator boarded buses sponsored by WayUp and spent the day sitting in the lecture hall at UC Davis Medical School, where future doctors and nurses learn each day. They were introduced to Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Dr. Daniel Acosta, along with practicing professionals in physical therapy, pharmaceuticals, medical school and more. Students were able to use their minds, bodies and imaginations to delve deeply into the health sciences professions.

Facilities and Operations

Committee Activities

The **Bond Steering Committee** (BSC) spent two information-packed hours at C.K. McClatchy High School touring the site with administrative staff and faculty on November 15. It was obvious that the staff at McClatchy has thought long and hard about improvements to their campus to meet the growing needs of career- and college-readiness. Each department presented ideas for successful programs. The BSC members were treated to a thorough tour of the site and left feeling that all departments were working together to present viable options toward core academic transformation.

The next meeting of the BSC is scheduled for December 10 at Kit Carson Middle School. The focus of this meeting will primarily be on the International Baccalaureate program and what type of facility improvements would best be suited to ensure a successful program. It is anticipated that the BSC will make a recommendation to the Interim Superintendent in early February regarding the core academic transformation of the first three identified sites.

The **7-11 Committee** held its final site visit at Washington Elementary on November 18. Community Forums were held at each site to solicit input on proposed uses of closed sites. A community forum was also held at the Serna Center on Thursday. The Committee heard presentations from Sacramento Performing Arts Conservatory, Full Service Community Center (a coalition of partners including Another Choice -- Another Chance, Always Knocking and Root Causes) Camellia Waldorf School, Sacramento Council of PTAs, Legal Services of Northern California, La Familia Counseling Center, Inc., and CCEE (Collaborative for Community Education and Empowerment) and their collaborative partners. The Committee's next meeting will be held on December 9 at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will serve as a working meeting for the Committee but will be open to the public.

Construction and Planning Activities

The following is an update on construction and planning activities:

- C.K. McClatchy High School Batting Cages

- Work on the batting cages is progressing nicely and ahead of schedule. Completion is anticipated in early in January – ahead of schedule.
- C.K. McClatchy High School Gym
Plans are being reviewed by the Division of State Architect (DSA); we anticipate comments back in February. The project is tentatively scheduled to be complete by August 2014.
 - John F. Kennedy High School Field Work
Submission to DSA is scheduled for December 16 with a tentative completion date of August 2014.
 - Rosemont High School Track Work
Plans submitted to DSA in late November. Completion scheduled for April 2014.
 - California Middle School Gym
Project is in the design document stage; estimated construction start of fall 2014.
 - Hiram Johnson High School Gym
Plans have been submitted to DSA; comments are expected back next week. Completion scheduled for August 2014.

Community Engagement

Community Budget Forum

On Wednesday, SCUSD hosted its second “town hall”-type 2014-15 budget forum at Albert Einstein Middle School to present information and to field questions from the public. SCUSD’s Chief Business Officer Ken Forrest and Director of Fiscal Services Gerardo Castillo presented PowerPoint slides and other materials on the Local Control Funding Formula and on projections for SCUSD expenditures and revenue. Mr. Forrest’s presentation can be found at <http://www.scusd.edu/2013-2014-fiscal-year>. Another meeting will be held on February 26 at California Middle School.

CSBA Annual Education Conference

Superintendent Raymond, Chief Academic Officer Olivine Roberts and Board Vice President Darrel Woo represented SCUSD as presenters at the California School Board Association’s Annual Education Conference and Trade Show held this week in San Diego. Board Member Jay Hansen also attended.

Dr. Roberts’ session was titled “Linked Learning for College and Career Success” and included information on how the Common Core Standards can be brought to life by introducing students to real-world experiences. Superintendent Raymond, SCUSD legal counsel Lou Lozano and Mr. Woo presented on “Breaking the Seniority Barrier in Teacher Layoffs.” Superintendent Raymond also presented on “Achieving Title 1 Goals: The Role of Arts Education” and “Making Summer Matter.”