

West Contra Costa USD
L-M Solutions Team Meeting Joint Communication
April 18, 2017

Organizations Represented: United Teachers of Richmond, Public Employees Local One, School Supervisors Association, West Contra Costa Administrators Association, WCCUSD Board of Education, District Superintendent's office.

End of Year Celebration

The District will sponsor an end of year celebration honoring a classified employee, a teacher and a parent from each school and department selected by each site this event is scheduled for June 2nd and will be held at the Richmond Auditorium from 4:30 pm to 6:30 PM.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement—ICE

In December, the Board of Education passed Resolution No. 54-1617 in Support of Students who are Undocumented, Muslim or Persons of Color and their Families and Protocols for Immigration and Customs Enforcement Access to Schools. Procedures were written and issued to each school site on what to do if ICE came onto school property.

May 1, 2017 Day of Action

UTR reported that their members will join chapters of the California Teachers Association on May 1 for a day of action. Leaders from the United Educators of Richmond (UTR), the District and the West Contra Costa Administrators Association met to talk about strategies to minimize the loss of attendance on that day which results in loss of funding one of the recommendations was to have teach-ins at the school sites. The flyer is attached to this email. More information will be sent in the coming week.

Fiscal Impact of Charter Schools

UTR presented some information on the impact of charter schools on District finances and educational programs. Because of the ways laws are written, charter schools get funding based on Average Daily Attendance—ADA the same as District schools. However, they do not have to pay their share of the cost of District operations. In addition, the students who remain in District operated schools tend to be more expensive to educate such as students with special needs. As the number of students in charter schools grow, the cost per student in District operated schools increases. According to a study of the Los Angeles Unified School District, over time, the financial impact becomes unsustainable. The School Supervisors Association --SSA has been studying the impact of charter schools in the District for several years. SSA reported that WCCUSD loses approximately 2,200 students per year to charter schools. Students are not so much leaving the District schools for charter schools, as they are never enrolling in the first place. Siblings of students already enrolled in charter schools are following their siblings when they become school-aged. The superintendent reported that most of the student loss occurs at grade 7. Structural changes such as creating more K-8 schools is an option to stem the loss of students in grade 7. The superintendent emphasized that the growth of charter schools needs to be addressed in two ways. One is the economic impact on the District and the other is the quality of education offered by the district. The L-M Solutions Team came to consensus that a formal study of the economic impact of charter schools in the District is needed. Each bargaining unit pledged to contribute to the cost of the study. Because the quality of public schools is a community issue, solicitation of donations from the non-profit and private sector to help fund this study is recommended. The superintendent will share the discussion and recommendation of the L-M Solutions Team with the Board of Education.

Labor Management Compact

The adoption of a Labor-Management Compact will be considered at the May meeting. This document formally states our commitment to each other-- employee unions, management and the Board --to work together to create the optimal learning conditions for students and a healthy work environment for employees.