



Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

February 8, 2013

Teaching and Learning

Pittsburg Unified School District Visits SCUSD

Over the course of the last two years, SCUSD has engaged in work around the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts. Through that work we were introduced to Dr. Lily Wong Fillmore, a well-respected authority on English Learners, who emphasized the need for English Learners to engage in meaningful linguistic experiences around complex text in order to meet the demands of the CCSS. Our ensuing partnership with her has led to a framework for using complex text to accelerate academic language acquisition. This framework, while still in its infancy, has begun to catch the attention of other districts that are beginning to engage in work around the CCSS.

On Thursday, February 7, a group of educators from Pittsburg Unified School District came to SCUSD to learn about our journey through this work and witness the work in application in our classrooms. The group included principals, teachers, instructional coaches and department heads. We had the opportunity to escort them to two secondary classrooms and two elementary classrooms. After the visits, we had the opportunity to engage with the group around our progression from theory to practice and the lessons we've learned along the way. They were as excited to experience the work as we were to share it.

Community Engagement

Linked Learning Pathway Recruitment Fair

The Serna Center Community rooms were filled with excitement and positive energy from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday evening, February 5, when more than 600 visitors arrived to participate in the Linked Learning Recruitment Fair – an annual event to inform parents of middle school students of the many options SCUSD provides to make college and career readiness a reality for all students.

Staff and students representing Linked Learning Pathways showcased student work and informed visiting parents and students of their school's rigorous, engaging and industry relevant college and career preparation high school learning experiences.

The event was scheduled to coincide with Open Enrollment. Families were provided the opportunity to learn about all programs at one time prior to completing Open Enrollment requests. Staff received many positive comments and feedback from parents and students visiting the fair. More than one family said they were glad they stayed in Sacramento – can't wait to get their child in high school!