

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
December 14, 2018

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

December 18: DeAnza Area Band Festival, DeAnza Gym, 7:00 PM
December 18: DeJean Area Band Festival, DeJean MPR, 7:00 PM
December 19: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 4:00 PM
December 19: CBOC, FOC, 6:00 PM
December 19: Hercules High Band/Choir Winter Festival, HHS Gym, 7:00 PM
December 20: Kennedy Band Winter Concert, Kennedy Gym, 6:00 PM
December 20: Hercules High Orchestra Concert, HHS Gym, 7:00 PM
December 20: El Cerrito Winter Band Concert, ECS Theater, 7:30 PM
December 21: Minimum Day for All Schools
December 24 – January 4: Winter Recess
January 7: Classes Reconvene
January 8: Solutions Team, DeJean MS, 11:00 AM
January 9: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean MS. 6:00 PM
January 15: DLCAP, Kennedy Library, 6:30 PM
January 16: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 4:00 PM
January 18: End of Second Quarter

Balancing Enrollment at Fairmont, Harding, Kensington and Madera Elementary Schools – Lisa LeBlanc

On January 9, 2019, the District will be recommending that the Board approve minor attendance area adjustments affecting the above schools. In recent years, many kindergarten students were displaced from Fairmont Elementary School and absorbed by the surrounding attendance areas. In order to progress towards balanced enrollment and provide predictability for parents, minor attendance area adjustments to each of the above schools are being proposed for the 2019/20 school year. The proposed change will only affect incoming kindergarteners and other new incoming students in grades 1 through 6 that live within the revised attendance areas as shown on the attached map. The district, in coordination with the principals at each site, will be obtaining feedback and communicating the proposed changes to families in early January. The Elementary Executive Directors are in the process of developing clear grandfathering and sibling rules to clarify and communicate the effects on families that live within the adjusted areas. School Locator, the on-line tool for parents to locate their student's school, will be updated prior to registration beginning mid-January 2019. The results of the revised attendance areas will help provide enrollment balancing over the course of the next several years.

Restroom Policy – Matthew Duffy

At a recent meeting, the Board requested our policy on restrooms. While we have no specific policy, BP 3517 talks about restrooms. A copy is attached.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

California Dashboard Released - Marcus Walton

The California Department of Education released a new California School Dashboard last week with easier-to-read reports. Please review the attached information including the full WCCUSD report.

News Articles of Note - Marcus Walton

Attached are news articles that may be of interest.

1. Richmond School Welding Instructor Position Goes Unfilled

- <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2018/12/06/richmond-school-welding-instructor-position-goes-unfilled/>

2. Former El Cerrito football standout, who played in NFL, commits suicide

- <https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/12/10/former-el-cerrito-football-standout-who-played-in-nfl-commits-suicide/>

3. Latinas for the first time make up majority of Bay Area school board

- <https://edsource.org/2018/latinas-for-the-first-time-make-up-majority-of-bay-area-school-board/605573>

4. Charter renewed amid school board shift - <https://richmondconfidential.org/2018/12/12/chart-of-benito-juarez-elementary-renewed-amidst-a-strange-scenario/>

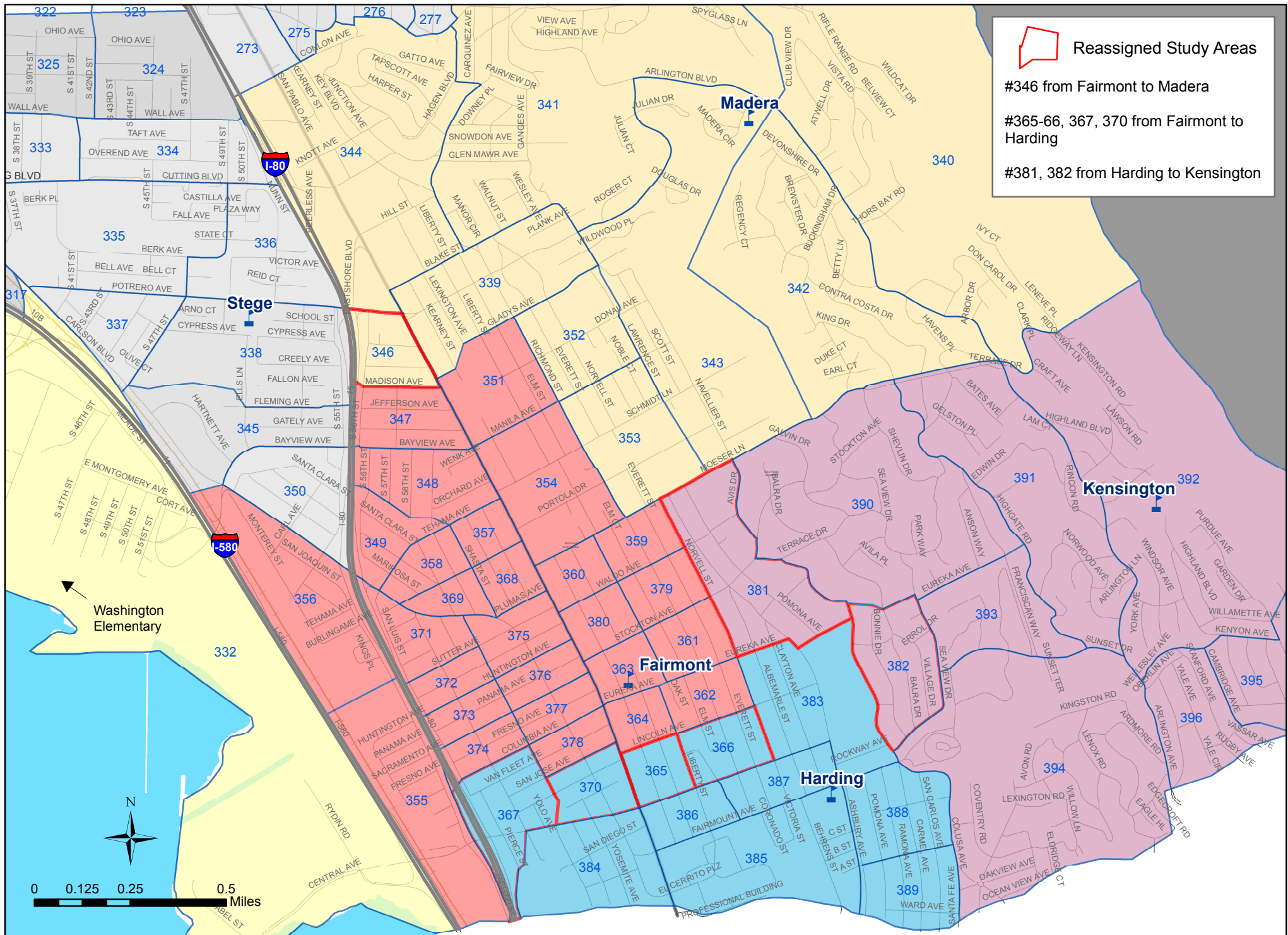
5. Remembering coach Tom Kinnard - <https://cccadvocate.com/10225/sports/remembering-coach-tom-kinnard/>

6. De Anza High senior launches toy drive - <https://richmondstandard.com/richmond/2018/12/11/de-anza-high-senior-launches-toy-drive/>

Public Records Log – Marcus Walton

Included in this week's memo is the log of public records requests received by the district. If you have any questions, please contact me.

EL CERRITO / KENSINGTON STUDY AREAS - POTENTIAL REASSIGNMENTS



West Contra Costa USD

Board Policy

Facilities Inspection

BP 3517

Business and Noninstructional Operations

The Governing Board recognizes that the condition of school facilities may have an impact on safety, student learning and achievement, and employee morale, and desires to provide school facilities that are safe, clean, and functional, as defined in Education Code 17002.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a facilities inspection and maintenance program to ensure that district schools are maintained in good repair in accordance with law. At a minimum, the inspection program shall determine facility conditions specified on the inspection and evaluation instrument, including any evidence of:

1. Gas leaks
2. Problems with mechanical systems, including heating, ventilation, or air conditioning systems
3. Broken windows or doors
4. Broken gates or fences that could pose a safety hazard
5. Unsafe or unclean interior surfaces, such as walls, floors, or ceilings
6. Improperly stored hazardous or flammable materials that may pose an immediate threat to students or staff
7. Damaged or nonfunctioning structural elements, such as posts, beams, or supports
8. Nonfunctioning fire sprinklers and emergency equipment, such as alarms or fire extinguishers
9. Improperly secured or nonfunctioning electrical systems, components, or equipment
10. Inadequate or nonfunctioning lighting
11. Major pest or vermin infestation
12. Inaccessible or nonfunctioning drinking fountains
13. Inaccessible, unclean, nonfunctioning, or inadequately supplied restrooms during school

hours

14. Backed-up, clogged, odorous, or flooded sewage system
15. Nonfunctioning or damaged roofs, gutters, drains, or downspouts
16. Drainage problems on school grounds, including water damage to playgrounds or parking lots
17. Nonfunctioning or hazardous playground equipment or exterior fixtures
18. Nonfunctioning or hazardous fields, walkways, or parking lot surfaces
19. Unclean school grounds, including accumulated refuse or unabated graffiti

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any necessary repairs identified during the inspection are made in a timely and expeditious manner. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with regular reports regarding the district's facility inspection program and updates of any visits to district schools by the County Superintendent of Schools.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1240 County superintendent of schools, duties

17002 Definitions

17070.10-17077.10 Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998

17565-17591 Property maintenance and control, especially:

17584 Deferred maintenance

17592.72 Urgent or emergency repairs, School Facility Emergency Repair Account

33126 School accountability report card

35186 Williams uniform complaint procedure

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

1859.300-1859.329 Emergency Repair Program

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Williams case: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/ce/wc/index.asp>

State Allocation Board, Office of Public School Construction: <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov>

Policy WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: February 6, 2008 Richmond, California



West Contra Costa Unified School District California School Dashboard

The California School Dashboard (www.caschooldashboard.org) is an online tool created by the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide information about K–12 schools and districts. It features easy-to-read reports on multiple measures of school success.

Dashboard results are used to measure district and school performance in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Learn more about the LCAP at www.wccusd.net/lcap.

What do the Colors Mean?

Red = lowest. Orange = low. Yellow = medium. Green = high. Blue = highest.



Performance on state measures is represented by one of five colors. The performance level is set based on how the school or district performed in the last year AND how it performed in comparison to previous years.

Where can I find information by school?

Open your internet browser. Enter www.caschooldashboard.org. Type in the name of your school and hit the “search” button. Select your school’s name from the list. View results.



What’s Measured?

The Dashboard includes four reports at the school and district level: equity, status and change, detailed, and student groups (including low income, students with disabilities, English learners, homeless and foster youth). Indicators are also reported by ethnicity.

State Indicators

- Academics: English language arts/literacy (ELA) and Mathematics (Grades 3-8)
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Suspension Rate
- College & Career
- Graduation Rate
- English Learner Progress

Local Indicators

- Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, and Facilities
- Academic Standards Implementation: Classroom Observational Rubric
- Parent Engagement
- Local Climate Survey: Youth Truth Survey

WCCUSD Performance on the Fall 2018 Dashboard

View full results by ethnicity, grade, and more at <http://bit.ly/2018Dash>

Chronic Absenteeism



Orange

Maintained: 15% of Students

Suspension Rate



Orange

Maintained : 5.9% of Students

Graduation Rate



Yellow

Maintained: 80.5% of Students

College/Career



Yellow

Increased: 34.8% of Students Prepared

English Language Arts



Orange

Maintained : 46.3 Points Below

Mathematics



Orange

Maintained : 78.8 Points Below

English Language Arts: WCCUSD Performance on CA Schools Dashboard


This measure is based on student performance on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment, which is taken annually by students in grades 3–8 and grade 11.

Student Group Details

All Student Groups by Performance Level

12 Total Student Groups

All Students

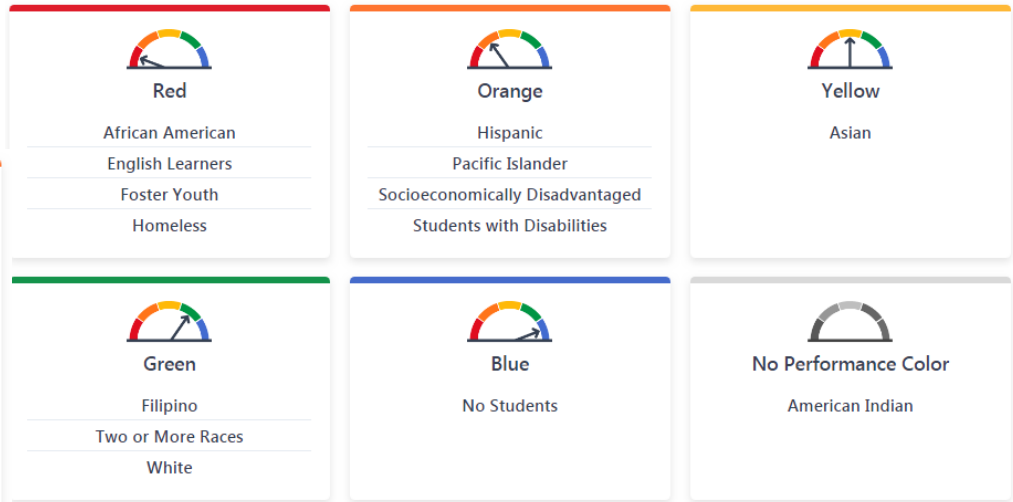


Orange

46.3 points below standard

Maintained -1.6 Points

Number of Students: 13,750



Mathematics: WCCUSD Performance on CA Schools Dashboard


This measure is based on student performance on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment, which is taken annually by students in grades 3–8 and grade 11.

Student Group Details

All Student Groups by Performance Level

13 Total Student Groups

All Students

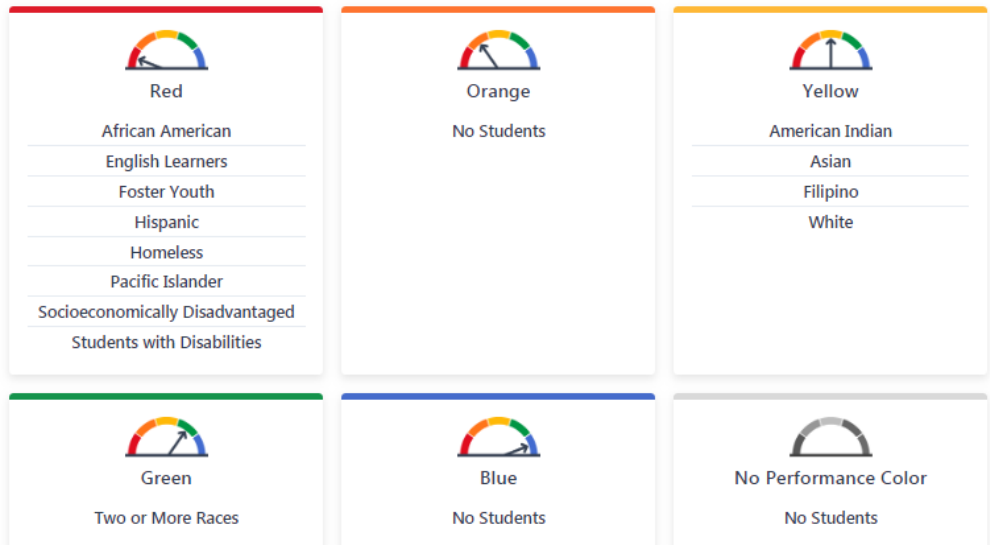


Orange

78.8 points below standard

Maintained -2.8 Points

Number of Students: 13,704



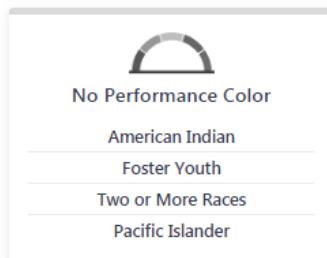
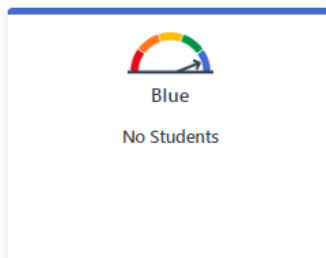
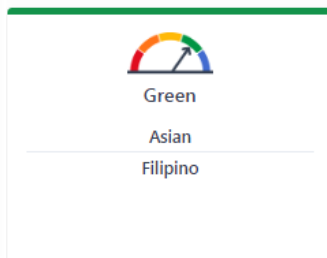
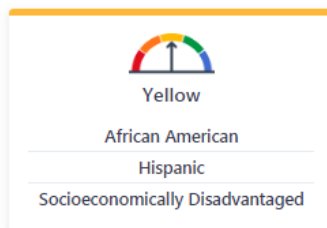
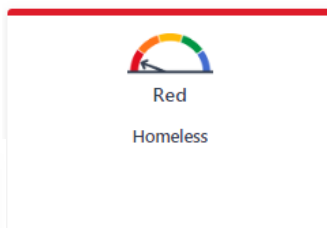
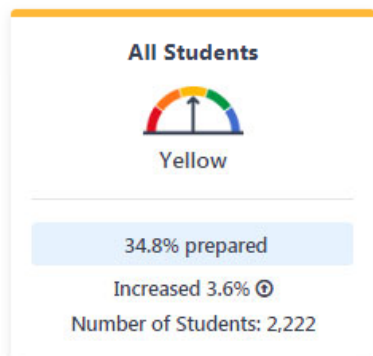
College / Career: WCCUSD Performance on CA Schools Dashboard

This measure shows the percentage of high school graduates who are placed in the "Prepared" level on the College/Career Indicator.

Student Group Details

All Student Groups by Performance Level

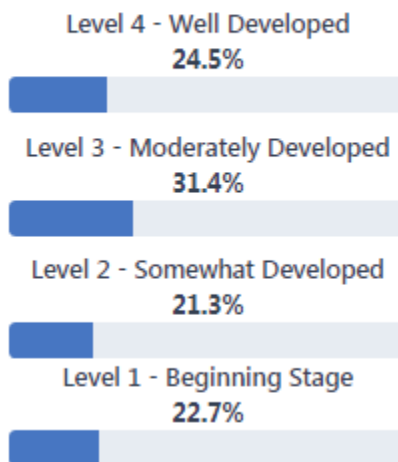
9 Total Student Groups



English Learner Progress: WCCUSD Performance

With the transition to the new English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), the 2018 Dashboard is unable to report a performance level (color) for this measure. Instead, the percent of students performing at each level on the ELPAC is reported.

Number of Students: 9,100



Chronic Absenteeism: WCCUSD Performance on CA Schools Dashboard

This report shows the percentage of students in kindergarten through grade 8 who are absent 10 percent or more of the instructional days they were enrolled.

Student Group Details

All Student Groups by Performance Level

13 Total Student Groups

All Students



Orange

15.5% chronically absent

Maintained 0.2%

Number of Students: 20,878



Red

American Indian
African American
Students with Disabilities
Homeless



Orange

English Learners
Foster Youth
Hispanic
Pacific Islander
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
Two or More Races



Yellow

Asian



Green

Filipino
White



Blue

No Students



No Performance Color

No Students

Graduation Rate: WCCUSD Performance on CA Schools Dashboard

This report shows the percentage of students completing high school within four years of entering ninth grade. This includes students who receive a standard high school diploma or complete their graduation requirements at an alternative school.

Student Group Details

All Student Groups by Performance Level

9 Total Student Groups

All Students



Yellow

80.5% graduated

Maintained 0.7%

Number of Students: 2,222



Red

English Learners
Students with Disabilities



Orange

Homeless
White



Yellow

African American
Asian
Hispanic
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged



Green

Filipino



Blue

No Students



No Performance Color

American Indian
Foster Youth
Two or More Races
Pacific Islander

Note: Graduation rates are calculated differently by the State of California than they have been in the past. Three significant changes were implemented for calculating 2017 high school graduation rates: (1) Students who receive an adult education high school diploma are no longer considered regular high school graduates, and (2) students who pass the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) are no longer considered regular high school graduates, and (3) students who transfer to adult education programs or a community college will remain in the denominator for the cohort calculation

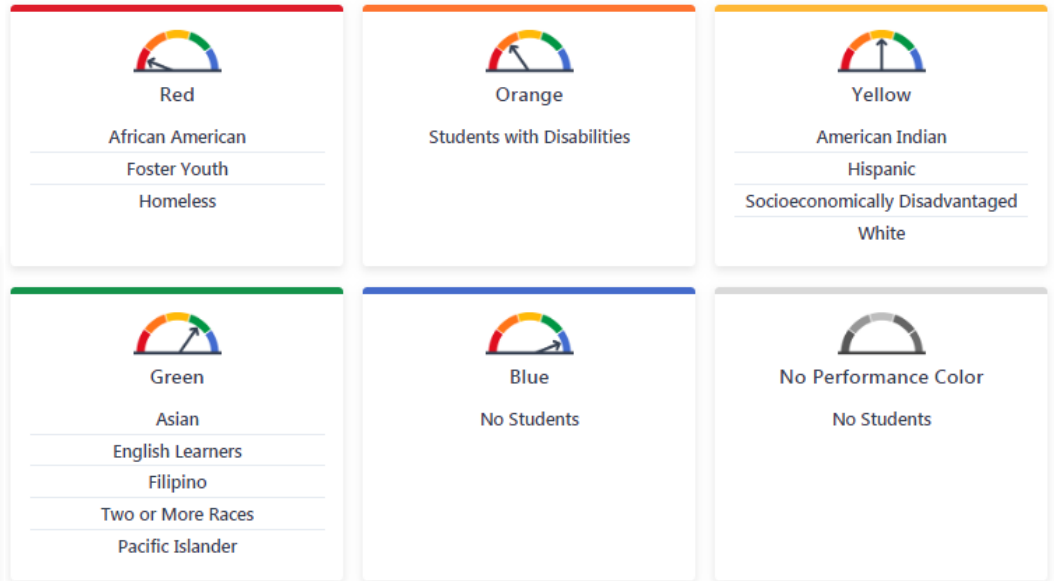
Suspension Rate: WCCUSD Performance on CA Schools Dashboard

This report shows the percentage of students in kindergarten through grade 12 who have been suspended at least once in a given school year. Students who are suspended multiple times are only counted once.

Student Group Details

All Student Groups by Performance Level

13 Total Student Groups



All Students



Orange

5.9% suspended at least once

Maintained -0.2%

Number of Students: 30,089

Public Records Request Log 2018 - 2019
Week Ending December 14, 2018

	Date of Receipt	Requestor	Requested Records/Information	Current Status
56	3/22/18	Scott Rafferty	Communications regarding CVRA allegations	3/26/18 Email sent with DOCs & Links 3/27/18 Email sent with DOCs & Links Gathering/Reviewing Documents
1819-04	8/1/2018	Scott Rafferty	Communications, social media regarding trustee elections	8/6/2018 - Acknowledgement letter sent Reviewing Documents
1819-08	8/30/2018	Nicole Bates – LSC	Referral, Suspension, Expulsion, Transfer, Arrest data	8/30/2018 – Acknowledgement email sent
1819-09	10/8/2018	David Stephan	a. Invoices re: Amethod b. Number of teachers under various credentials c. UCP Complaints against Linda Delgado d. Form 700s submitted by Linda Delgado e. Purchase of 1400 Marina Way South	11/28/2018 – PARTIAL FULFILLMENT Additional records anticipated no later than 12/14/2018
1819-13	10/16/2018	Johanna Epperson – Dun&Bradstreet	List of all staff	12/10/2018 - COMPLETED
1819-16	11/09/2018	Meiying Wu – Richmond Confidential	TBE DLI test scores	12/10/2018 – CLOSED: NO RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION
1819-17	11/20/2018	Matthew Dengel – CCC Public Defenders Office	Records regarding the release of student records to law enforcement	11/27/2018 – Acknowledgement letter sent
1819-18	12/1/2018	Peter Finn – Teamsters	Employee Ratio reports for last five years	12/10/2018 - COMPLETED
1819-19	12/3/2018	Sandra Sandford-Smith - Beeson, Tayer & Bodine	1. List of classified employees 2. Funding for classified positions 3. Documents related to layoffs for 2019-20 4. Documents related to recommended reductions provided at 11/28 Board meeting 5. Contracts for short-term or temp employees for services currently provided by regular classified employees 6. Contracts for short-term or temp employees for services regular classified employees are qualified to render 7. Documents that refer to attrition of classified employees for the 2019-20 school year 8. Budgets submitted from 2014-15 to 2018-19 9. Documents, worksheets, materials pertaining to 2019-20 budget 10. Documents, worksheets, materials pertaining to 2019-20 classified vacancies	12/11/2018 – Acknowledgement letter sent

1819-20	11/13/2018	Todd Maddison - Transparent California	A copy of West Contra Costa Unified's Employee Compensation Report for the 2017 year	12/11/2018 – Acknowledgement letter sent
1819-21	11/14/2018	Ramon Castillon - Foundation for Fair Contracting	Certified Payroll Records for Wilson Temp Construction	Collecting Records
1819-22	11/14/2018	Ramon Castillon - Foundation for Fair Contracting	Certified Payroll Records for Wilson Temp Construction PG&E Conversion	Collecting Records
1819-23	11/14/2018	Ramon Castillon - Foundation for Fair Contracting	Richmond HS Theater Lighting and Sound	Collecting Records
1819-24	12/13/2018	Veronica Diaz - Teamsters	Administrator surveys regarding grad tutors	12/14/2018 – Acknowledgement letter sent

Richmond School Welding Instructor Position Goes Unfilled

RICHMOND (KPIX 5) — An East Bay school is looking for a new instructor with big shoes to fill for a program that gives their **students** real-world professional skills. Kennedy High School in Richmond offers a welding program that – in two years' time – will graduate students with the hands-on experience to begin a **career** as a professional welder.

The state-of-the-art metal **shop** is brand-new and – thanks to a partnership with Chevron – contains everything needed to put young people on a path to a high-paying career.

However, there is one major problem. “What we didn't expect is, while they were **building** the lab, that we would lose our long-standing welding teacher,” said Assistant Principal Andrew Brooks.

The welding shop is now named for Cleve Harris, a retired Chevron welder who taught at Kennedy for 15 years but died suddenly before this school term began. The district posted the opening for a welding teacher in June but didn't get a single response.

“Part of the problem is the two industries don't align very well,” said Brooks. “People with these skills are making around six figures ... and teachers make a half to two-thirds of that.”

Brandyn Willridge understands the problem well. He teaches welding at The Crucible, an industrial art studio in West Oakland. With high demand for experienced welders and many making \$100,000-plus, it's tough to sell a teaching job that starts at \$54,000.

“If you want to be a teacher, a welding teacher, you're not in it for the **money**,” said Willridge. “You're in it for the creativity and to show people what they haven't been able to do.”

This entire semester, the new lab at Kennedy has sat empty and the welding program stalled. But things may now be looking up. For most of the year, the position was advertised only on education **job sites**. A few weeks ago someone from the community posted the job on Facebook and Twitter, and now nearly a dozen people have inquired about it.

“We're really thankful,” Principal Felicia Phillips said. “This social media post has resulted in crazy **interest**. So we're hopeful.”

Kennedy High is looking for someone with practical, working experience who can begin when the Spring semester starts.

JOHN RAMOS

BREAKING NEWS Bay Area forecast: Weekend storm to deliver widespread rain, big waves

Sports

Former El Cerrito football standout, who played in NFL, commits suicide

Rod Jones, who starred at the University of Washington and played three seasons in the NFL, died Dec. 8. He was 54.

By **CURTIS PASHELKA** | cpashelka@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group
PUBLISHED: December 10, 2018 at 7:07 pm | UPDATED: December 11, 2018 at 1:33 pm

Rod Jones, a former El Cerrito High School football standout who went on to star at the University of Washington and play three seasons in the NFL, died by suicide Dec. 8. He was 54.

Jones' daughter, Jamie Jones, [told the Seattle Times](#) that her father, who died from a single gunshot to the head from the day before, had recently been diagnosed with early-onset dementia. She told the newspaper the family believes Jones was suffering from symptoms of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

ADVERTISING

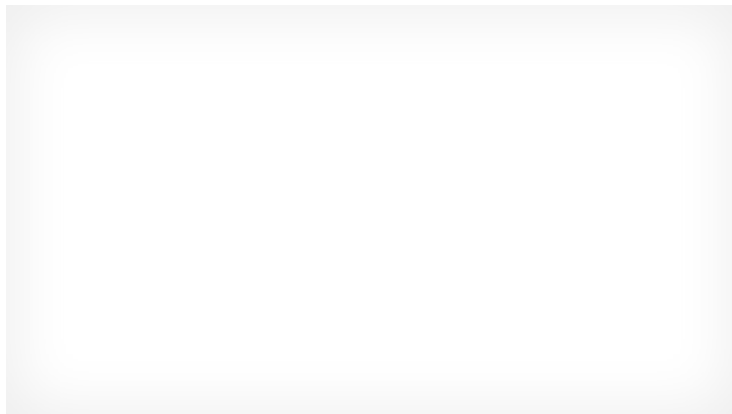


The Times' report indicated the family was going to donate Jones' brain to Boston University's CTE Center for research.

"He's been dealing with depression for years," Jamie told the Times. "I can't pinpoint exactly when, but he started to notice some memory loss. He just couldn't remember things."

Jones was born in Richmond on March 3, 1964. Listed at 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds when he was a professional, Jones played tight end and defensive end for El Cerrito. He was part of the Gauchos' powerhouse 1983 team that went 11-2 overall and 5-0 in the Richmond-Berkeley Athletic League.

ADVERTISING



inRead invented by Teads

In 2012, Jones and members of the 1983 football team were among those inducted into the El Cerrito High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

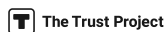
Jones was part of the 1984 Washington Huskies team that finished the season No. 2 in the country. He was selected as one of Washington's captains in 1986.

Jones was an eighth round draft pick of the New York Giants in 1987. He played in five games over two years for the Kansas City Chiefs and finished his NFL career in 1989 with the Seattle Seahawks.

Jones had been with the University of Washington for the past 18 years, working as an academic coordinator in the athletic department.

Jones is survived by his wife, Carla; daughters Krystal Roquemore and Jamie Jones; son, Rod Jr.; and granddaughter, Arielle Hatten, the Times reported.

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spark a discussion with your doctor.

Tags: [Football](#), [NFL](#), [Suicide](#)



Curtis Pashelka Curtis Pashelka is the San Jose Sharks reporter for the Bay Area News Group. Prior to covering the Sharks, Curtis served as the high school sports editor for the East Bay. He also worked as a general assignment reporter covering motorsports, golf and college basketball, and as a backup writer on the A's, Giants and Warriors. He started at the organization in 2000 and spent close to eight years covering high school sports.

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HIGHLIGHTING STRATEGIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Latinas for the first time make up majority of Bay Area school board

Election results reflect demographic shift in the school district

DECEMBER 4, 2018 | THERESA HARRINGTON



COURTESY OF WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED

In West Contra Costa Unified, more than 50 percent of students are Latino.

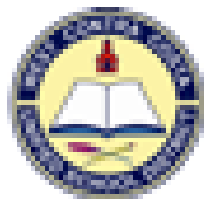
In a school board election that reflects the changing demographics of a Bay Area district, three Latinas are poised to make up the majority for the first time in the district's history.

Voters elected two Latinas to the West Contra Costa Unified School Board, where they will join incumbent **Valerie Cuevas**, the first Latina elected to the

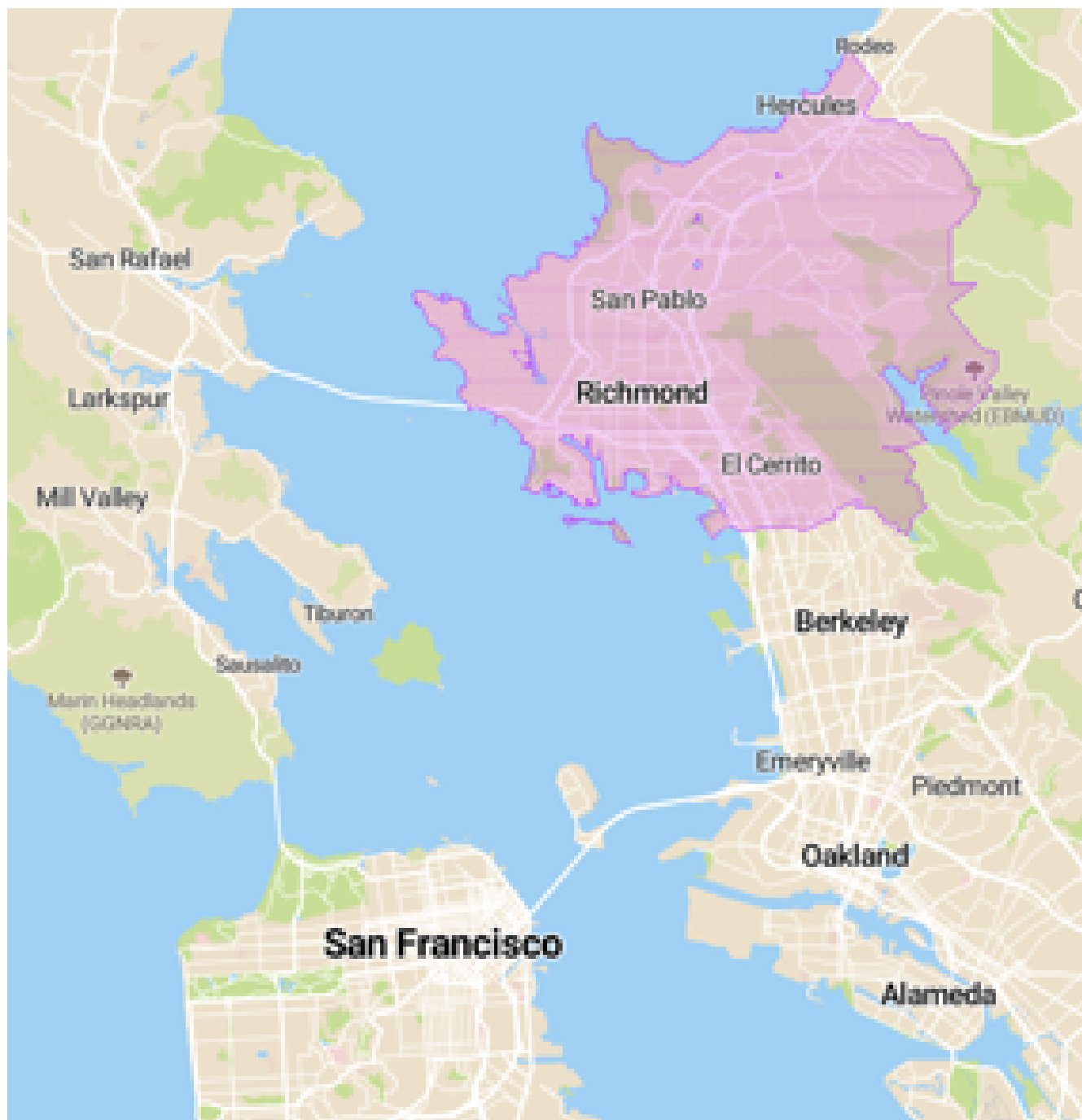
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newly elected women have taught in the district, which includes Richmond and surrounding communities.



West Contra Costa Unified



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cuts in district programs and start to help pay for salary increases for teachers and other employees in a region with soaring housing costs.

Although a large percentage of **Richmond** residents has historically been African-Americans, the city's demographics have changed over the decades, along with neighboring communities that comprise the school district, such as **San Pablo**, which is largely Latino. The ascendance of a Latina majority reflects these dramatic demographic changes. In 1990, 44 percent of Richmond residents were African-American and 15 percent were Latino. By 2017, 18 percent were African-American and 48 percent were Latino.

The majority (54 percent) of the 31,600 students who attend district and charter schools in **West Contra Costa** are Latino. Sixteen percent are African-American, while 10 percent each are white and Asian.

Incumbents Madeline Kronenberg and Elizabeth Block lost their re-election bids in the district race among 11 candidates. Both are white. Voters instead elected district kindergarten teacher **Stephanie Hernandez-Jarvis** and retired district teacher **Consuelo Lara**, based on final **results** from the Nov. 6 election released Monday.

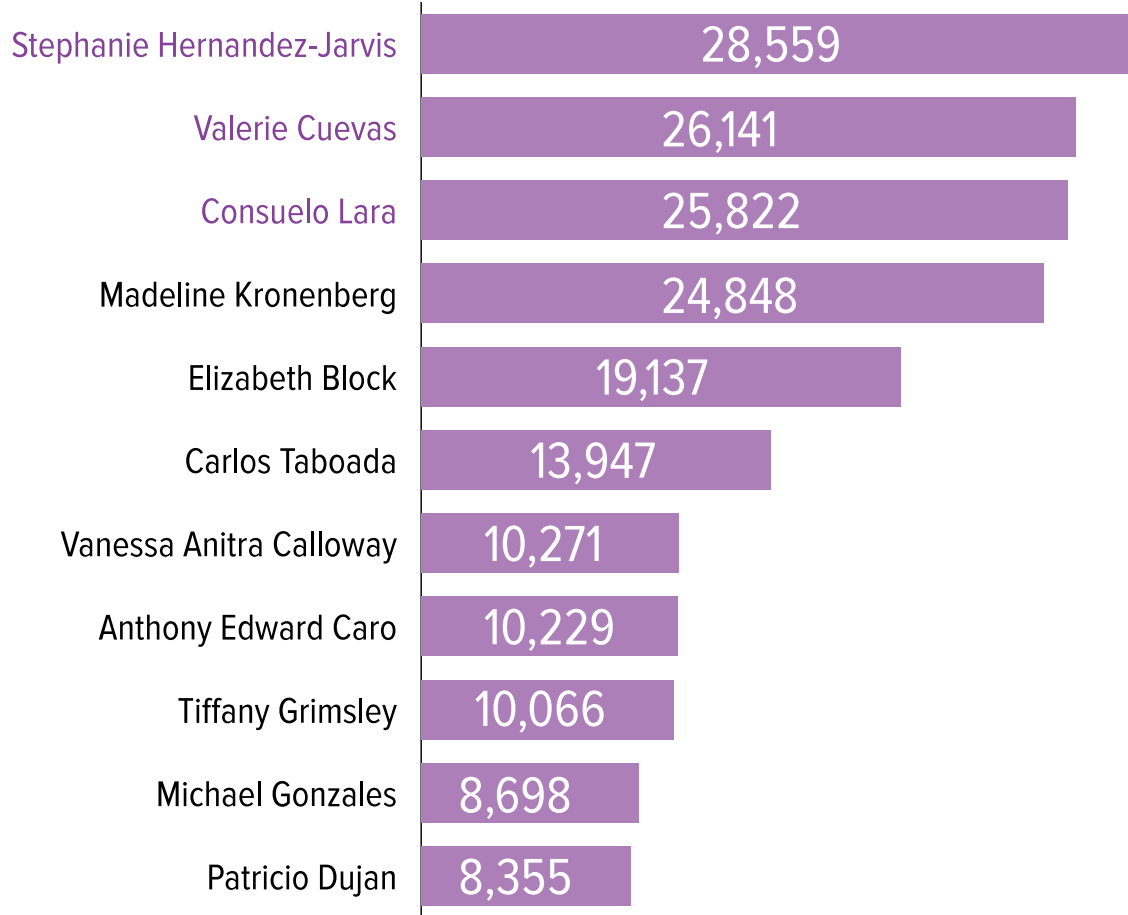
The elections office expects to certify the results by Thursday.

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Top three elected to two-year terms

Total votes cast in Nov. 6 election: 186,073



Source: Contra Costa County Elections; Chart designed by Yuxuan Xie.



Lara said even though there will be three Latinas on the board “the three of us could not be more different,” referring to their “experience and political views.”



THERESA HARRINGTON/EDSOURCE TODAY

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However, she said it was “great” that there would be a Latina majority, which she speculated was the result of some voters with similar backgrounds wanting to “speak up and participate and get a place at the table, which is admirable for any citizen, actually.”

Lara said the newly elected board members would find “common ground when it comes to the needs of the students.”

Cuevas echoed these sentiments, noting that she is also the first LGBTQ board president.

“Latinas are not monolithic in any way at all,” she said. “You have me as a Generation Xer in between a Baby Boomer and a Millennial. You’re definitely going to see some areas where we’re very much aligned and some areas where we aren’t, as a result of that.”

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THERESA HARRINGTON/EDSOURCE TODAY

Valerie Cuevas, president of the West Contra Costa Unified school board, speaks with community members after a board meeting. She was re-elected to the board on Nov. 6, 2018.

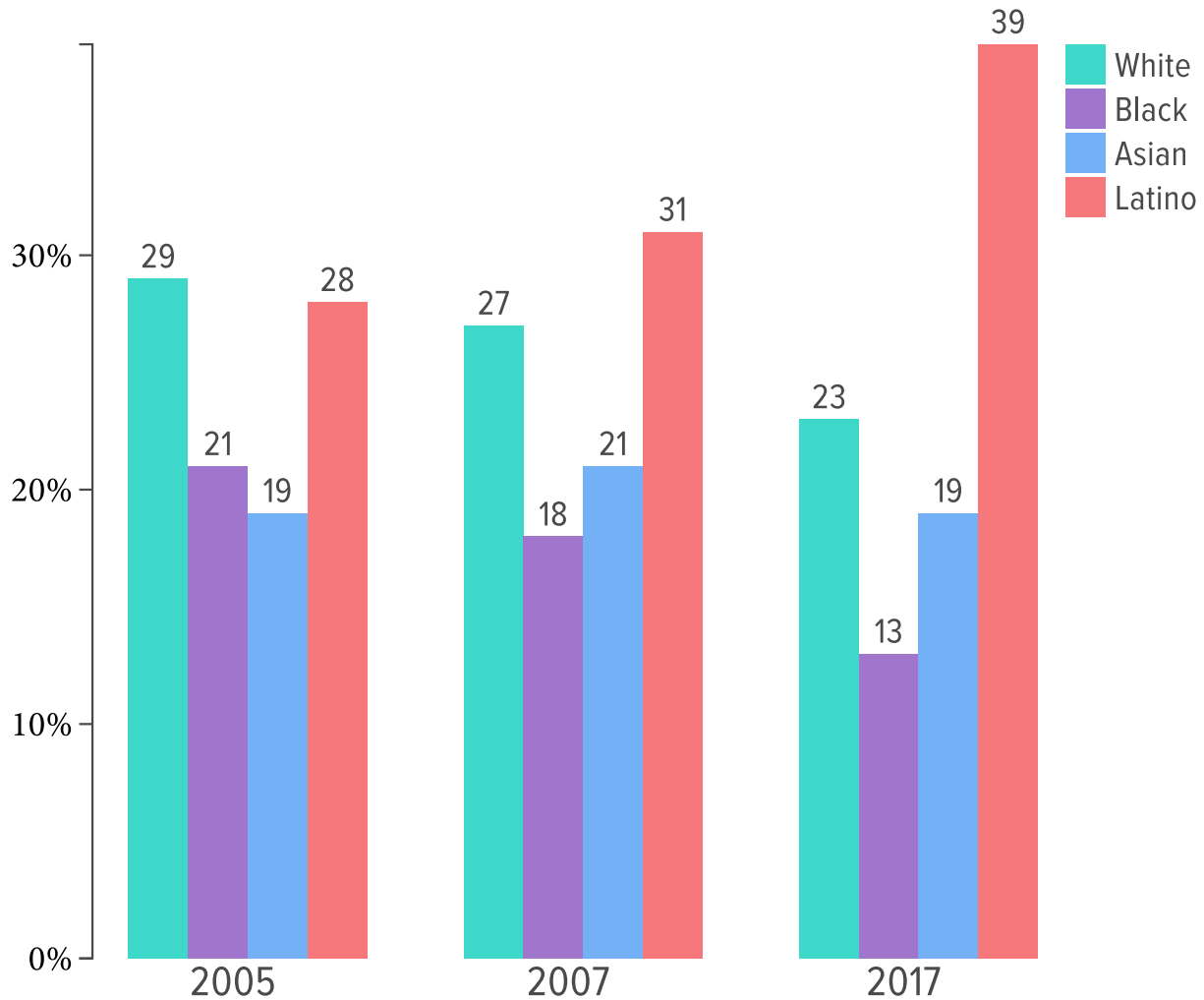
But she said the new majority would provide “more Latina role models on our school board” for the district’s one in two Latino students, as well as for all students. It will be most important, she said, for the entire school board to work together to address issues that are key to all students, including providing high-quality instruction and developing inclusive, positive school cultures.

Over 12 years, the district has seen its Latino population increase from 28 percent in 2005 to 39 percent in 2017, according to the U.S. Census American Community Survey. The percentage of whites dropped from 29 to 23 percent and African-Americans dwindled from 21 to 13 percent, falling below the Asian population, which held steady at 19 percent.

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Costa Unified School District



Note: All percentages have been rounded. The racial groups of white, black and Asian do not include Latinos. Latino is an ethnic group that includes all races.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Chart by Yuxuan Xie and Justin Allen

The shift in the board’s demographics comes at a time when the district is preparing to transition to new voting districts in two years in response to a **lawsuit** by some district residents and concerned voters that alleged “at large elections” were “racially polarized” because they gave unfair advantages to whites in violation of the **California Voting Rights Act of 2001**.

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to include one district that is majority Latino and one that is majority African American.

When elections are held in 2020, voters will choose one candidate from their voting districts instead of selecting candidates from the entire school district.

The board has chosen a voter district **map** that is drawn into five districts, including one that is majority Latino and one that is majority African-American. The maps are pending since they are part of the unsettled lawsuit in state Superior Court in Contra Costa County. Other districts have also faced similar lawsuits, but have reached settlements on voter districts.



COURTESY OF STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ-JARVIS

Stephanie Hernandez-Jarvis, a dual immersion kindergarten teacher in West Contra Costa Unified, was elected to the school board on Nov. 6, 2018.

Meanwhile the new board members will serve for two years. Hernandez-Jarvis who came to California with her family from Mexico as a young girl, says she brings a new voice to the board as an immigrant who was an English

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Her campaign was backed financially by an independent expenditure committee funded by **GO Public Advocates**, a political advocacy group that includes supporters of both district and charter schools, as well as by the **Education Matters Political Action Committee**, an independent expenditure committee funded by Steve and Susan Chamberlin.

She told EdSource that she wanted to make connections with students and community members whose backgrounds were similar to hers.

“I want to make policies that put people of color at the forefront,” she said, adding that she believes the fact that three Latinas were elected is significant. “To me, that seems really special. I think it’s a step forward and I think it represents people in the community.”

She planned to resign from her position as a teacher late Tuesday afternoon, a required step so that she could join the board. Trustees receive modest monthly stipends of \$892.

The **United Teachers of Richmond** union did not endorse Hernandez-Jarvis, but union President Demetrio Gonzalez said he looks forward to working with her. As a union member she grew during the campaign to understand district issues, he said. The union endorsed Cuevas and Lara.

He said it was “very exciting” to have a more diverse board, which “is going to resemble our community.”

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AMERICAN, and **JOHN F. GIBBS**, who is white and contributed heavily to Block's campaign, as well as to the GO Public Advocates independent expenditure committee, which supported Hernandez-Jarvis, Cuevas and Block.

Along with Kronenberg, Lara said she plans to create a program to prepare district students who want to go to college to become teachers. The hope is they would return to the district to teach.

Kronenberg said she didn't regret recruiting Consuelo to run for office, even if it cost her a seat on the board, where she has served 12 years.

The board **recognized** Kronenberg and Block for their years of service on Nov. 14. The pair later participated in a Wednesday special budget study session, since new board members won't be sworn in until Wednesday.

In **June**, the board unanimously agreed to give teachers pay **raises** of 17 percent through 2020, including a 5 percent raise that began last March, with the understanding that it would require budget cuts in other areas. The new board expects to vote Dec. 12 on \$12 million in cuts to be made next year.

Editor's Note: As a special project, EdSource is tracking developments this year in the Oakland Unified and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts as a way to illustrate some of the most urgent challenges facing many urban districts in California. West Contra Costa Unified includes Richmond, El Cerrito and several other East Bay communities.

EdSource receives funding from several foundations, including the Chamberlin Family Foundation. EdSource maintains sole editorial control over the content of

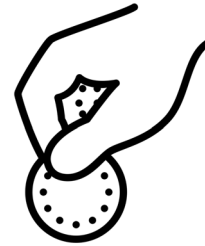
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▶ **Beto**

1 week ago



These Latinas better than the Amethod organizers in part, who worked with us on that issue . Especially with what was witnessed with John Henry High, this incident has rallied and energized us and a large group of Latino families in the West County. The new members should take note that Latino or not, If they do not support quality schools, and parent school choice for the low income families as what ... [Read More](#)

Richmond Confidential

Charter renewed amid school board shift

[Edward Booth](#) on December 12, 2018

The charter of Benito Juarez Elementary was renewed by default last Wednesday because of a strange scenario in which incoming board members were unable to vote and one longstanding school board member stepped away from the dais, leaving the decision without enough votes to legally stand.

California charter schools must have their charter reapproved every five years, and Benito Juarez's renewal was in question because its parent organization, Amethod Public Schools, recently came close to having its charter for John Henry High School revoked by the West Contra Costa Unified School Board.

The unusual voting situation unfolded at the meeting because of a state law requiring new member terms to start the first Friday of December, which this year was Dec. 7. This left the board with only three votes, meaning that any action by the board would require a unanimous decision.

As a result, new board members Stephanie Hernández-Jarvis and Consuelo Lara, and returning board president Valerie Cuevas, were ceremonially sworn onto the board, but they didn't officially take up their new positions.

This previously unknown rule severely impacted the meeting: recently elected board members, aside from Cuevas, were unable to vote. Board member Madeline Kronenberg was present, unlike member Elizabeth Block, but she abstained from voting because both she and the public had no expectation that she'd be voting on the charter renewal.

Every item requiring action was pushed to the Dec. 12 meeting, except for the vote on the charter renewal. This was because of an earlier agreement with Amethod that the issue be decided on by Dec. 5, the date of the meeting.

The school board staff-suggested action was approval of the charter, but with seven conditions that would have had to been carried out by Amethod. They included a description of new charter school requirements, a written program for meeting the needs of its underachieving English-learning students, a report on attracting student populations reflective of the district (the school is almost entirely Latino), documentation on why certain comparison schools were used in their presentation, a signed and dated copy of their corporate bylaws, and copies of all financial reports and information included in their staff report.

The seventh condition was an agreement addressing the district's safety concerns related to John Henry High School.

In October, John Henry underwent a board hearing on whether the school's charter should be revoked, which would have effectively caused it to shut down. This was largely because of an alleged mandated reporting violation by Evelia Villa, wife of Amethod CEO Jorge Lopez and currently the Amethod superintendent of Richmond schools. After a student complained of abuse at home, Villa allegedly asked them to take their shirt off to check for bruises. She also allegedly cited this incident while encouraging other teachers to investigate claims before reporting during an Amethod professional development event held prior to the 2017-2018 school year.

After hundreds of Amethod shirt-clad students and staff poured into the hearing, and Amethod staff presented findings which indicated that the alleged violation had occurred in 2012, three years before John Henry had come into existence, the charter was not revoked. The district placed the school in good standing on Oct. 31.

Board member Mister Phillips made a motion to accept Benito Juarez's charter unconditionally, without any of the staff recommendations. He argued the school had been performing well and that the board had unfairly targeted Amethod.

"Every time this school comes before us we seem to put one more hurdle in front of them for them to jump," Phillips said at the meeting. "And when they jump it we put another one in front of them."

"They are doing a good job. They are doing a good job relative to most schools."

Cuevas followed by moving that the board vote on renewing the charter with all conditions, which was followed by a substitute motion by board member Tom Panas to accept the renewal with only the first six conditions.

At this point, Lopez shook his head at Phillips, according to Cuevas.

Phillips checked publically with school attorney Edward Sklar to make sure the legal result of a failed vote was an automatic charter renewal, then walked away from the dais.

He was counted as absent, and a motion to approve the charter with six of seven conditions failed 2-0-3. Cuevas and Panas voted to approve the motion, Kronenberg abstained and Phillips and Block were counted as absent.

Phillips took his seat again to vote on his motion, to approve the charter unconditionally, which failed 2-1-2, with Cuevas voting against and Panas and Phillips voting to approve.

Phillips said he left the room because he thought the test score comparisons made during a presentation at the meeting by district staff between Benito Juarez and other

charter schools within the district were illegal—comparisons should have instead been made to the district public schools, Phillips said, which students are required by law to attend.

Phillips said he believed the comparison with other charter schools, which generally perform better than public schools, were likely done to make Benito Juarez look worse. This, in turn, would provide justification for approving the recommended staff conditions attached to the charter renewal.

He also said he believed that if he'd stayed and voted against Panas's item, Panas and Cuevas would have had a quorum—meaning they'd have a 2-1 majority on the sitting board—and it would have passed. By leaving, he argued, two votes would not have been enough to pass a motion.

According to Cuevas and Panas, the board would have needed three yes votes regardless; it made no difference whether Phillips abstained or voted against the motion.

Cuevas was critical of Phillip's approach.

"When I took an oath to office, there's an expectation that we take votes," Cuevas said. "So many people wanted a seat and they would've taken a vote tonight."

Cuevas said that the entire board has an oversight responsibility that goes beyond just school performance. She said she wanted to pass the renewal, but with at least some of the conditions.

"I do think some of these are warranted," Cuevas said. "You get your renewal. I have a hard time voting yes on the renewal without the conditions that are being put forth."

When pressed by Cuevas about perceived disagreement with the staff conditions, Lopez said he agreed with Phillips' opinion about the oversight of his school.

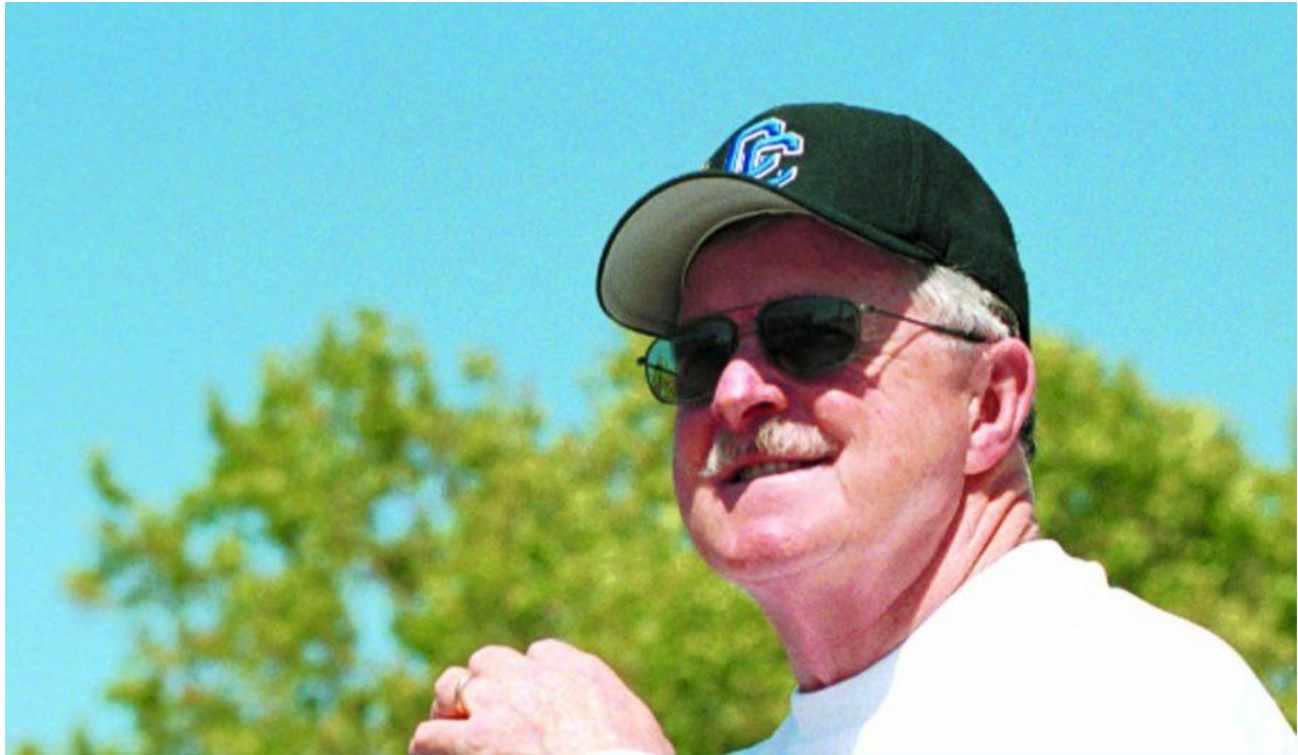
Shortly after Amethod's representatives left the room, United Teachers of Richmond president Demetrio Gonzalez criticized Phillips for his actions. He called Phillips' move of walking away from the vote "political theatre at its worst" and argued that Phillips should be equally hard on charter schools as he is with district schools. Gonzales also said he hoped the new trustees didn't take Phillip's actions as representative of the district.

"I've missed five board meetings in five years, and I've never seen anyone step out because they're not getting their way," Gonzalez said.

Remembering coach Tom Kinnard

[A cccadvocate.com/10225/sports/remembering-coach-tom-kinnard/](http://cccadvocate.com/10225/sports/remembering-coach-tom-kinnard/)

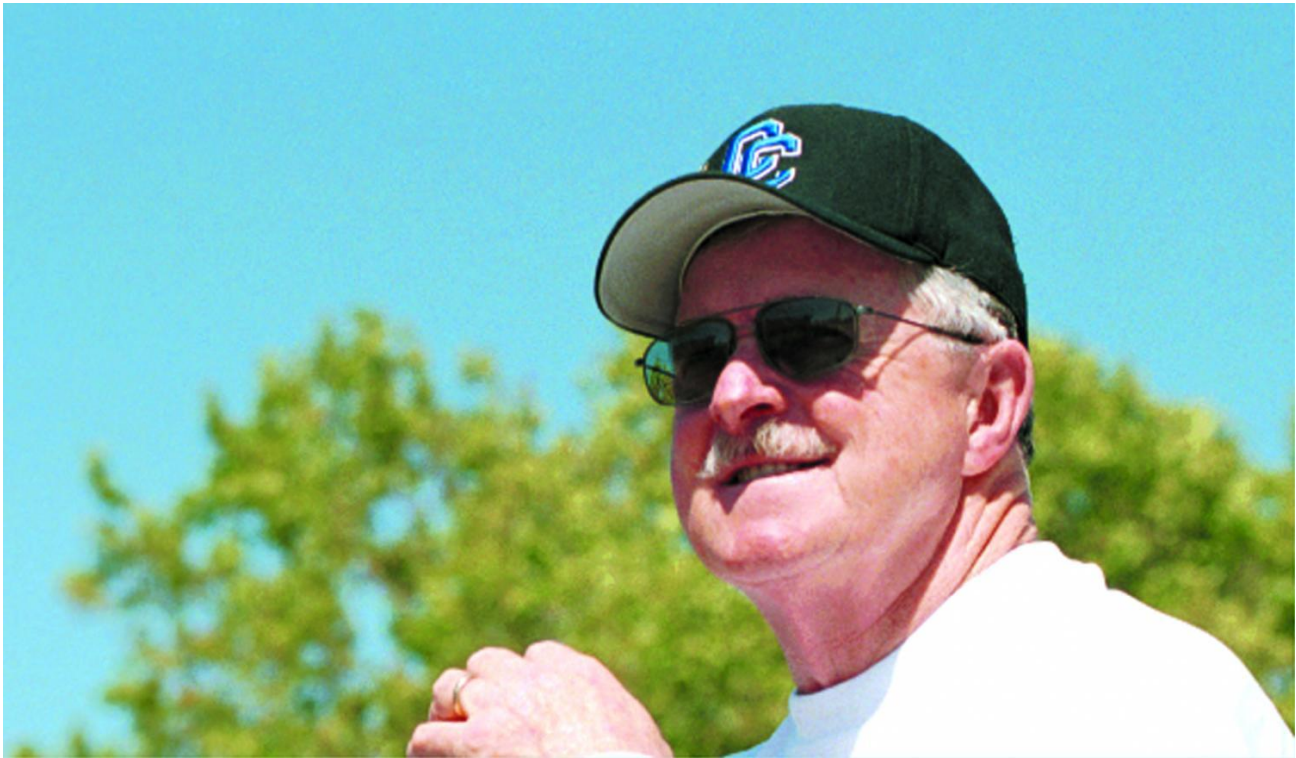
Educator leaves legacy of service, love



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[Remembering coach Tom Kinnard](#)



Former CCC football coach and athletic director Tom Kinnard passed away on Monday, Nov 19 at the age of 79. He spent 27 years at the college serving many different positions.

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Longevity and charisma are a combination of traits that are not given to an individual, they are acquired by only the finest of people.

Former Comet physical education professor and football coach Tom Kinnard was someone who used those characteristics to encourage his co-workers, enlighten the students he coached and bring joy to everybody he knew.

The Oklahoma-born, Richmond-raised educator found a way to not only be a great member of the East Bay community, but a person who genuinely cared about the youth's involvement in sports and academia.

However, this community now mourns the loss of Kinnard, who passed away on Nov. 19 with his family by his side at the age of 79.

Kinnard, who was a Contra Costa College alumnus, started teaching and coaching football at the college in 1973.

He cemented himself as a fixture at the college following short coaching stints at Salesian and Kennedy high schools.

Former CCC football coach Robert Creer, who met Kinnard in the 1950s as kids, said they have shared a lifetime of memories and experiences that are unforgettable.

"It is a tremendous loss for the community because he cared so much about the athletes," Creer said. "We have been friends, athletes and coaches since I was in junior high school. I lost a lifelong friend."

Kinnard spent the better part of 27 years at CCC serving as an instructor, coach and finally as athletic director.

CCC Athletic Director John Wade said that Kinnard was an honest, straight-to-the-point guy who was very well respected.

"I was stunned," Wade said when he heard about Kinnard's passing. "I knew he was not doing well, but I was not expecting this. I was just reflecting on how much we'll miss him and how much of a straight-up guy he was."

His stint as athletic director (1996-2001) saw CCC's women's basketball team begin one of the greatest stretches of success in college history.

Also, during his time leading the department, the college saw success gained by the track team and the resurgence of the women's soccer team.

"He was like a Swiss army knife. He could do a little bit of everything," former CCC women's basketball coach Paul DeBolt said. "He was a big part of the community. He was involved in everything and because of that everyone knew him."

He played football at El Cerrito High School until he graduated in 1957. Then, after two years at CCC he went on to San Francisco State University.

While there, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees, and teaching credential.

As much as Kinnard did for the athletic department at CCC, his passion was football.

From 1973 to 1980 he was an assistant coach at CCC, then he was hired as head football coach from 1981 to 1989.

He served in that position until he retired after being slowed down by back problems.

"The football team (here) was his baby," DeBolt said. "He would run around doing things to advertise the team."

DeBolt reflected on the times he worked with Kinnard while under his direction.

"He always knew how to encourage you. He knew how to take the pressure off you," DeBolt said.

Wade said that his caring mentality was one of the reasons he was so influential to this community.

He also said those traits reflected the kind of family man he was.

Kinnard is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ana Kinnard, his children Lisa, Timothy (deceased) and Cindy.

In a 2001 article in The Advocate, Kinnard said that the college will always mean a lot to him. "Next to my family, it's my greatest love," he said.

The Richmond Standard

De Anza High senior launches toy drive

De Anza High senior Yvette Findley's reason was pretty simple.

"No child should go without a gift to open on Christmas morning," she told her parents.

And so Yvette went ahead and put together a program typically set aside for seasoned nonprofit leaders: She launched a full-on toy drive sponsored by local businesses.

This Saturday, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Yvette is holding the toy drive at De Anza High. Community members who bring a new, unopened toy will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a two-tiered cake feeding 40 people from sponsor Pacific Bakery, or a hoodie from fellow sponsor Brand New Legend.

Naturally, Yvette's parents are very proud of her.

"She's always had a big heart and wants to help children," said Elisa Findley, her mother. "She has two younger sisters and wants to be a great example for them and show them it's OK to help people in need. She has been a child who asks for little and understands the need to help the less fortunate."