

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING October 4, 2022

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Antonio Castro, Superintendent "2022-2023 Culture of Connectedness"

- What do we want to accomplish this year?
- What might we need to feel impactful?
- PROMPT: Share what you learned about someone or something during our previous meeting.

Ventura Education Partnership (VEP)

Debbie Golden, Co-President of VEP

- Fall Grants
 - There were 40 grant applications, 3 of which were disqualified because a school was identified in the application. Grant readers are currently review each qualified grant. Announcements on who will be rewarded will be made on October 14th.
 - More grants were anticipated. However, with the low number of applicants (40 instead of 100+), more funds remain available. The VEP Board will discuss other ways to distribute money besides via grant applications. Check the VEP website for updates regarding available funding.
 - A suggestion made to have a grant writing committee provided by PTA/PTO to assist teachers with writing of both general and specific grants from this point forward.

Communications Update

Ms. Marianne Quiroz, Communications Coordinator

- School Information Night
 - Information regarding VUSD Information Night is being sent out via ParentSquare tonight.
 - This event will be held on Thursday, November 3rd from 5:30-8:00 pm at Buena High School. School will be advertising for School of Choice in the auditorium, and district services can be found in the cafeteria. Transportation will be available leaving from Citrus Glen ES and DATA MS. Pizza Man Dan and Mister Softee trucks will be there – VUSD is working on securing one more food truck. Families are encouraged to bring blankets and dine picnic-style. However, **childcare will not be provided.**
 - The School of Choice application window will be open from November 4th – December 2nd. Announcements of placement will be in January. If your child does not make it into their choice school, families can also apply via inter/intra district transfer.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Antonio Castro, Superintendent

- 2022-2023 Norms and Agreements: The following were suggested by Dr. Castro to follow when meeting. Norms and agreements in italics were suggested by the PAC members in attendance.
 - Keep kids *and teachers, staff, and families* at the center
 - Treat all prompts as catalysts, not constraints
 - Maintain an inquiry mindset – *probe before making conclusions*
 - Step up/step back (create space for all participants)
 - Honor confidentiality demonstrate mutual respect
 - Accept and expect non-closure
 - *Assuming best intent/solution-focused*
- School Campus Access
 - The School Board approved expenditures for fencing for all schools in June 2022. However, since materials and personnel availability is a challenge, completion of fencing will happen school by school. This will affect access to campuses on evenings and weekends. These access changes are already starting at the elementary campuses due to programs based on ELOP (see below). Fencing needs vary due to each campus's location and when they were built.
 - PAC was asked what does "hardening" of campus safety look like? Suggestions included:
 - Visibility/fence screens
 - Funding from facility rental to offset the cost of security upgrades

- Open larger campuses with separate fencing between fields and classrooms W
- Determine who are we trying to keep out and why
- Who is willing to partner with VUSD for cost-sharing
- What type of fencing will provide the most safety
- Meeting at VACE (invitation only) to discuss on October 10, 5:30-7:00 pm.
- Negotiations
 - VUSD will share an objective update in tonight's newsletter via ParentSquare.
 - VUSD will be addressing with VUEA (Teachers Association) what is permissible and what is not on school buildings/district property.
 - VUSD will also educate VUEA members of what is contractual and what is outside the scope of work. The goal is to make sure staff members are being treated with the best intentions and working what is required within their contract. Adjunct duties are limited and bound by time but are built into the contract.
 - The VUSD Human Resources webpage has notes from last 2 negotiations meetings. VUSD and VUEA will go back to table later this week. VUSD will be sharing more information with families on what is happening with negotiations as it appears things will be escalating.

Educational Services Update

Dr. Greg Bayless, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Grades 6-12

- Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) – Dr. Lorelle Dawes, Director of Expanded Learning
 - ELOP provides learning outside of the regular school day (breaks, before and after school).
 - Historical context:
 - 2002: Program Enrichment for After-school Kids (**PEAK**) – K-5th grade
 - 2011: After School Education and Safety (**ASES**) – K-6th grade
 - 2014: 21st Century After School Safety & Enrichment for Teens (**ASSETS**) – 9th-12th grade
 - 2022: Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (**ELOP**) – TK-6th grade
 - ELOP is courtesy of money distributed to all California districts in 2022.
 - All programs listed above are under the “Expanded Learning Umbrella.”
 - VUSD must “offer access” to free Expanded Learning for all Unduplicated Pupils (students who are homeless, foster, eligible for free or reduced price meals, and English learners). There are approximately 4,000 UPs in grades TK-6th grade. Access must be offered for 9 hours/day during all 180 school days, plus an additional 30 days for 9 hours/day.
 - Expanded Learning must provide engaging activities in academics/literacy, recreation/physical activities, and enrichment (fine arts, STEM, CTE, or prevention activities)
 - The purpose of Expanded Learning is to support academic achievement of unduplicated pupils, decrease the performance gap, shrink opportunity gaps, and support families in VUSD.
 - Currently, Expanded Learning sites are based at: ATLAS (TK-6), Portola ES, Montalvo ES,, Lincoln ES, Will Rogers ES, Sheridan Way ES, E.P. Foster ES, Oak View Park & Resource Center (for Sunset K-8), Westpark Community Center (for Elmhurst, Will Rogers, & Sheridan Way), DATA MS, Ventura HS ASSETS, and Pacific HS ASSETS.
 - Initial feedback supports that these programs result in happy children and families, and that 92% of summer session parents said they would probably enroll next summer.
 - By this time next year, Expanded Learning will:
 - have quality programs at all 17 elementary and TK-8 schools,
 - serve the four large middle schools,
 - will continue at VHS and Pacific HS,
 - provide engaging camps and activities during intersessions,
 - have many more partnerships,
 - reduce opportunity gaps and achievement gaps, and
 - be making a difference in the lives of thousands of kids and families in Ventura.
- Special Education Programs – Mr. Neil Virani, Executive Director of Special Education
 - How practices in special education are evolving:
 - Inclusive Preschool: for every 5 spots opened and filled by “inclusive learners, JumpStart will add another adult.

- Co-Teaching: 3 pilot programs at Buena HS and Ventura HS are providing more access for inclusive learners to regular curriculum.
- SPED Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA): A leadership role to provide support of SPED teachers/classrooms/instructional coaching. There is one TOSA for all 27 schools to provide support and professional development opportunities.
- Instruction: Inclusion, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): designed to look at how everyone learns best and have instruction and independent activities to support learning.