



# PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

### AGENDA & MINUTES

Welcome

Dr. Alex Cherniss

Superintendent's Updates

Dr. Alex Cherniss

- We are proud that many of our schools were recognized for their academic excellence, when comparing our test scores to neighboring districts we saw that we outperformed them. Particularly in mathematics, which was an area of emphasis last year. We are expanding to English this year as well and will continue to focus our efforts on having more students at grade level through instruction and intervention.
- Our next meeting will be the LCAP input session, which is our playbook for getting more kids at grade level. We will share more information on that at that time.
- We are seeing huge interest in our district so enrollment is up this year and we think a lot of that is due to our emphasis on early education. We will have six fee based preschools by the end of this year as compared to one at the start of last year.
- We are funded on attendance and we really encourage parents to help get their kids to school. We are thinking of ways to incentivize better attendance.

Educational Services Updates

Dr. Olivia Young & Dr. Liz Leon

- [CA School Dashboard](#)
  - Dr. Young shared the CA dashboard district data. She explained that there will be more details shared with the LCAP meeting next month. The area that we don't show as much progress is with our students who are English Language learners. Our work with our EL students will be our continued focus. However, we were able to reclassify a significant number of students last year.
- [TK-8 Dual Language Academy](#)
  - Dr. Leon shared information about the program at Glenview Elementary and the details of how this program is designed. Research shows that students who learn 2 languages do better in school. She also shared the benefits of this program that are lifelong for the students in this program. Dr. Young shared that at each of our High Schools students can continue with their dual language instruction through the AP Spanish level and earn a Seal of Biliteracy.
  - A follow up question was asked if the DLA program is open to all students - *It was shared that the dual language program is open to all students. Students are not required to already speak Spanish in the home setting. Our ideal enrollment is 50% english only speakers and 50% native spanish speakers.*
- [25-26 School Calendar](#)

- The next school year calendar was shared, as requested by the advisory committee in the last meeting. This calendar is posted on the district website as well.

#### Student Support Services Updates

Renee Gray, Gwen Redira, &  
Dr. Baldwin Pedraza

- [Innovative & Inclusive Service Delivery](#)
  - The goal is to increase access and determine student's individual needs. Data shows students are spending more time in the general education setting. Models for elementary and secondary were shared. Monthly meetings are held with school site leaders to monitor students progress and adjust as needed to improve our inclusive opportunities.
- [Building Student Resilience in the Classroom](#)
  - Teachers will be trained with the tools to support resilience to create a safe and supportive school climate. The rationale was shared about the benefits of resiliency that includes academic success, emotional well-being, lifelong skills and a positive classroom culture. The role of the teacher to build resilience was shared.

#### Site Updates

- Debbie Kojima, Principal, Sierra Vista
  - Sierra Vista is very proud of their PBIS program and the rewards that students are earning as they are rewarded for their great behavior and attendance efforts.
  - The PTA has been very supportive and Ms. Kojima shared ways in which they have supported the students. This includes programs for visiting readers to some of their classrooms.
  - Mentorship connections between upper and primary grade students
- Dr. Christa Borgese, Principal, Tynes
  - Tynes is a unique school with multiple programs: TK-6, Title 1, SDC classes, and GATE magnet.
  - The school theme is "Ready, Set, Go!" aligned with the district goal to meet the needs of all students.
  - Upcoming events include a canned food drive and spirit days as well as the talent show sponsored by PTA
  - Students participating in encouraging videos they have created to highlight school connectedness.
- Stephanie Given, Principal, Lakeview
  - Lakeview has seen increasing enrollment, tipping over 400 students this year. Their TK numbers have also increased from 16 last year to 42 this year!
  - They just wrapped up their Jog-A-Thon fundraiser and they raised a significant amount this year. They had 82% of their families involved in this effort this year.
  - Their focus this year at Lakeview is to focus on the rigor of instruction. They have been training and retraining teachers in GATE strategies in order to provide the best instruction to all students.
  - They have also been focusing on their attendance. They have increased from the "red zone" to the "green zone" for attendance. Ms. Given shared that she has just announced this to the students as a huge accomplishment to be proud of.

- Kristin McDonald, Principal, Golden
  - The theme this year is “We are Golden”, very proud of their academic achievement, with 91% meeting or exceeding standards and they strive to meet every student’s needs
  - TK-6 grades with a moderate to severe SDC program, GATE magnet school, AVID school
  - Staff is working hard to continue with high quality collaborative instruction and they hope to reach 92% next year. They review their data and provide intervention to the students who need more. Their site goal is to support each student in making one year's growth each year.
  - They also focus on inclusive opportunities for the students at Golden who have more intensive needs. She shared how the K and 1st grade students are included and have access to the same activities with their peers.
  - The PTA has been so supportive and the community has been very generous in their support of programs at Golden.
  - They have structured games and activities at Golden during recess and lunch recess to make sure students are engaged and participating during breaks.
  - They have a former Golden student who is now in college who has reached out to develop a research and debate club at Golden.
- Viri Fraga, Principal, Glenview
  - The intervention program was expanded this year to include DLA students with 71 students receiving Spanish development support, in addition to ELA and math
  - Glenview added two new DLA TK classes this year
  - There is a room parent committee with leads in all grade levels.
  - Esperanza teacher pathway students work to support recess with social skills and providing small group support in classes
  - Glenview hosted a schoolwide Dia de los Muertos this year and each grade level created an altar, in which room parents, teachers, and students participated. These altars were showcased at trunk or treat the following day.

#### Comments and Questions from the Floor

- A question was raised about the opening dates of the new preschools. - *It was shared that we have experienced manufacturer and construction delays but that Glenview is tentatively slated to open at the end of January and that Morse and Tynes are slated to tentatively open at the end of February.*
- A comment was made about how it is a joy to hear the excitement and passion from the principals across the district and the amazing things happening in collaboration with the community. Thank you to the principals in attendance for all you do at your schools.
- A question was raised about the Saturday School program and if the district was bringing it back. - *It was shared by Mrs. Mc Donald that Golden is launching their first STEM Saturday event coming up and they are hoping to recover attendance through this event. Student Services shared that all high schools were encouraged to offer Saturday attendance recovery programs this year.*

- A question was raised about a shortage of teachers signing up for tutoring, specifically in area 2. - *Dr. Cherniss clarified that the shortage of tutors is at Lot 318, which is a community nonprofit organization. Our teachers are tutoring at our schools after school and are invited to tutor at Lot 318 in the La Jolla community as well. We will continue to advertise this opportunity to our teachers. Parents are also able to volunteer at [www.lot318.com](http://www.lot318.com)*
- A question was shared about the specific ways teachers can help support and build resilience. A parent shared ideas about words of affirmation. - *Dr. Pedraza shared additional ideas as well.*
- A question was raised about the EL reclassification rate being at 25% and what we attribute the increased success to. - *It was shared that in lieu of more dedicated testing windows, this past year testing was provided year round so that students who were ready to test were provided the opportunity to do so. Additionally, our dedicated teachers provided quality instruction both during and after the school day to our students to support their academic achievement.*
- A question was raised about the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program offerings at other schools. *Dr. Borgese shared she knew it was being offered at Travis Ranch and Fairmont. We can invite the principals to attend and share more. A request was made for a handout on the program: <https://dadsofgreatstudents.com/>.*

Adjournment

Next Meeting

February 18, 2025 - LCAP Input Session