

PLCS Minutes November 3, 2008

Cluster News

1. Dana Tech Night
Barbara Forester invited all cluster schools.
It was very successful. About 80 people came.
2. Everyone a Reader Training
Loma Portal hosting training on November 7 from 9:15-12:15
Everyone is welcome
3. Correia hosting a holiday bazaar on Thursday Nov 6, 3-6pm Everyone welcome
4. Sunset View hosting a craft bazaar on Friday, Nov 7. Everyone welcome

TB Tests Days

1. Free TB test for cluster volunteers. No reservation needed
Wednesday, November 12, 2008 (testing)
Friday, November 14, 2008 (reading test results)
7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (both days)
Dana Middle School - Room 200 1775 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego 92107

Cabrillo K-2 GATE Nurturing Program Nestor Suarez

K-2 GATE Nurturing Program will be a draw for Cabrillo and help to get enrollment up
GATE, Magnet and Mitzy Moreno (CIO) sat in on discussion

Program includes:

1. Professional development for all K-2 teachers—GATE training for all, differentiated instruction
2. Student identification
3. Social emotional student needs
4. Parent involvement
5. Program Assessment

Suspect that more students will test into GATE later on.

Committee Reports

Finance Teresa Drew

1. Received the official non-profit status letter
2. Establishing banking preferences now
3. Meeting for finance and marketing for December 1 @ 5:00 at OB Elementary in Library

Learning Communities Christy Scadden

1. PTA leaders have already met and collaborated once this year. More meetings TBA.
2. GATE meeting Dec. 8
3. English Language Learner Outreach team is being created. ELAC team from Dana and Correia meeting: continue to reach out to both outside and inside our communities
4. Special Education—has met twice this school year. Collaborative/solution based approach for cluster. Will continue staff and parent trainings this year to fill in new people. Maintaining DIS providers around our cluster longer

Looking at grants

December Meeting: December 3rd to discuss kids with IEPs and college

Learning Environment

Marvin Estrin

1. Academics

A. Priority / Task 1.5 of the Pt. Loma Cluster Schools Foundation Strategic Plan: PLCS graduates will be knowledgeable about behavior, basic finances (balancing a checkbook and use of credit cards), and health issues (nutrition, exercise, and personal hygiene)

B. Pt. Loma High School:

To educate students about money management, 12th Graders at Pt. Loma High School have been taking a mini-course called "Personal Financial Literacy, the Game of Life" as part of the Economics class for the past several years. This curriculum was compiled by a team of teachers, bankers and even a bankruptcy judge. Beginning this year, the San Diego Unified School District will be the first large, urban district in California to require such a course.

C. Pt. Loma High School Annual College Night:

~40 universities from across the country participated in the annual college night program. Don Betterton, who has more than 30 years of experience helping students and families find the funds they need for college - and served as the Director of Financial Aid at Princeton University - spoke about the admissions process from the university's perspective, and provided valuable insights and tools on how students could determine if their qualifications were a good fit for the university.

D. Correia Middle School:

Correia students are serious about honoring the tenets of the school's REACH values -- Respect, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Citizenship, and Hard Work. At the end of the first reporting period, 64% of 8th graders and 56% of 6th graders achieved a 3.0 or better GPA for Academics & Citizenship --and 40% of 8th graders and 39% of 6th graders achieved a 3.5 or better GPA. These students were honored at an Awards Assembly held on October 31, 2008.

2. BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

A. **Correia Middle School:** For safety reasons, students are now wearing identification cards displayed on breakaway lanyards. Correia has multiple points of ingress and egress, which makes surveillance challenging. By law, the gates must remain unlocked during school hours. Students not wearing such identification would stand apart from their peers, and staff could more easily monitor the campus for safety. In the case of a natural disaster such as an earthquake, families of injured students wearing clearly visible ID cards are more likely to receive immediate notification.

3. TRAFFIC SAFETY

A. Dana Middle School: Kerri DeRosier, Monte Swann, Diane Ryan, and Marvin Estrin met with David Chiang from the City of San Diego Traffic Engineering Department, to observe the traffic safety issues around Dana Middle School and to initiate discussions on what safety improvements are viable.

B. Mr. Chiang has been working on ideas for this project and is meeting with his supervisor to discuss the next steps. Some of the issues may need community planning group approval. We hope to meet with Mr. Chiang again next week.

ICT

Matt Spathas

1. Prop S Bond Measure: Ed for Children

A. At bottom of the ballot

B. Go to edforchildren.com to see exactly what will happen at each school.

C. One of most transparent bonds ever.

D. Core value of bond is that all schools will be relatively common standards.

E. 21st Century readiness is incorporated into bond.

F. This does not raise taxes it is a continuation of the Prop MM taxes. Your taxes will remain the same.

G. District will web enable the process so everyone can see exactly what is being done and where they are on the improvements

H. Payout schedule: 200 million a year for 10 years.

Payoff: Bond will be paid off in 2044

2. Darryl LeGates is new CITO (Chief Information Technology Officer) for district. Real push for better communication between different parts of the district

3. 21st Century Classrooms that were launched at Dana and Correia.

A. Computers will arrive in January.

B. Toured Dana's classrooms (Cathy Garcia's Class). Students engaged. Kids are skipping pieces if they know the information and teachers are getting real time diagnostics on how kids are doing. If student flunks a quiz 3 times in a row it gets locked and teacher must go help. Mentorship and leadership skills being fostered between students. Teachers are finding they are saving time at night on prep/correction.

4. APEX Learning is doing a credit recovery program for PLHS to help students make up credits and increase graduation rates.

5. Virtual High School will launch Nov. 10th. Linda Taggart is the new principal of the high school.

A. This school will allow students to go to school completely on line but with human support if needed.

6. Tutor.com is an online tutoring curriculum. They may extend hours to tutor students during school hours.

7. Add to Agenda: new person to speak on educational transformation. District is willing to pay half for the speaker.

Marketing Vicki Moats

1. Graphic Designer working on brochure

2. PO Box obtained

3. Meeting of eblasters/webmasters will be announced soon.

Betty Carlos for Cabrillo to eblast/webmaster (teacher)

4. Scheduling meeting on community clubs (Optimists, Rotary club etc)

District News Carol Barry

1. 4 SIOs that Carol oversees

Carol Barry will be attending these meeting to report back to SIOs

Board Elections Teresa Drew

1. Polly to email slate of potential members to current board.

2. Please respond yes/no to new/re-elected members

3. Responsibility of board of directors is to be a communication liaison between your specific school and the PLCS

**No meeting in December due to holiday
Next meeting is January 5 at 6:30pm in the Dana Library**

5.