

West Contra Costa USD
L-M Solutions Team Meeting Joint Communication
April 14, 2016

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

WCCUSD Receives Prestigious State and National Awards

- Thirteen elementary schools from the West Contra Costa Unified School District are among 772 across the state to earn the California Gold Ribbon School Award.
- The West Contra Costa Unified School District received a Magna Award for the Richmond Fab Lab at Kennedy High School in the 22nd annual Magna Awards program sponsored by the National School Boards Associations. The Magna Awards recognize school districts and their leaders which take innovative steps to improve the lives of their students and their communities.

Master Plan Update

Master Plan slated for public meeting and final approval on April 26, 2016. The Master Plan includes a recommendation that there be NO SCHOOL CLOSINGS.

Employee Assistance Plan- EAP

Despite a concerted effort on the part of all of the District's bargaining units to encourage their members to use this free (to employees) service, there has been no significant increase in the number of employee who take advantage of this service. This is an insurance program paid for by the District so employees can get help on a variety of topics that range from elder care, counseling, legal aid and child care. This program is completely confidential. The only information reported to the District is data on numbers of employees who received service. This program costs the District about 60K per year. The L-M solutions team and the District are committed to the well-being of the employees of the District and will look for ways to increase usage. The program will be reevaluated in another year.

State CTA Recommends California offer a teaching certificate in Dance and Theater Arts

Jessica Kronenberg, Dance teacher at El Cerrito High School and president of the California Dance Teachers Association recently attended a meeting of the State California Teachers Association. She successfully advocated that the State CTA recommend to the State Department of Education that California offer a teaching certificate in Dance and Theater Arts.

Advocacy for Public Schools

A survey to determine public perception of the District in the community showed two main areas of concern: The quality of academics and fiscal stewardship. Given that the success of the District depends in part upon the support from our local community, the L-M Solutions Team has recommended that the District be more proactive in sharing positive news about the District. To that end, Dr. Harter and the District are disseminating a Monday Message, which highlights many of the positive things going on in the District and dispels some of the myths surrounding District finances.

Safety—Wireless Cameras at School Sites

At the request of the L-M Solutions Team, the District reported back on the possibility of installing security cameras at school sites.

- New schools are wired for the installation of security cameras
- Older schools are not wired for security cameras and retrofitting the electrical system at older schools is expensive.
- Rather than a stand-alone system, which is more expensive and difficult to maintain, the District is looking for a district-wide system solution.
- Budgeting for the installation and maintenance of security cameras will come out of the district's maintenance budget.

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