



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

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Welcome & Norms

Dr. Alex Cherniss

- Participants were reminded to mute themselves and ask questions as well as contribute to discussions in the chat
- To request future agenda items, please email Annette Newton at anewton@pylud.org
- Participants serve as a voice for parents and can bring questions from and disseminate information to the community.

Superintendent's Updates

Dr. Alex Cherniss

- Unbelievable start to the school year, declining enrollment has led to reduced funding annually for the past 8 years and this year we are up 250-300 students.
- Initiatives and programs are bringing students to our district
 - Computer Science - OCSCS + All PYL Schools + VMSA Digital Media
 - Parkview Independent Study has expanded to include Universal Sports Institute (USI); 100+ students enrolled.
- Intramural Sports in middle school including hundreds of students. Volleyball scrimmages started today.

Ed Services Updates / [SLIDES](#)

Dr. Olivia Yaung & Mike Young

- Student Achievement Results
 - CA Dashboard will be live soon, but we are pleased with our preview of the data with growth in students meeting or exceeding grade level standards in Math by 2.5%; most notably our socioeconomically disadvantaged students improved 6.5% in math. Thank you to our amazing teachers and site leaders for their dedication to ensuring our students received quality instruction as well as intervention and support as needed
 - In English language arts, we showed approximately 0.6% growth, again with our socioeconomically disadvantaged students demonstrating remarkable growth with an increase of ~3.3% meeting or exceeding standards
- 24-25 Ed Services Focus: Differentiation, English learners, Community Engagement
 - Our instructional focus this year is on First, Best Instruction - this was the theme of our professional development through our summer institute and pre-service trainings where teachers learned how to design purposeful lessons and differentiated instruction.
 - We continue to focus on English Learners in both ELA/Math. English Learners reclassification rate was over 20%. Districtwide training was provided to all teachers on ELD Standards and the EL Roadmap as we continue to support our English Learners.
 - Community Engagement Initiative - We are participating in a statewide initiative to better engage our disengaged communities, with a specific focus on the Melrose/Valadez communities.
- Intervention Program
 - Intervention Program expansion for targeted academic support in ELA/Math.
 - Great attendance in our intervention programs held before and after school, students are encouraged to attend
- Middle School ELA Adoption

- Middle school teachers across the district are piloting StudySynch and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt curriculum this year, we will be collecting feedback from students and teachers on the new materials and will make a recommendation to the Board in the spring.
- Middle School Athletics
 - First volleyball scrimmages occurred today, next we will be hosting cross country, then we will bring flag football to our middle schoolers this year and are excited for this new sport, this will be followed by wrestling, and culminating in track and field
- Arts and Music in Schools
 - All schools received Prop 28 funding as well as Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Block Grant funding beginning last year, our district VAPA coordinator has provided all site principals with their new allocations as well as any carryover from last year
 - Through this funding both performing arts and visual arts programs are being bolstered and there is less funding being asked of parents to donate for these programs
- [Women in Industry](#) - October 16th, 6pm at the Performing Arts Center
 - Please save the date for our 7th annual Empowered: Women in Industry event, all are invited to attend this inspirational event. Livestream will also be available.
- [High School Showcase](#) - VHS 11/7, EHS 11/13, YLHS 11/20, EDHS 12/4
 - We encourage all families to attend the upcoming high school showcase events to choose from our amazing programs that are offered at each of our high schools

Student Support Services Updates

Renee Gray

- Health & Wellness
 - Social-emotional support and wellness is a focus of the department
- Districtwide Behavior Training
 - Our professional development during the teacher summer institute was focused on “Supporting Student Behavior”; 2 hour training was provided for a large group of teachers.
 - Training teachers how behavior is a form of communication and how we can proactively work on skills with students to support their behavioral growth.

● Student Services / [SLIDES](#)

Dr. Baldwin Pedraza

- Improve District-wide attendance rates- Attendance improves when students are connecting to school. Looking at all the different ways we connect students and families to our schools.
- Working towards equitable and consistent discipline practices- A number of PYLUSD schools have been recognized as PBIS schools of distinction; Continuing our development of these systems/programs to support teaching and reinforcing school wide expectations.
- Aligning comprehensive school counseling services- Training and developing our school counseling programs to be more robust.
- Developing Family Resource Centers (FRC) and family engagement- Opening at Melrose Elementary to connect families with services from community based health, counseling, housing, and food organizations
- Developing capacity with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in collaboration with Ed Services

● Special Education / [SLIDES](#)

Gwen Redira

- Our goals include 1) expanding different service delivery options including co-taught programming, 2) training our staff, examining curriculum and intervention programs in high school to improve our graduation rate for special education identified students. 3) improving post graduation outcomes for students transitioning out of PYLUSD. 4) PODS - How to intentionally support dually identified students (Special Education & English Language Learners).
- Partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) supporting life after high school; all IEP students qualify for support and services (including college enrollment, educational materials,

etc.); liaisons work with our students 1x/week: How to apply for jobs/college, What services are available to them after graduation, How to interview, How to write a resume, Paid work experience, Local colleges / resource lists.

Human Resources Updates

Dr. Issaic Gates

- Employee Wellness - [2024-25 PYLUSD Benefits Guide](#)
 - Recognition of our benefits team who advocate for our staff and provide resources to support every member with health, wellness, & medical benefits.
- Employee Recruitment
 - During the summer, Human Resources worked closely with APLE & CSEA to advertise available positions. Led to hiring teachers, administrators, instructional assistants, etc.
 - Through negotiations HR and CSEA increased the rate of pay for instructional assistant which led to the recruitment and retention of staff.
 - Part-time positions were changed into full-time positions to recruitment and retention of other positions.
- Employee of the Year
 - The nomination process will start soon to identify our certificated, classified, and management employees of the year.

Site Updates

- Matt Callaway, Principal, Kraemer Middle School
 - Great start to the school year at Kraemer!
 - AVID Showcase is being hosted in two weeks for 50 visiting educators. Kraemer is a National Demonstration School. How the school will close the opportunity gap through WICOR. The showcase will include tours of classrooms, an overview of the Instruction, Leadership, Systems, and Culture.
 - Prop 28 is being leveraged to increase instrumental coaching and programming. In partnership with Morse, Tynes, and Ruby Drive they will host a musical performance in the VHS Auditorium this spring.
 - Club Rush at Kraemer during both lunches offered students an opportunity to learn how to get connected with extracurricular activities.
 - After school programming is connecting 200+ students to Intervention, Athletics, Arts, and Clubs.
- Sarah Barton, Principal, Tuffree Middle School
 - Students organized a cancer awareness day to support a recently diagnosed students. A strong symbol of the strong, supportive culture at the school.
 - New assistant principal Mrs. Chapman has initiated a new program "Thankful Thursday - Feel Good Friday". Postcards are handed out to students who write down an acknowledgement to teachers who receive them.
 - A focus on rigor led to 25% growth in honors programming at Tuffree.
 - SOAR Program has been a place where school wide lessons have been delivered on a range of topics. This year, it has grown to include service learning projects (10 to choose from).
- Dominique Polchow, Principal, [Buena Vista Virtual Academy and Parkview School](#)
 - Academic Focus - "Curriculum Connection" parent workshops designed around the feedback from parents. Topics last year included "Executive Functioning", Step Up to Writing, Cognitive Coaching. This year we are expanding to individual data conferences that lead to individual learning plans for students who may be at risk.
 - Parkview student highlight - Senior student stars in Peter Pan and travels across the country pursuing his passion for acting/singing.

- Prop 28 has been leveraged to provide art instruction for elementary arts instruction. PTA plans to host a spring musical TBD. Grant funding has brought the Lego “Spike” Robotics program to the school.
- Proud to offer the USI pathway as a part of Parkview School, students are really enjoying their time in the program. Thankful to Dr. Cherniss for bringing it to the district.

Questions from the Floor

- A question was raised about the changes at Bernardo Yorba and whether it was now a middle school or high school - *it was clarified that Bernardo Yorba is now home to the Orange County School of Computer Science and that it is a middle school serving students in grades 6-8, more details can be found at [their website](#)*
- A question was raised about the staffing changes at a number of schools - *it was clarified that we have promoted many new principals from within and that we have not had to layoff any teachers due to the increased enrollment while many other districts have*
- A question was raised about whether the district partners with OCDE for EL trainings like GLAD for secondary teachers - *it was confirmed that the district does partner with OCDE and that our Title 1 sites are being trained in GLAD this year with plans to expand beyond our Title 1 sites in the coming years*
- A question was asked about whether the district is discussing offering debate clubs at middle schools and high schools - *it was clarified that clubs are student initiated organizations at each campus. Many of our schools offer debate clubs and participate in competition leagues. I encourage students to reach out to their activities directors or principals if they are interested in starting a debate club at their site*
- A question was asked about high school counselors and whether they have been reduced and/or replaced - *it was clarified that we have the same number of high school counselors this year who are providing invaluable services. Participants were encouraged to reach out to Renee Gray at rgray@pylusd.org for specific information about counseling staff.*

Adjournment

- We will send a brief survey asking for feedback on tonight’s meeting and if you would like different topics covered in upcoming sessions.

Next Meeting

December 10, 2024