

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
November 19, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

November 18: MDAC Meeting, 6:00 PM, Zoom

November 18: Reimagining Kennedy High School, 6:30 PM, Kennedy High School

November 23: Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM

November 22-26: No school

November 25-26: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 29: Special Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM, DeJean Middle School

November 30: Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM, Middle College High School

Communications Updates – Ryan Phillips

November 12, 2021

**The Richmond Standard - Kennedy High and Richmond High campuses set to be ‘reimagined’ -
Mike Aldax**

Two separate meetings next will help inform the West Contra Costa Unified School District’s (WCCUSD) efforts to re-design the Richmond High and Kennedy High campuses. Architects aim to create the plans for the physical redesigns of both campuses by June, according to WCCUSD. Both meetings are a “first step” in a process to redesign the campuses and will include an overview of the process, along with breakout groups enabling attendees to provide feedback on what they’d like to see, according to WCCUSD.

November 16, 2021

EdSource - A school district’s plan to reduce violence through nonviolent means - Ali Tadayon

West Contra Costa Unified is looking at the sources of conflict and misbehavior on campus, then teaching students the social and emotional skills they may need to avoid violence. In his first year in office, Superintendent Kenneth “Chris” Hurst wants to reduce the number of violent incidents, such as fights and bullying, by 20% by the end of the school year and bring down the number of incidents involving weapons by 50%. So far, the district is on track to surpass that goal and may adopt a goal of even fewer violent incidents, especially those involving weapons. To accomplish those goals, the district is focusing on teaching students the social and emotional skills they need to respond to stressful situations. Hurst, in an interview, said those skills include social awareness, relationship building, decision-making and self-regulation.

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The Richmond Standard - Nomination period opens for Ed Fund's Teaching Excellence Awards

The time has come to recognize the excellent teachers of the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). The nomination period has opened for the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund's 2021-2022 Teaching Excellence Awards, which has recognized the district's best teachers for more than 30 years. Submissions are being accepted through Dec. 31. Nominate a teacher at:

www.edfundwest.org/what-we-do/teaching-excellence-awards/

Reimagining Kennedy HS & Richmond HS - Luis Freese



First set of Community Meetings: Reimagining KHS & RHS hosted the first community meetings this week. We had a great group of parents, community members, alumni, staff, and students at both campuses. The evening started with an overview of the process and review of the mission of the school and then participants broke out into small group rooms for discussion on culture, structure, and instruction. To close, everyone was brought back together for a wrap-up and encouraged to sign up for the Site Master Plan Steering Committees.

Reimagining Websites: Additional information, presentations, recorded videos, and input forms will be available on the project pages when the editing is complete. The page links are as follows

- Kennedy High School Reimagining Website Page - <https://www.wccusd.net/Page/16136>
- Richmond High School Reimagining Website Page - <https://www.wccusd.net/Page/16144>

Kennedy HS and Richmond HS Site Master Plan Steering Committees: Each site will form a site-specific Master Plan Steering Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to gather insight from the community and school site family. Participation on the Committee includes attending 4-6 committee

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meetings, school site community meetings, and one board meeting. For more information, email AskFacilities@wccusd.net.

Application forms are available.

- <https://forms.gle/BTUsD7aBZKAKkwVT9> (English)
- <https://forms.gle/nRnuvo1gcfErCAZz6> (Spanish)

7-11 Committee Update - Luis Freese

Prior to the sale or lease of District-owned property, the Board of Education must appoint an advisory committee consisting of no less than seven (7) members and no more than eleven (11) members in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Education Code 17389. The 7-11 Committee's purpose is to advise the Board of Education in developing District-wide policies and procedures in the use or disposition of school buildings or space not needed for school purposes (Ed. Code 17387, 17388). The 7-11 Advisory Committee has the duty of reviewing projected District enrollment to determine the amount of surplus space and real property; establishing a priority list of surplus space and real property that will be acceptable to the community; causing to have circulated throughout the attendance area the priority list and provide for hearings of community input the community on acceptable uses; making a final determination of limits of tolerance of use, and forwarding a written report recommending a determination of whether real property is surplus and recommending uses of surplus space and real property (Ed. Code 17390). The process is quite comprehensive and requires a dedicated team to lead the efforts. At this time, the District is going to temporarily hold the formation of the Committee until the requisite team is in place to support the process. All current applicants will be notified of the temporary hold and will also be notified of any updates.

Pinole Valley High School Gymnasium Update - Luis Freese

On Monday, November 15, 2021, vandalism in one of the gymnasium restrooms resulted in extensive water damage throughout the gymnasium complex. The operations team has been working directly with the Principal to assess and mitigate the damage. Unfortunately, at this time both gyms are closed while we complete the water mitigation and restoration. As a result, the main gym will not be usable for games scheduled this weekend. Currently, we anticipate the machines will be drying the floor through the weekend and possibly into next week. Once the floors have completely dried out, we anticipate that the main gym will be able to be reopened. Unfortunately, the damage in the auxiliary gym is more extensive and once the floors are dried out they will require refinishing to remove the trip hazards caused by expanded flooring. We anticipate it may take up to a month to repair the floor and return it to service. Therefore, we do not anticipate returning the auxiliary gym for use until the new year.

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Bottle Filling Stations and Drinking Fountains Update - Luis Freese

In the last 45 days, more than 50 drinking fountains and bottle fillers have been installed throughout the District. As a result, all school sites will now have access to bottle fillers. There is some miscellaneous finishing work that will continue into December and three freestanding fountains that still have not arrived. We anticipate that all new installations will be completed by the end of the year.

Update on School Facility Program Audits - Luis Freese

The District has received almost \$135 million over the last ten years in state funding through the School Facility Program (SFP). 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 received \$5.34 million dollars in state funds to supplement our local funds for the Helms Middle School Campus Replacement project. The District just completed the required performance audit with no findings and positive conclusions that the District properly accounted for the allowable expenditures.

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

Math (Mark Lobaco & Team): The [Math Parent Letter for 2021-22](#) outlining the District Mathematics sequencing has been updated by the math team.

STEM (John Iwawaki & Team): The STEM team is excited to announce that the WCCUSD STEM Fair will be the week of February 14-17, 2022.

- Students can submit projects on a traditional tri-fold board, or via a digital slideshow.
- Judging is by grade level, in each of four categories: 1) Biological Science, 2) Physical Science, 3) Behavioral Science, and 4) Tech/Engineering/Innovation.
- Winners will have the opportunity to move on to regional and state level fairs.

Having students plan and carry out an investigation, analyze the data they've collected, draw a conclusion based on evidence, and communicate all of that information is *exactly* what NGSS and its Science & Engineering Practices (SEPs) are all about.

- [STEM Fair 2022 Flyer](#)
- [STEM Fair webpage](#)

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Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Early Learning/Elementary - LaResha Martin (Christi Roscigno & team)

Elementary Balanced Literacy PD for Site Administrators & District Literacy Lead Teachers

Colleen Cruz, Director of Innovation for Teachers College Reading Writing Project, facilitated professional learning for our site administrators and District Literacy Lead Teachers on Monday, November 15 & Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Topics included: The role of cohesion, Literacy priorities for now, Helping teachers build upon student strengths, Assessments to identify needs & Matching kinds of small group work with assessment information.

College, Career, and Technical Education Resources for Secondary students - LaResha Martin (Allison Huie & team)

College & Career staff collaborated with Library Services staff to create CTE collections that will soon be available to our students at secondary schools. Career-related eBooks were selected from Follett and OverDrive and will be available to all middle and high school students, in a variety of reading levels. Once these resources are received, they will be set up as Collections. If you go to [WCCUSD's Sora](#) and log in with Google, you can click on Collections on the right and see how it works. Secondary librarians, School Counselors, and CTE teachers will work to promote the collections.

English Learner Achievement - LaResha Martin (Esaul Orozco & team)

Following is an English Learner Achievement update in response to the Board trustees questions:

How many are supposed to attend ELD PD?

ELD PD, facilitated by the EL Achievement team, is currently not mandatory for teachers to attend, but highly encouraged. Currently, we have 44 out of 50 sites that have participated in an ELD PD with at least a site representative in some way this year.

How many do attend?

Attendance varies within each Teacher EL PD (Please see Teacher EL PD calendar below). For example, the secondary ELD PD is focused for 6-12th grade ELD teachers. There are 30 rostered teachers, but there are usually around 6-12 on a monthly basis. Most ELD teachers attend at least 1-2 sessions per year.

The highest number of teachers attend our district-wide PD session, however the percentage of teachers total represented is very small. For example, our district wide PD usually has about 100 teachers. That's only about 12% of the total teacher population. EL Achievement also recognizes teacher attendance is higher when PD is during the school day or during a protected time.

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PD during the school day or during a protected time can be seen at schools with an International model (RHS & Helms). PD during the school day is ideal and works for International teachers considering they have a common prep and the EL teams are already initially shaped by the model. All international teachers (2 teams of 16) attend their EL focused PD. However, this is not viable for other schools.

For the language and literacy teachers leaders, there has been 100% attendance for sites with a designated representative.

What are the ideas to increase attendance?

The EL Achievement team recognizes the pattern that teacher attendance is most consistent with PD that supports teacher teams. This year we expanded and created a TK-12 teacher leader Community of Practice for ELs. This space is open to all teachers, not just ELD teachers. The goal is to build capacity with at least one teacher leader from each school site. Currently, there are 36 schools represented from 50 in the TK-12 COP. The idea to increase EL PD effectiveness and attendance is to build capacity with EL teams and site teacher leaders. Therefore, making EL PD more accessible to the school site schedules, plans, goals.

If our EL Achievement team has a stronger relationship with sites then we can focus more on their site needs and PD asks. The MS/HS Literacy Intervention Boot camp is such a PD that developed with building a relationship with a site and supporting their particular site request.

Another idea to increase attendance, is to include ELD PD with other content areas. For example, this year we have partnered with our district science coach and developed a Science PD focusing on Integrated and Designated ELD. The idea here is to expand ELD PD within all content areas in the coming years. If ELs are receiving ELD in all classes, their proficiency will increase faster.

Lastly, we believe we need to return to the practice of ELD PD for all new teachers and review how there can be at least one other mandatory ELD PD for all teachers. The EL Achievement team also plans to further explore ways to improve ELD PD for the district within this year's Master Plan for English Learners (MPEL) Committee, which has ELD PD as an item for review.

2021-22 Teacher PD Offerings to Enhance EL Achievement:

- Secondary ELD PLC Dates: 9/21, 10/12, 11/9, 1/11, 2/8, 3/15, 4/12, 5/9
- MS/HS Literacy Intervention Boot camp: 8/26-8/29, 9/29
- TK-12 District-Wide ELD & Literacy PD: 10/28, 1/27, 3/28
- TK-12 Teacher Leaders COP : 9/28, 10/26, 11/16, 12/14, 1/25, 1/27, 2/15, 3/22, 4/26, 5/24, 6/7
- Science and ELD (K-8 Focus): 12/2, 12/7, 1/13, 1/18, 2/1, 2/17, 3/10, 3/29
- Ellevation Office Hours: Every Other Monday 4:30-5pm