



Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

May 31, 2013

Teaching and Learning

Rosemont, JFK Receive Maximum WASC Accreditation

Rosemont and John F. Kennedy high schools have both received six-year accreditations from the Western Association of Schools and College (WASC). A six-year accreditation is the maximum that WASC issues, and reflects the Accrediting Commission for School's confidence in the high-quality of instruction offered at both schools. The accreditation comes with a standard mid-cycle review.

In addition, WASC reaffirmed its six-year accreditation of Health Professions High School after a mid-cycle visit to that campus. Health Professions accreditation is now affirmed through June 2015.

Congratulations!

SES Receives Linked Learning Certification

The School of Engineering and Sciences was notified via letter on Tuesday that it is now officially Linked Learning certified. This certification follows a two-day visit to the campus in March by a team of reviewers from ConnectEd (California Center for College and Career). During the visit, the reviewers engaged in focus conversations with staff, students and community partners and visited classrooms to get a comprehensive understanding of the school and its rigorous program of study offered to students. Prior to their visit, the reviewers studied evidence the SES staff uploaded into the ConnectEd Studios Digital Certification System.

The certification letter, along with a thorough report from ConnectEd, details many commendations and one exemplary practice: Leadership. Achieving an exemplary practice in leadership means that the review team rated "support from site leadership" and "pathway leadership" as exceeding criteria on the Linked Learning Certification Rubric, which consists of a total of 40 criteria. This accomplishment is a clear recognition of the high quality program that the SES's talented, dedicated and skilled community of practice has developed and implemented with passion and commitment to student success. A big congratulations to SES for being Linked Learning certified with exemplary practice in Leadership! SCUSD now has four certified Linked Learning Pathways: School of Engineering

and Sciences, Health Professions High School, New Tech High School and Johnson Corporate Business Academy at Hiram Johnson High School.

Apple's Professional Development Executive Visits Rosa Parks and Cal

California and Rosa Parks middle schools are engaged in the Proof of Concept project, the focus of which is the thoughtful integration of Apple technology into teaching and learning in 12 classrooms on each campus. Apple Professional Development Executive Dr. Katie Van Sluys and the Coordinator of Instructional Technology for the Academic Office spent a half day at Rosa Parks Middle School with the English Language Arts teachers planning Common Core-aligned units of study for next year. In the narrative unit, students will create a short podcast to define the setting for "To Kill a Mocking Bird." In addition, small groups of students will use Edmodo (a safe social network) to discuss and define "justice" and use iMovie on the iPad to create video content about social justice for their culminating task. Dr. Van Sluys shared ideas for integrating technology in the process and the product of each unit while keeping in mind academic rigor throughout the project.

The second half of the day was spent visiting Proof of Concept classrooms in action at California Middle School. In geometry, students were creating an iMovie on MacBooks to explain mathematics concepts of design in the real world. They also annotated images and video of architecture to highlight the concepts while explaining the geometric principles. In science, students were using iPads to create video content that demonstrated their learning around scientific concepts that were taught throughout the year. In English Language Arts, students were engaged in a challenge-based learning project regarding issues at California Middle School, examining such topics as safety on campus, food in the cafeteria and Regional Transit (light rail) safety.

These students used iPads and Edmodo in small groups to create questions for the interview phase of the challenge and some students were planning the interviews that they would conduct in the data-finding phase of this project.

Carver Showcase Civic Learning at Event

George Washington Carver School of Arts & Science celebrated winning a statewide Civic Learning Award on Wednesday with a showcase event. Carver is one of only 22 high schools in California to be honored for its civic learning programs. The Civic Learning Awards are co-sponsored by California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. Winners were selected by a panel of experts based on the depth and breadth of their civic learning courses, clubs and/or programs.

Carver received its Award of Merit from Superior Court Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie, who presides over Sacramento's Juvenile Court. Carver was recognized for three distinctive projects that further the learning of civics:

- The Poverty Project, a unit within the 12th grade economics curriculum that requires students to volunteer with an organization that helps people in poverty. Students are also required to interview someone affected by poverty and “give voice” to their story. Students then reflect on their service through artwork and writing.
- The ReThinking Technology Club. Students worked to convert the engine of a standard Porsche 914 sports car into an electric engine. Members of the club bring the car to elementary and middle school STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) events and provide information for younger students on alternative energy sources.
- Student Government Constitution. Students participate in elections and practice democracy by discussing important issues and creating initiatives to address those issues. Students also hold “actions days” on campus to urge others to become involved in the school community.

Achievement Gap Coalition

SCUSD’s Achievement Gap Coalition met for the final time this school year on Tuesday. The broad-based coalition of stakeholders includes community-based partners, Sacramento City Teachers Association, teachers, school leaders and district office staff. Subcommittees of the large group will continue to meet and work over the summer. The large coalition will resume meeting in September.

Operations

Scheduling Event for Civic Permit Users

Operations Support Services staff held their Annual Scheduling Event for Civic Permit users on Wednesday evening. This event is to provide priority scheduling for Youth Sports Program providers serving youth football and youth soccer.

The event was held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Hiram Johnson High School’s cafeteria. Each high school and middle school was represented and, where available, provided a representative to answer questions about their facility.

Schools loaded their anticipated schedule for the year allowing program providers to review availability at each school site and select from available dates and times that best meet their event schedule.

Staff reviewed the recently adopted Board Policy that included new fee schedules, custodial coverage, porta-potty use, insurance requirements and indemnification requirements. Providers with delinquent accounts were notified that they must bring their account current before scheduling any new events.

Community Engagement

Hiram Johnson Health Center Expands Services

The Hiram Johnson High School Health Center will begin providing expanded services on Wednesday, June 5. The health center is a partnership between SCUSD and WellSpace Health (formerly known as The Effort), and will provide primary and confidential care services to Hiram Johnson students. The health center will be staffed by a nurse practitioner, a medical assistant and a SCUSD credentialed school nurse. The health center will also have limited summer hours to provide sports physicals and immunizations. The partnership also received a facilities grant through the Affordable Care Act, which will allow for renovation of one of the portable buildings on campus to house a full service health center that may serve the greater community. Construction begins this summer.

School Transition Work Continues

SCUSD's Transportation Department has finalized neighborhood routes and stops for families currently enrolled in the following closing schools: Fruit Ridge, C.P. Huntington, Maple, Joseph Bonnheim and Washington. Next week, transportation staff will speak with all office managers of affected sites, both closing and receiving, to review the information to be distributed to parents prior to the close of school. ConnectED messages will be going out to all parents. Parents will be provided color-coded routes and stops that coincide with colored-coded maps of the bus service areas. If a student lives within a particular color-coded section, the student will be able to access the corresponding stops located within that section. Transportation will also be providing a FAQ sheet, and other pertinent information related to ridership. All of these documents will be published in all threshold languages. In addition, a website link is currently being developed so that families will have online access to all information. All routes and stops have been reviewed and certified. Kindergarten, Special Education, NCLB and concapping routes will be added once all student information is available this summer.

All sites now have a coordinated moving and deep cleaning schedule to assist with the transition process. Moves will begin June 17 and will continue through the end of July. There may be some unanticipated challenges, but the schedule was built with a degree of flexibility.

Site Transition Team Meetings:

Most of the Site Transition Team meetings are winding down with blending and legacy activities occurring in the last few weeks of school. However, the following are scheduled:

Monday, June 3	CB Wire at Pacific	3:15pm – 4:15pm
	CP Huntington at Harkness	5:00pm – 6:30pm

Community Partners' Transition Committee

Wednesday, June 12 Parent and Family Resource Center 11:30am – 1:00pm

ISS/Health Services Interns Update

As the school year comes to a close, Integrated Support Services and Health Services Departments are proud to have supervised more than 110 interns from CSU Sacramento and the Charles A. Jones Skills Center during the last 10 months.

Through our collaborative partnerships, interns in the area of social work, counseling, Licensed Vocational Nursing, public health nursing and mentoring have allowed the two departments to extend and leverage multiple health, educational and social-emotional services and supports to hundreds, if not thousands, of students at almost every school in the district. This important partnership has a tremendous impact on the health and well-being of our students.