



Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

May 24, 2013

Teaching and Learning

Rosemont, Hiram Johnson awarded CAPP grants

Rosemont and Hiram Johnson high schools have each received an \$11,000 planning grant through the California Academic Partnership Program which focuses on capacity building for implementing the CA Common Core State Standards. The planning grant provides the schools an opportunity to build capacity in three areas before writing an extensive request for proposal (RFP) to be a CAPP Common Core Demonstration Site. The three areas are: 1) building postsecondary partnerships, 2) conducting a needs assessment, and 3) designing an evaluation and assessment plan.

The districts will partner with staff and faculty from Los Rios Community College District and Sacramento State University and engage in in-depth planning over the summer for submission of the RFP. This project provides the three institutions with an authentic opportunity to build on the work already underway through their existing partnership, Sacramento Pathways to Success: *A Partnership for College to Career* which is focused on creating a seamless pre-K-20 pipeline in which SCUSD students are fully prepared with the skills required to succeed in society and the workforce.

GATE Orientation Meeting

The GATE Department completed first grade GATE identification processes and conducted an orientation meeting on Tuesday for the families of newly identified gifted students. The GATE Orientation Meeting was well attended with more than 100 families present.

Families were provided information regarding the role of GATE programs to provide appropriate, advanced and rigorous instruction by teachers who are trained in gifted education which closely aligns with rapid developing skills and capabilities of gifted students. They were given a brief overview of the William and Mary Language Arts units which are being used in all GATE classes as a basis for delivering a qualitatively differentiated instructional program specifically designed to meet the needs of gifted learners. Key components of the William and Mary curriculum were highlighted such as advanced content, literary analysis, Socratic Method of discussion, persuasive writing and problem solving through the reasoning model.

Hand-outs and resources to support their understanding of the unique social and emotional dimensions of gifted children were provided. Articles promoting open communication between families and schools and how to support the development of your child's habits of success in school, life and work were also shared with families.

Families were encouraged to participate in the school site GATE Parent Advisory Committee and the District GATE Advisory Council which meets three times per year.

Specific details regarding the timeline for selection and placement in GATE Center classrooms was outlined: Families have until June 3 to notify the GATE Office if they wish to apply for placement in a GATE Center. If necessary, lotteries will be held on June 4 and families will each receive a personal phone call informing them of the results on June 5. Placement letters will be mailed to families the following week. Students attending Site GATE Programs which serve their own families will automatically be placed in GATE classes by their principal, unless they request not to be placed in the GATE class.

A similar orientation for families of third grade students recently GATE identified will take place on June 4 at the Serna Center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Men's Leadership Academy Celebration

The young men who participated in the Men's Leadership Academy program this year were honored at a dinner and celebration on Thursday at the Serna Center. A video from the group's Spring Break field trip to San Diego, where they trained with Navy SEALs, was shown. For some parents and students it was the first time they saw the video and many were visibly moved by the boys' perseverance in the face of rigorous challenges. Stockton City Councilmember Michael Tubbs and Superintendent Raymond addressed the group. SCUSD Board Vice President Patrick Kennedy and Second Vice President Darrell Woo handed out certificates of completion. Three students also spoke of their experiences in the Academy. Five SCUSD schools have Men's Leadership Academy classes serving about 80 at-risk youth. Those schools are: American Legion, C.K. McClatchy, Hiram Johnson, John F. Kennedy and Sutter Middle School.

Project Green Showcase and Sustainability Report

Thirteen student "green teams" showcased projects to make their campuses greener and more sustainable at SCUSD's second annual Project Green Showcase on Thursday. Viable projects are in line for \$1 million in Measure Q bond money set aside for green school initiatives. Measure Q was approved by Sacramento voters in November. At the event, SCUSD released its 2013 Sustainability Report about the district's successful efforts to make schools healthier and reduce costs through strategic upgrades and improvements. The report was created in collaboration with the U.S. Green Building Council. The report's findings include:

- Since SCUSD began tracking utility usage in 2008, the district has saved 16,078,059 kilowatt hours of electricity, resulting in \$1,144,620 of avoided costs.
- In that same time frame, the district has saved 299,545 therms (100 cubic feet) of gas, resulting in \$1,685,094 of avoided costs.
- The majority of seasonal produce purchased by SCUSD's Nutrition Services department are grown or produced within 200 miles of the district which supports local Farm to School efforts.
- School gardens are actively maintained at 36 of the 82 district schools.

Reducing energy costs is one of the goals of Project Green. Under the program, campuses across the district form student "green teams" supported by parents and staff and charged with conducting "green audits" of facilities. The teams work with district and local professionals to draft recommendations for improvements ranging from replacing outdated windows to installing water-wise plumbing fixtures.

Students presented their recommendations to a panel of experts representing local non-profits that focus on creating healthy sustainable learning environments at Thursday's event. Project Green is spearheaded by Farah McDill. SCUSD is one of only two school districts in the country to be awarded a fully-funded Green Schools Fellow by the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council.

Schools participating in Project Green are:

A.M. Winn Elementary
 Crocker/Riverside Elementary
 H.W. Harkness Elementary
 Isador Cohen Elementary
 Sutterville Elementary
 Washington Elementary (on behalf of Sutter Middle School)
 Fern Bacon Middle School
 American Legion High School
 Health Professions High School
 School of Engineering and Sciences
 Luther Burbank High School
 C.K. McClatchy High School
 McClaskey Adult Education Center

SCUSD Honored at UC Davis C-STEM Conference

UC Davis' School of Engineering celebrated and rewarded efforts in C-STEM (computing, science, technology, engineering and math) education at its fourth annual Conference on Integrated Computing and STEM Education on May 18. Peter Milam, an eighth grader at SCUSD's School of Engineering and Sciences (SES), was honored as C-STEM Student of the Year. C-STEM Teacher of the Year awards were given to Dylan Besk and Ryan Mangan from SES, Mafe Aguilar from California Middle School and Clayton Dagler from Luther Burbank

High School. SES Principal Matthew Turkie accepted an award recognizing the School of Engineering and Sciences as the C-STEM School of the Year.

Superintendent Raymond addressed participants and made note of many of the STEM related accomplishments made by SCUSD schools, teachers and students. The long list included: Award-winning elementary and middle school FIRST Lego teams; high school FIRST Robotics teams making it into the semi-final rounds at regional tournaments; eighth grade teams from the School of Engineering and Sciences that took first and second place at the 2013 UCD C-STEM competition; and an award for technical design for a solar powered boat used in the SMUD Solar Regatta.

Operations

The Met Sacramento's Green Renovation Profiled in Magazine

The Met Sacramento High School's green renovation was profiled in a recent issue of the Coalition for Adequate School Housing's newsletter:

<http://www.cashnet.org/members/CASHRegister/2013/April/April13Final.pdf>.

SCUSD Beneficiary of 'Let's Move Salad Bars'

Nutrition Services Director Brenda Padilla attended a "Let's Move Salad Bars to California Schools" Celebration Press Conference in San Diego May 14-16. (A short video recap can be found at <https://vimeo.com/66348480>). Padilla spoke to a policy council of United Fresh Produce Association about SCUSD's produce purchases and involvement with Sacramento's blossoming farm-to-school movement.

In all, United Fresh Produce Association has donated 436 salad bars to more than 70 California school districts, of which SCUSD has received 34. The district is slated to receive another six and Padilla continues to request more to replace all salad bars with new ones.

Community Engagement

Parents Honored for Engagement Work

The Family and Community Engagement Office honored parents and staff who were instrumental in the design and implementation of seven new Parent Resource Centers and two new Parent Information Centers at an event on May 13.

Forty-seven honorees from Albert Einstein Middle School, Caleb Greenwood Elementary School, C.K. McClatchy High School, C.P. Huntington Elementary School, Hollywood Park Elementary School, Hubert Bancroft Elementary School, Isador Cohen Elementary School

and West Campus joined SCUSD staff and community-based partners in a celebration lunch sponsored by SMUD and Schools Financial Credit Union at the Serna Center.

Cynthia Gabriel from SMUD and Holly Brown from Schools Financial Credit Union were also recognized for their continued sponsorship of the SCUSD monthly Parent Information Exchange luncheons.

A highlight of the event was a special presentation honoring Lori Tullgren from Harkness Elementary as the 2012-13 Parent Resource Center Leader of the Year. This is the first year that this award has been presented. Ms. Tullgren has served students and families in the District since 1977.

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.

Progress includes:

- Blending activities occurred at several of the sites this week and will continue through next week.
- Principals have been provided guidance with moving and packing procedures.
- A draft moving and cleaning schedule has been developed based upon the needs of each of the receiving sites. Moves will begin June 17 and continue through the month of August. Time has been built into the plan to accommodate minor delays.
- A draft transportation plan for students currently attending Joseph Bonnheim, C.P. Huntington, Fruit Ridge, Maple and Washington is in development that includes neighborhood stops. The final plan will be communicated to parents prior to June 13.

Site Transition Team Meetings:

May 28	Mark Hopkins @ Rosa Parks	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
June 3	CB Wire @ Pacific	3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
	CP Huntington @ Harkness	5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.