

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
August 10, 2018

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

Augusts 14: New Teacher Orientation, Pinole Middle, 9:00 AM
August 15: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 5:00 PM
August 16: All District Welcome, Richmond Auditorium, 8:30 – 11:30 AM
August 20: First Day of School
August 22: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 PM
August 26: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, Time TBD
September 3: Labor Day Holiday, Schools and Offices Closed
September 5: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 PM

All Staff Gathering - Marcus Walton

The District will hold its annual All Staff Gathering on Thursday, August 16 at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. The event begins at 8 a.m. and will end no later than 10 a.m. Guest speakers include CTA President Eric Heins.

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.

Media Stories of Note - Marcus Walton

Recent news articles that may be of interest are attached. Of particular interest is El Cerrito High School's designation as the most diverse school in the Bay Area. You can read about it online at <https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/list-9-bay-area-public-schools-rank-among-best-in-california/1352484565>

The Richmond Standard covered the event where Kennedy High School teacher Mitzi Perez received the keys to her new home through one of the partnerships designed to help educators afford to live in the Bay Area.

There is also an article outlining concerns about the way charter schools report their supplemental and concentration spending through the LCAP.

Public Records Request Log 2018 - 2019
Week Ending August 13, 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
62	4/17/18	Scott E. Jenny Jenny & Jenny LLP, Attorneys	Pinole HS Project- Tree removal, trenching and hill excavation project between Subject Properties, 2059 Shea Drive and 2069 Shea Drive, Pinole CA	5/31/18 Email sent extending date Gathering/Reviewing Documents
65	4/27/18	J. Paul Fanning Lankford, Crawford, Moreno & Ostertag LLP	Richmond High School / Asbestos Records	6/8/18 Email sent requesting clarification in order to narrow search, per our Facilities Department 6/11/18 Updated/Revised PRR received by Requester Gathering Documents
67	5/9/18	David Stephan	Roster of all WCCUSD High School Faculty	5/15/18 Acknowledgement email sent
68	5/15/18	Scottie Smith Educational Advocate	Student/District Inter and Intra Transfers Data for each School Site / For School Years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18	5/15/18 Acknowledgement email sent Gathering/Reviewing Documents
72	6/19/10	Pablo Portillo Polsinellie LLP	DeAnza High School-Cafeteria / Construction and/or Abatement Projects beginning in 1971 through 2001	6/19/18 Acknowledgement email sent 7/27/2018 DOCs available
1819-01	7/3/218	Jamie Lund – Freedom Foundation	A data set with a record for every 2017-18 employee represented by a labor union	7/12/18 - Acknowledgement letter sent
1819-02	7/11/18	Clare Wendt - mb public affairs	From 1/1/2007 to 12/31/2013 - 1. Internal Crime Statistics by school, year, type of crime 2. Incident reports/cases related to incidents/crimes at WCCUSD schools 3. Complaints and accompanying appeals related to student discipline, facility conditions, discrimination/harassment against students or staff	7/12/18 - Acknowledgement letter sent and 14-day extension invoked
1819-03	8/5/2018	Yolanda J Rodriguez - Graybar Bill Pay	A copy of the payment/performance bond CAC713536, for the following project in which Graybar is a material supplier: Juan Crespi Middle School Lighting Retrofit	8/10/2018 - Acknowledgement Letter Sent
1819-04	8/1/2018	Scott Rafferty	Communications, social media regarding trustee elections	8/6/2018 - Acknowledgement letter sent
1819-05	8/1/2018	Ryan Hughes - Tupe Legal	Board meeting agendas, packets and minutes 11/06-7/08, Form 700 for Board member Kronenberg	8/10/2018 - COMPLETED
1819-06	8/6/2018	Partida - Berkes Crane Robinson & Seal	Documents regarding the presence of asbestos at De Anza HS	8/10/2018 - Acknowledgement letter sent

Your newest Bay Area homeowners: a teacher and nonprofit worker

August 2, 2018



Kennedy High teacher Mitzi Perez (right) and her fiancé Anthony Caro, who runs a nonprofit, stand in front of their new home at 1025 Florida Ave. in Richmond on Thursday.

While they once believed they'd never be able to afford a home in the Bay Area, Kennedy High teacher Mitzi Perez and her fiancé, Anthony Caro, who leads the nonprofit Citizens Power Network, received the keys to their brand new pad at 1025 Florida Ave. in Richmond on Thursday.

And not just any home – it happens to be the city's first zero-net energy house, constructed with green materials and equipped with solar panels that can produce all the energy the home needs.

Did they win the Lottery? Not quite. The young couple is benefiting from an innovative Richmond program that launched in 2015 with the aim of rehabilitating blighted homes and properties in the city.

The home at 1025 Florida Ave. is the eighth completed under the Richmond Housing Renovation Program by the Richmond Community Foundation. Under the program, “social impact bonds” issued by the City of Richmond are purchased by investors who aren’t expecting high returns, in this case Mechanics Bank. The investment is used to acquire blighted, abandoned properties in the city. The homes are then resold to local residents who take part in first time homebuyer programs like SparkPoint.

Seven more homes have been acquired as part of the program and are in progress, said Jim Becker, president and CEO of Richmond Community Foundation.

Although the renovations take months to complete, each makes a big difference in improving neighborhoods. A blighted house costs the city of Richmond on average \$7,000 annually to maintain. The former home at 1025 Florida Ave., for example, was once a major safety hazard. Homeless people lived in it and it eventually burned down.

“The whole point is to be able to be able to reclaim these properties, bring stability back into the neighborhoods,” Becker said. “Reclaiming these and getting new homeowners in them really does rebuild these neighborhoods.”



Jim Becker, president and CEO of the Richmond Community Foundation, delivers the keys to the new homeowners at 1025 Florida Ave.

The social impact bond strategy was pitched in 2014 by prominent attorney and Richmond resident John Knox, and was ushered into action by Richmond Mayor Tom Butt and the Richmond Community Foundation. The mayor said the affordable housing options are necessary to help important local residents, like teachers, remain in their communities.

Mechanics Bank was the first investor in the program. On Thursday, Wells Fargo Bank added fuel with an \$85,000 donation to the program as part of its \$250,000 Wells Fargo NeighborhoodLIFT Local Initiatives Grant Program.

For Perez and Caro, both community advocates who regularly attend local school board and city council meetings, the new home doesn't just represent building their life together, but doing so in a community where they have roots.

"Most teachers in the West Contra Costa Unified School District cannot live in the community because it is now too expensive," Perez said. "We could not let this opportunity pass us by."



Back yard of the newly built house at 1025 Florida Ave.

8/10/2018

Your newest Bay Area homeowners: a teacher and nonprofit worker | Richmond Standard

Mayor Tom Butt, integral in implementing the Richmond Community Foundation's Housing Renovation Program, offered a housewarming gifts to the new homeowners: some of his goats.

Mike Aldax

Bay Area

LIST: 9 Bay Area public schools rank among best in California

By:

Vince Cestone (<https://www.kron4.com/meet-the-team/vince-cestone/855945314>)

✉ (<mailto:vcestone@kron4.com>)

Mike Ostler ()

Updated: Aug 07, 2018 05:59 PM PDT



SAN FRANCISCO (KRON) - Niche.com has released its rankings of the best public high schools in California, and nine Bay Area schools made up the top 20.

Niche used data from the United States Department of Education to rank over 900 schools.

Academics comprised 60 percent of a school's ranking. Also taken into account were things like school culture and teachers.

First in the Bay Area, and No. 2 overall, is Henry M. Gunn High in Palo Alto. It was ranked No. 1 overall for best teachers, followed by neighboring Palo Alto High.

The top East Bay school was Orinda's Miramonte, which ranked fifth overall.

Saratoga High and Los Altos High were seventh and 10th.

Rounding out the Bay Area top 10 were Los Gatos at 13th in the state.

Two more East Bay schools were San Jose's Lynbrook at 14th and Moraga's Campolindo at 16th.

The top public high school in San Francisco was Lowell.

And Marin County's Redwood High is the top North Bay school at 21st overall in the state.

All of these schools earned an A+ ranking.

By the way, the most diverse school in the Bay Area is El Cerrito High School, the sixth-most diverse school in the state.

Full list here: <https://www.niche.com/k12/search/best-public-high-schools/s/california/>

WHAT OTHERS ARE CLICKING ON:

- **BAY BRIDGE SHOOTING VICTIM IDENTIFIED AS FATHER, CONCERT PROMOTER**
- **LARGEST WILDFIRE IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY STILL GROWING**
- **AMAZON LOOKING TO FILL 200+ WORK-FROM-HOME POSITIONS**
- **FANS SHOCKED OVER 'MIGHTY DUCKS' ACTOR SHAUN WEISS' MUG SHOT**
- **REPORT: DOLLAR STORE CRAYONS TEST POSITIVE FOR ASBESTOS**

>>MORE STORIES

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BREAKING NEWS Smoke forecast changes going into the weekend

News

Report questions how some Bay Area charters spend funds for high-need students



(Susan Tripp Pollard/Bay Area News Group)

By **AARON DAVIS** | aarondavis@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group
August 3, 2018 at 7:50 am

RICHMOND — A new report shows a widespread lack of transparency and accountability in how some Bay Area charter schools and others in the state spend public money on programs for high-need students.

The report by Public Advocates, a San Francisco-based nonprofit law and advocacy group, analyzed the financial and engagement documents of 43 charter schools in Oakland, Richmond, San Jose, Sacramento and Los Angeles.

The analysis focused on Local Control Accountability Plans, which are educational objectives and goals that charter schools and the local community jointly create. The schools receive state funds for programs that help students from low-income families, English learners and foster youth.

Seven Richmond schools received \$4.9 million for such high-need students, but budgeted only \$2.9 million in local plans. Ten schools in Oakland received \$8.2 million but budgeted none of it for the local plans and San Jose received \$9.4 million but only budgeted \$2.6 million.

ADVERTISING



The educational plans were intended to provide more local authority and control over educational programs and spending, but in many cases, parents and the public were excluded.

“It’s really the greatest level of engagement where parents have a role in how their schools are spending public dollars, and particularly the dollars generated by their students,” said Rigel Spencer Massaro, senior staff attorney with Public Advocates. “We are seeing that’s not happening, writ large.”

In response to the report, Brittany Parmley, Bay Area communications officer for the California Charter Schools Association, issued a statement to this news organization that says:

“Parent engagement is the backbone of the charter school movement. In fact, before a charter can be approved by an authorizer, it has to clearly articulate a parent engagement strategy. Charter schools believe in and embrace transparency and accountability to the students and families they serve. Charter schools are doing the hard work of educating kids every day, and they are doing an exceptional job helping historically disadvantaged students succeed – especially those students living in urban areas. In the future, we hope that groups like Public Advocates will proactively reach out to us with transparency, so that we can help make sure we are all working in the best interest of California’s kids.”

Not only did the report reveal that documents were missing from charter school websites, but it also questioned the degree of local control over funding.

The report also checked into 12 charter management organizations that administered 123 charter schools in multiple locations. All of them approved the Local Control Accountability Plans in one location.

For example, Aspire Public Schools has 36 schools in Oakland, Richmond and East Palo Alto, as well as in other cities such as Modesto, Los Angeles and Huntington Park. At a June 15 meeting, three of Aspire’s nine board members approved all 36 Local Control Accountability Plans in one sitting at their offices in Oakland. Although parents could have called in, no public comment was noted in meeting minutes, and materials were only available in Oakland.

Aspire Public Schools in Oakland and Caliber Schools in Richmond did not return requests for comment.

The report was prompted by Richmond parents who had asked Massaro and Public Advocates for training on Local Control Accountability Plans. When she realized she couldn’t provide it because of missing information, Massaro decided to investigate.

“We need our charter schools to complete their LCAPs so parents can understand the goals, actions, progress and funding that support student success,” said Abadesa Rolon, a parent of a charter school student in Richmond. “I understand how my school is spending (supplemental and concentrated) funds, but that’s because I’ve asked a lot of questions. Other parents don’t know, because this information isn’t in our school’s LCAP.”

In Richmond, the Making Waves Academy, Benito Juarez Elementary and Richmond Charter Academy did not provide their Local Control Accountability Plans documents. Neither did the Oakland Military Institute in Oakland and the Bachrodt Charter Academy and Ida Jew Academies in San Jose.

Both public schools and charter schools receive Local Control Accountability Plan funds, but state law only requires public schools to post them online.

Bill Clark, associate superintendent of the Contra Costa County Office of Education, and Terry Koehne, the office's chief communications specialist, said they did not receive a request from Public Advocates for Making Waves' Local Control Accountability Plan, but did receive the plan from the school.

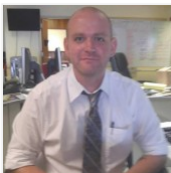
They said there's interest at the state level for transparency involving supplemental funds and posting dollar amounts on school websites. They also supported a bill to require charter school Local Control Accountability Plans to be reviewed and approved by their authorizers, which are often the local school districts or county offices of education.

"It's along the spirit of what LCAP is about, it's truly about accountability and transparency and it adds certain levels of approval that make sense," Koehne said. "No charters have to have their LCAPs approved by the authorizer. That added layer of approval makes sense."

The report's authors recommend state legislation that would require charter schools create ways for the local communities to easily attend board meetings and for charters to be held to the same transparency requirements as public schools.

View the report online at www.publicadvocates.org/wp-content/uploads/final-report.pdf

Tags: [Education](#)



Aaron Davis Aaron Davis reports on East Contra Costa County for the East Bay Times. He has worked for papers throughout the Seacoast of New Hampshire, as well as in Queens, New York and in Amarillo, Texas. Send tips to 408-859-5105 or to aarondavis@bayareanewsgroup.com.

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