

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
April 29, 2022

Upcoming Events – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

April 20 - May 13, 2022: WCCUSD 55th Annual Student Art Showcase

May 4: Board of Education Regular Meeting

May 9: Strategic Planning Meeting, Kennedy High School from 5:30-7:30pm

May 10: Strategic Planning Meeting, Hercules High & Middle School from 5:30-7:30pm

May 11: Strategic Planning Meeting, Richmond High School from 5:30-7:30pm

May 12: Strategic Planning Meeting, Virtual, 5:30-7:30pm

Next Board of Education Meeting May 4, 2022– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

Closed Session will begin at 4:30pm

Special Education Department - Sonja Neely-Johnson - Special Olympics - Contact - Hien Clayton-APE (Adapted Physical Educational Specialist)

We are excited to announce that 15 classes grades Kindergarten to Twelfth, representing 7 elementary and secondary schools throughout West Contra Costa Unified School District, have been invited to participate in the Special Olympics Schools Partnership Program Unified Track and Field Event on Wednesday, June 1st, 2022 at De Anza High School! This event has been annual and is now back in person!

[Letter- English](#)

Educational Services - LaResha Martin

Textbook Purchasing Process - (Gabe Chilcott & Francie Kunaniec)

The library services team put together an update on the textbook purchasing process in response to Trustee questions at the April 13, 2022 board meeting. [Here is the link to the Textbook Purchasing Process.](#)

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Secondary- LaResha Martin (Gabriel Chilcott & team)

Math Department (Mark Lobaco & Team)

TNTP's Good to Great Program with WCCUSD–Final Report--WCCUSD was one of three California LEA's that participated in this program. [Here is their final report](#) documenting TNTP's results, resources, and recommendations. About a dozen Grades 6-8 teachers participated in this intensive coaching program run and stipended by [TNTP](#), attending learning sessions in August and participating in one week of "mini-inquiry" cycles in September. Teachers practiced warm up math routines and math language routines with their students using high quality instructional material. We hope to continue collaborating with TNTP in the coming school year.

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA, Pat Martin & Team)

The month of March saw multiple festivals and school performances as well at the final prep for the Richmond Art Show. On March 8th, we presented a successful All District Band Festival at El Cerrito

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High School and on March 29th we presented the All District Orchestra Festival at Richmond High School. These festivals featured individual performances by our various secondary programs. Throughout April and May, our high schools will host their feeder area festivals with elementary, middle, and high school ensembles included. [Please follow this link for a more comprehensive VAPA memo.](#)

Family & Community Engagement - LaResha Martin (Martine Blake & Kasey Blackburn-Jiron)

The Expanded Learning Office moved its first round of summer contracts to the Board this week. This summer marks the District's largest expansion of elementary summer learning programs through the state's new Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) funding. This funding stream is targeted to support our most vulnerable TK-6 graders and is to be used to provide 9 hour/day expanded learning opportunities for 180 days of the school year (the 9 hours includes instructional minutes) and 30 9-hour/day of intersession programming (which includes summer). You can read more about the elementary summer learning programs [here](#).

The summer contracts you will see over the next few meetings will include contracts for direct service with lead agency providers (those providers who will be on site every day and provide core staffing and programming), specialized enrichment providers; professional development providers and our external evaluator who will be compiling our summer data.

College & Career - LaResha Martin (Allison Huie & team)

EBMUD visits Kennedy Welding

Students from Mr. Carpenter's welding classes at Kennedy High had the opportunity to explore an East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) service truck and engage in a presentation from EBMUD employees. Topics included the scope of services EBMUD provides to the community, the variety of careers offered by EBMUD, an opportunity for paid summer internships, and how to get enrolled in the Pipeline Training Academy offered right here at the Richmond Hilltop training center. Students were able to ask practical questions around compensation, training prerequisites, what a typical workweek is like, and the physical demand various jobs require.

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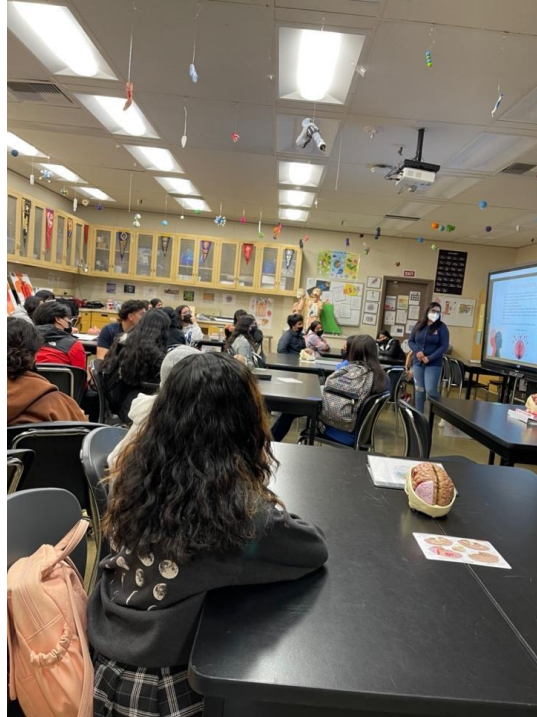
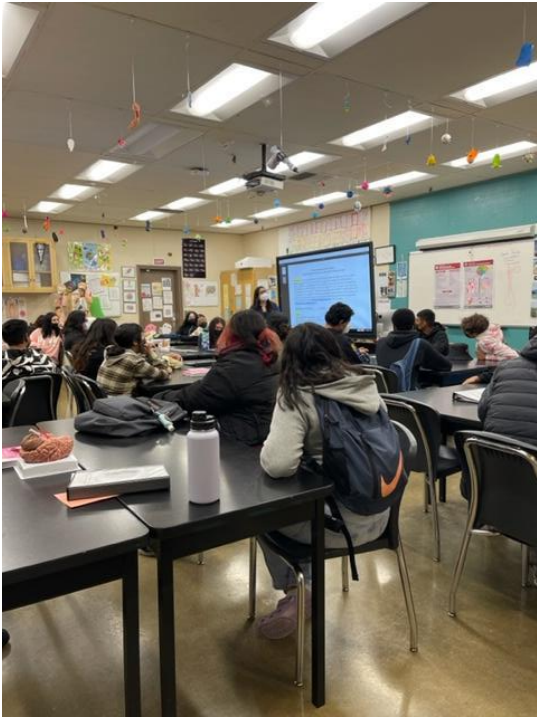


RHS Explores Brains & Mental Health

Students in Ms. Barragan and Ms. Jawad's class start a 4-week collaboration on Mental Health and the Brain. Combining freshman to senior students in the Richmond High Health Academy, the two teachers are presenting topics in mental health and the anatomy of the brain. A very timely topic post Covid. Topics include; Mental health definitions, mental health for healthcare providers, patient care in mental health, self-care in times of stress, how to recognize signs of possible mental health issues, and researching mental health services that are offered in the community. The students will also be doing

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hands-on SimLab activities such as building brains out of clay, training in recognizing traumatic brain injuries, and dissection. The freshman-juniors will finish the unit by researching mental health careers. For the senior class the unit will culminate in a final project to be presented to healthcare providers in the community.



Lake Elementary School Rebuild Project - Luis Freese

Last night, staff and the project team hosted a community meeting via Zoom and in person at Lake Elementary. The presentation highlights design features and renderings of the new campus front facade, administration lobby, library, and flex area of the learning suite. The presentation for the learning suite includes a QR code that connects to a 3D look around. Lastly, the presentation previews the upcoming construction schedule and phasing approach.

Additional Project Information:

- [Community Meeting Presentation](#)
- [Interior 3D Viewer](#)
- [Project website](#)
- [Sign up for our Construction Newsletter](#)

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Update on School Facility Program Audits - Luis Freese

The District has received almost \$135 million in state funding through the School Facility Program (SFP) over the last ten years. Education Code §41024 requires that any District that receives SFP funds after April 1, 2017, complete an independent third-party close-out performance audit for each funded application. The District just completed the seventh successful audit with no findings and conclusions that the District properly accounted for the allowable expenditures. The table below summarizes the completed School Facility Program Audits to date.

Site (Application)	State Dollars Received
Helms (58/61796-00-008)	\$5,341,020
Coronado (57/61796-00-047)	\$946,931
Gompers (57/61796-00-045)	\$2,071,166
Peres (57/61796-00-044)	\$1,101,173
King (58/61796-00-009)	\$2,106,032
ECHS (58/61796-00-010)	\$2,472,732
ECHS Bldg E (58/61796-00-011)	\$218,382

Communications Update - Ryan Phillips

Friday, April 29, 2022

[Why student enrollment in the 10 largest Bay Area school districts dropped this year](#) | San Francisco Chronicle

Enrollment loss, however, is not just a San Francisco problem. Public schools across the state lost 2% of students compared to 2019, and in the Bay Area, districts had a combined 6.5% enrollment decrease, with several seeing more dramatic declines than San Francisco Unified. We found enrollment decreases at each of the 10 districts. San Jose Unified School District had the largest decline, at 11%, followed by 9% at Hayward Unified in Alameda County and 7% at West Contra Costa Unified.

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

[Vallejo High badminton team edges De Anza - Times-Herald](#)

The Vallejo High badminton team edged De Anza 9-8 on Tuesday in Tri-County Athletic League play.

[St. Patrick-St. Vincent High softball team falls to Pinole Valley - Times-Herald](#)

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Monday, April 25, 2022

[WCCUSD substitute teacher shortage hurting students, burning out teachers - Richmond Confidential](#)

After hearing of the substitute teacher shortage last November in the West Contra Costa Unified School District where her kids go to school, Katie Ferrell put in an application to help out. As a former high school English teacher, Ferrell thought it'd be a good way to ease back into working while supporting her children's school. She had planned to work only a few days but ended up doing a couple of long-term assignments and now substitutes on average four days a week. She sticks to Fairmont Elementary School in El Cerrito but admits she's been tempted to work at neighboring districts for better wages, where the pay would sometimes be a difference of about \$130.

[WCCUSD to host community safety forum via Zoom | Richmond Standard](#)

In the wake of [safety issues at campuses](#), the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) will host a community safety forum on Tuesday, April 26, to review the district's safety plan and take questions and feedback from the community. The forum will take place from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Contract Update for the 5/4/22 Board Meeting – Robert McEntire-Mary Kitchen & Team

City of San Pablo – Helms Middle School

The City of San Pablo Community Services Department provides life enjoyment and community strengthening services to promote and enhance the quality of life for San Pablo residents. The City Of San Pablo will provide the Youth LunchTime Recreation Sports Program that organizes sports activities for Middle School students. The goal of this partnership is to be able to offer students the opportunity for positive engagement and connection. The sports skills that are taught in this program will help to prepare middle school students for opportunities in high school for sports activities and trying out for team sports. Staff is made up of both male and female staff from diverse ethnic backgrounds such as African American, Latinix and Vietnamese with Spanish and Vietnamese language skills. At least 50% of our staff were raised in San Pablo. Services will be provided at Helms Middle school as follows: M, T - lunchtime Th, F - lunchtime Wed - game day A total of 3 hours per week

[Link to Additional Information](#)

Common Vision – Lupine Hills Elementary

The original contract is amended as follows:

Services will be added at Lupine Hills Elementary School: Common Vision's mission is to directly connect children with the living world around them. Common Vision works with school communities to build campus green spaces, develop hands-on outdoor learning programs and improve access to fresh foods. The programs' objectives are to 1) set up and maintain the physical infrastructure needed for a hands-on outdoor learning program; 2) provide all needed supplies and materials; 3) facilitate outdoor learning and stewardship activities, aligned with subject areas and instructional goals, with specialist instructors working alongside classroom teachers. Lupine Hills - 1 instructor-coordinator 2 days/week 7 hours per day Schools being served in original contract Peres and King.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

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Contra Costa Health Services – Community Engagement – Ford Elementary

Contra Costa Health Services in partnership with Seneca Family of Agencies will provide the following services at Ford Elementary School. Seneca's Unconditional Education (UE) model empowers the entire school community with the skills and resources required to implement a multi-tiered system of academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports, devoting time and resources toward creating a culture and climate that is engaging and responsive to the needs of all students and their families. A primary focus of the UE model is to increase the achievement of struggling students, including students with disabilities, within inclusive education settings. Unconditional Education is a modular approach that allows schools to identify key areas of internal capacity while leveraging the expertise of Seneca to help address identified gaps and create a truly comprehensive system of support for all students, families, and staff. Clinical Intervention Specialist (CIS): The Clinical Intervention Specialist provides therapeutic, case management and consultation, Assessment, Plan Development, Outreach and Engagement, Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Collateral Services, Intensive Care Coordination, Individual/Group Rehabilitation, Individual/Group Therapy services for a caseload of children and families. Additionally, the Clinical Intervention Specialist participates in the coordination of services at the school site and supports colleagues in including students successfully in diverse settings. The Clinical Intervention Specialist works collaboratively with classroom teachers, school leadership and the RTI implementation team to maintain the social and emotional needs of students. Ford Elementary School, 5 days and 40 hours per week.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

Peacemakers, Inc. – Coronado Elementary

Original contract amended as follows: To extend services at Coronado Elementary School: Peacemakers' mission is to provide a system of care to deliver services that recognizes the importance of family, school, and community; and seek to promote the full potential of children, families, and communities with the most vulnerable needs by addressing their physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs. Services will be provided to an additional 8 most vulnerable students/families. 1 Staff 5 days a week, 35 hours

[Link to Additional Information](#)

StudioFive10 – Community Engagement – Hercules Middle & Hercules High

The original contract is amended as follows: Adding Services at Hercules Middle and Hercules High: There will be one full-time employee, Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. StudioFive10 is grounded in principles that are designed to create powerful relationships, which are essential to building thriving communities and will provide the following services at Hercules Middle and High: Restoration Coordinators provide direct services to students, staff, and families. Restoration Coordinators facilitate conflict mediation circles, community building activities, and social-emotional learning workshops, and provide restorative interventions with referred students. The StudioFive10 Restoration Program aims to reduce the suspension, office referrals, and student conflict. Restoration Coordinators will lead conflict mediation circles that bring all parties together to meet and settle on a plan to repair the harm. Students learn to resolve disagreements, take ownership of their behavior, and engage in acts of empathy and forgiveness. The price at High School is higher due to services being more intensive and requiring more expertise.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

Terra Realty Advisors - Business Services & Facilities Department 7-11 Committee Process

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The district has formed its surplus property 7-11 committee in early Spring and has struggled to coordinate meeting dates between the committee members and the original consulting firm. As a result, staff went out to the community and sourced another firm known in the area to assist the district with the work of the surplus property committee. This includes the same number of meetings (4) conducted via zoom, but also provides more assistance to staff on the technical issues of the committee's work including recording meetings, creation of agendas and meeting notes, and Brown Act compliance. The proposed contract is billed hourly and includes a not-to-exceed clause for \$40,000. This contract is 17.5% cheaper than the previously proposed contract.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

WCC Public EdFund/Brian Lui – Pinole Valley High

Under fiscal sponsor Ed Fund Brian Lui will provide the following services at Pinole Valley High: The program uses a blend of teacher referrals, self-directed student inquiries, and word of mouth to provide targeted tutoring assistance across the curriculum. Services will be provided to most at-risk students. Students who have GPAs below 2.0, EL students, SPED students, referred to by health center students, some self-referred, most from the counselor or their teachers. Services will be provided 3 hours a week after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

WCC Public EdFund/Jacob Landesvetter – Pinole Valley High

Under fiscal sponsor Ed Fund Jacob Landesvetter will provide the following services at Pinole Valley High: The program uses a blend of teacher referrals, self-directed student inquiries, and word of mouth to provide targeted tutoring assistance across the curriculum. Services will be provided to most at-risk students. Students who have GPAs below 2.0, EL students, SPED students, referred to by health center students, some self-referred, most from the counselor or their teachers. Services will be provided 3 hours a week after school.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

WCC Public EdFund/Veronica Sisneros – Pinole Valley High

Under fiscal sponsor Ed Fund Veronica Sisneros will provide a program that offers ladies and gentlemen an opportunity to experience a sport like no other. They will learn responsibility and patience when twirling flags and Sabre's also rifle's. Being in a Colorguard team is fun and exciting, they will form a life-changing bond with their teammates. Colorguard is a group effort, every single member counts. They will be challenged and pushed to learn and reach their full potential. They will have the motivation and drive to keep practicing. Services will be provided at Pinole Valley High, 3 days a week, M/W/F, 1.5 hours/day.

[Link to Additional Information](#)