



# Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

May 3, 2013

## Teaching and Learning

### *Mathematics Common Core Parent Workshop*

On Tuesday, SCUSD hosted its final session of the first round of Mathematics Common Core parent/guardian workshop series for this school year. The session was attended by several parents and community members from schools across the district.

The workshop series introduced parents to the three major components of the Mathematics Common Core State Standards. This last session focused on orienting parents on the next generation assessments. Parents received an introduction to the standards and new assessment items by practicing a sample performance task. This experience afforded parents the opportunity to engage with the type of math questions their children will encounter as the district continues with its implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Participants received and shared strategies for supporting children at home that will further assist them in meeting the expectations of the Common Core State Standards. The workshop series will be offered again during the 2013-14 school year in our three geographical regions.

### *SCUSD, Sac State and Sac City College Launch 'Sacramento Pathways'*

SCUSD, Sacramento State and Sacramento City College formally joined forces on Tuesday to launch "Sacramento Pathways to Success" a partnership aimed at giving students and families a clearer, simpler roadmap to college and career success. The partnership, announced before students and area dignitaries at John F. Kennedy High School, will help Sacramento students more easily transition to and succeed in college or gain a career technical education that will allow them to pursue employment and enter the workforce.

After remarks, Sacramento State President Alex Gonzalez, Sacramento City College President Kathryn Jeffery and SCUSD Superintendent Jonathan Raymond signed a memorandum of understanding committing to the initiative.

The new partnership has three main goals: Boost the graduation rates of students at all institutions; improve retention and persistence rates; and support and improve college and career readiness programs. Initial groundwork was supported by a grant from the Sierra

Health Foundation. The impetus for the plan began in 2010, when leaders from SCUSD, Los Rios Community College District and Sacramento State visited Long Beach to learn more about the "Long Beach College Promise" – a program launched in 2008 in which parents and students signed a pledge to stay on track for college and to take the courses required for college admission. Sacramento Pathways to Success partnership is based on that model. Research shows that the Long Beach Promise has had a tremendous effect on that community. For example, the number of Long Beach Unified School District graduates completing college-level English at Long Beach City College increased by 500 percent in just one year. The number of Long Beach Unified students completing college-level math jumped by 200 percent over the same period. The number of Long Beach Unified graduates in the freshmen class at CSU Long Beach has increased 43 percent.

### *The Linked Learning Alliance Spring 2013 Convening*

As an AB790 Linked Learning Pilot District, SCUSD was invited to participate in the statewide Linked Learning Alliance Spring Convening held last Friday. The event provided an opportunity for SCUSD staff to learn about the latest research and promising practices, to share best practices and to learn from practitioners in the field.

During this convening, SCUSD showcased our Linked Learning pathways and shared best practices with colleagues from across the state. During pre-convening site visits, participants learned about Work Based Learning (WBL) opportunities for students in the Law and Public Policy Academy at C.K. McClatchy High School. Staff and students at Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School shared the results of their efforts to create a seamless pathway from high school to the Allied Health Program at Sacramento City College. In addition, students from The Met Sacramento gave outstanding testimonials about their intern experiences.

In the session "Out of School/In the Workplace," SCUSD Youth Development Support Services staff provided insight on using out-of-school time to give students work-based learning opportunities. The finale of the convening was an activity facilitated by Linked Learning Alliance Director Christopher Cabaldon, in which students and staff from Health Professions described their high school experience and how the linked curriculum was so relevant to their chosen field.

## Operations

### *Data Dashboard*

On Wednesday, the Data Dashboard Stakeholders Group met to discuss and review the latest series of interactive tables that will be available to the public in August. These tables include information on attendance, STAR testing, CAHSEE results, graduation rates, UC/CSU readiness, among other metrics. The group will meet again next month to discuss and

review other tables and fine-tune the Dashboard before it goes live on the district's website.

## Community Engagement

### *Parent Empowerment Conferences*

The Office of Family and Community Engagement in partnership with The Roberts Family Development Center hosted three Parent Empowerment Conferences on Tuesday (at Fruit Ridge), Wednesday (Phoenix Park Community Center) and Thursday (at Maple). All three conferences attracted standing-room only crowds. Families gathered to enjoy a spaghetti dinner and to learn about how to get their students on the right track to be career and college ready.

Parents heard from motivational speaker Dr. Darlene V. Willis, co-founder of San Diego-based Concerned Parents Alliance, and were treated to student performances by the Fruit Ridge Youth Symphony, the Phoenix Park Community Center Hmong dancers and the Maple Elementary Zumba dancers. Each night, parents left feeling inspired and having a clear path on what they need to do to empower their families and communities.

### *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.

This week, representatives with Human Resources met with the teaching staffs at C.P. Huntington and Fruit Ridge to explain placement options for next fall. Teachers expressed appreciation for the one-on-one attention from Human Resources personnel. Meetings are scheduled for next week at C.B. Wire, Washington, Maple and Mark Hopkins.

Transition staff will support school sites with confirmation campaigns until it can be confirmed all schools have reached 100 percent parent/guardian contact. In addition, Site Transition Team meetings are continuing:

May 7	Washington @ Washington	3:30 p.m.
May 8	Maple @ Ethel Phillips	2:30 p.m.
May 9	Fruit Ridge @ Fr. Keith B. Kenny	3:45 p.m.
May 13	C.P. Huntington @ Hollywood Park	5:00 p.m.
May 14	Mark Hopkins @ Rosa Parks	2:30 p.m.