



# Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

April 26, 2013

## Teaching and Learning

### *Achievement Gap Coalition*

SCUSD's Achievement Gap Coalition met again on Tuesday to continue the work of constructing strategic recommendations for changed policies and practices that will serve to close the achievement gap. The broad-based coalition of stakeholders including community-based partners, Sacramento City Teachers Association, teachers, school leaders and district office staff, had the opportunity to hear from a panel of 18 C.K. McClatchy High School students about their experiences within the school system.

Students discussed the support and barriers within the system that facilitate or hinder their ability to reach their goals. The students offered clear recommendations for what educators and community partners can do to help them better navigate the system. This included a call for passionate staff that holds high expectations of them and opportunities to work with mentors and to connect with a caring adult. The coalition will use the information from the student panel to construct a set of actionable recommendations that will be presented to the Superintendent and Board. The next meeting of the SCUSD Achievement Gap Coalition will take place at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, at McClatchy.

### *SEL Leadership Team*

The Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Leadership Team met Thursday at Sutterville Elementary to hear progress reports from the initiative's three working groups: Communications and Engagement, Standards and Assessments and Professional Learning.

The Communications and Engagement group reported hitting several milestones: Creation of an SEL Communications and Engagement plan; creation of an SEL webpage ([www.scusd.edu/sel](http://www.scusd.edu/sel)) that includes videos of SEL work at two of the pilot schools (Leataata Floyd and California Middle) and many other resources for principals, teachers, staff, parents and the community; and creation of an awareness building/staff training PowerPoint that SEL "ambassadors" will be using to build excitement and support for social and emotional learning.

The Standards and Assessments workgroup is in the process of fine-tuning and finalizing SEL standards for principals, teachers and staff based on similar standards developed in Illinois.

The Professional Learning group developed four priorities: Priority 1 is to create a calendar for “awareness” sessions for the 2013-14 school year. Priority 2 is to convene leadership teams from the four pilot SEL schools (McClatchy, Cal, Sutterville and Leataata Floyd) to develop a Professional Learning plan and provide pre-serve for the 2013-14 school year. Priority 3 is creation of a professional learning roll-out plan; and Priority 4 is to integrate SEL into other professional learning opportunities around the district initiative such as Common Core State Standards.

The final meeting this year of the SEL Leadership Team will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23 at McClatchy.

## Operations

### *Governor’s Press Conference on Local Control Funding Formula*

Superintendent Raymond was invited by Governor Jerry Brown to appear with him at a press conference on Wednesday to speak on behalf of Brown’s proposed Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) for California schools. Other superintendents at the press conference included John Deasy of the Los Angeles Unified School District and Tony Smith of Oakland Unified School District. Organizations represented included Children Now, the Latino Community Foundation, the Asian Business Association and the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. LCFF increases flexibility for school districts by allowing greater local control over funds now earmarked for state-mandated programs. The plan also strategically directs additional money above base funding to children with the greatest need – low-income students, English learners and foster youth.

According to a recent Public Policy Institute of California poll, 78 percent of adults support the Governor’s proposal to give local districts more flexibility and 71 percent of adults support the Governor’s plan to direct more funding to lower-income students and English language learners.

## Community Engagement

### *School, Family and Community Partnerships (SFCP) Leadership Academy*

Parent Engagement in the Office of Family and Community Engagement hosted the fifth annual program celebration for the graduates in the School, Family and Community Partnerships (SFCP) Leadership Academy. The 23 graduates included staff, parents and community members. The last formal session of the program was Monday, April 8, where each team presented on real-life topics/issues faced by parents, students, community members and/or teachers. Topics ranged from Chronic Absenteeism, Health Education, School Site Councils and Parent Engagement for New Families. For the graduates, this

program is not the end of the training and education they will receive in leadership development. There are plans for informal discussions, guest speakers and networking to continuously support our leadership graduates so that they can move our families, school sites and communities from being involved and engaged to empowerment.

The celebration took place in the Bistro Lounge at Serna Center which was filled with friends and families of the graduates. Special guest speakers included Superintendent Raymond, Board Member Christina Pritchett, Interim FACE co-chief Stacey Bell, class representative Keirsten Mihos and alumna Patricia Gentle.

### *Youth and Family Resource Centers Profiled in Report*

SCUSD's 19 Youth and Family Resource Centers (YFRCs) were profiled in a new report by the Partnership for Children and Youth on strategies for financing and sustaining community schools. The report provides specific guidance on how to develop partnerships with local government agencies and community organizations. It also recommends that school districts make use of existing funding streams and partnerships to support the community schools model rather than try to obtain new funding. SCUSD's YFRCs are managed by the district's Integrated Support Services department, which began them in 1992 with seed funding from the California Healthy Start program. They have been sustained through a variety of grants and site-based funds, as well as with the in-kind support of more than 120 community partners.

### *School Transition Work Continues*

School Site Transition Teams, the District Transition Support Team and the Community Partners' Transition Committee are continuing to meet to facilitate and support the transition process for the families and staff of closing school sites.

Meetings have been held with families and staff at Mark Hopkins and Rosa Parks to scope out blending activities to unite the two campuses into one K-8. Activities in the works include walking tours of Rosa Parks and shadow days for Mark Hopkins sixth graders.

On Wednesday, a breakfast meeting was convened at the Serna Center Parent Resource Center with principals of receiving schools and principals of schools currently piloting Social and Emotional Learning. As part of the transition work, receiving schools have been invited to join the SEL cohort for next fall.

#### Scheduled Site Transition Team Meetings:

- 5 p.m. on April 30 – C.P. Huntington at C.P. Huntington
- 2:30 p.m. on April 30 – Mark Hopkins at Mark Hopkins
- 2:30 p.m. on May 1 – Maple at Ethel Phillips
- 3:30 p.m. on May 7 – Washington at Washington
- 3:45 p.m. on May 9 – Fruit Ridge at Father Keith B. Kenny
- 6 p.m. on May 9 – Joseph Bonnheim at Joseph Bonnheim

Community Partners Meeting:

- 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 1 – Serna Parent Resource Center