

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
*Office of the Superintendent*

**Friday Memo**  
**September 10, 2021**

**Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst**

September 13: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, 2:00 PM

September 22: Board of Education, 6:30 PM, DeJean Middle School

**Next Board Meeting September 22 – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.**

Closed session will begin at 5:00 PM.

**Contracts Update for the 9/22/21 Board Meeting – Tony Wold (Mary Kitchen)**

Pinole Valley High School is bringing forward one contract:

Bay Area Community Resources:

Bay Area Community Resources' therapist at Pinole Valley High School will enhance the socio-emotional/behavioral health of students, families, and schools. Their restorative justice is culturally humble and trauma-informed behavioral health services will help youth and families cope with emotional/life circumstances, and develop positive strategies so they can be successful and healthy in and out of school. They also work with caregivers to strengthen their ability to resolve the problems and to support their youth's emotional and academic growth. Services will be provided 2 days per week, 8 hours per day.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

King Elementary School is bringing forward one contract:

Bay Area Community Resources:

BAYAC AmeriCorps is a National Service program of BACR which places AmeriCorps members who commit to a service term at schools and community based organizations providing youth in the Bay Area with opportunities for meaningful engagement, skill building, and emotional/social development.

AmeriCorps members serve children and youth that are deeply impacted by the stressors and obstacles presented by poverty, disadvantaged neighborhoods and under-resourced schools. BAYAC AmeriCorps Members are an essential component in expanding our partners' capacity to meet the critical needs of our youth and community.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

The Educational Services Department is bringing forward one contract:

Illuminate Education:

The SAEBRS (Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener) is a brief, norm-referenced tool for screening all students to identify those who are at risk for social-emotional behavior (SEB) problems. SAEBRS has a student-rater companion assessment, my SAEBRS, which allows students in grades 2-12 to self-assess their social, academic, and emotional behavior. Through the use of teacher and student self-report, a more complete picture of a student's social-emotional functioning and wellbeing can be captured.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

The Special Education Department is bringing forward one contract:

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**Soliant Health:**

Provides itinerant virtual DHH teacher to deliver mandated IEP services. This is a hard to recruit Instructional Specialist required to serve students with IEPs for specific disabilities: direct services, assessment, scheduling, preparation and attendance at IEP meetings. In order to fulfill mandated IEP services, the department has entered into a contract with Soliant Staffing to provide direct services to students with IEPs in the amount of 200,000.00. Due to the inability to recruit new personnel and the need to maintain services beginning August 2021 we are entering into this contract. Our first goal remains to hire qualified permanent staff members to serve our students, but staffing shortages could result in our existing teachers taking on caseloads beyond the allowable contractual and CDE cap.

**Assessment - LaResha Martin (Gabriel Chilcott, Stephanie Hearne & Team)**

Our STAR window is open for grades 3-11. We expanded STAR to include grade 11 last Spring to use in lieu of state level testing. This administration is the first time teachers will administer STAR reading and math in grades 9-10. A 95% participation rate is expected for all district mandated assessments. The STAR results and results from the CAASPP Interim Assessments (IAB) will be used as the data for cycles of inquiry to continue to improve student outcomes.

**Math - LaResha Martin (Gabriel Chilcott, Mark Lobaco & Team)**

The math team is reviewing high school schedules to ensure that students are placed in the appropriate course level. Professional Development in support of the Foundational Skills test is offered before and during the Fall assessment window.

**Reading Assessments: Elementary - LaResha Martin (Emily Hill & Christi Roscigno)**

STAR Reading Assessment for grades 2-6 which will provide screening data to inform deeper assessments on the Reading/Running Record for Focal students. Foundational Literacy Assessments for grades TK-1 have begun being administered, with office hours for teacher support as needed.

**Literacy Professional Development (PD) for all TK-6 teachers and site administrators - LaResha Martin (Emily Hill & Christi Roscigno)**

As a part of our all in partnership with TCRWP of Columbia University, we have our year long [Professional development structures](#) in place. Much of this learning will be facilitated by our colleagues from Teachers' College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP), and we are building internal capacity to hold ongoing professional learning through the District literacy lead teacher program.

**African American Student Achievement - LaResha Martin (William McGee & team)**

The OAASA in conjunction with the SpEd department will be hosting a parent/guardian engagement workshop on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, via zoom. The workshop will be conducted by Dr. Mary Bacon. This workshop supports the resolution number 46-1920, items C and F.

**Every Shut Eye Ain't Sleep: Becoming An Effective Advocate for Your Child  
Families as Equal Status Partners in the Educational Process**

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This interactive, down-to-earth and inspiring presentation will engage participants in a journey of self-exploration and introspection that prepares families to assume more effective partnership roles with educators. Participants will have greater confidence in their interactions with educators and acquire the tools to promote equal status relationships with those who serve their children, With a particular emphasis on families who have not traditionally been involved actively with educators, the presentation will help families to become advocates for their children in an educational system that may not always give them messages about their strengths and their ability to conquer any obstacles that they may face.

**First and Forever**

**September 21, 2021 6:00pm**

**Dr. Mary Bacon**

**Families as Equal Status Partners  
in the Educational process**

**Scan for Zoom Link**

**PARENT  
WORKSHOP**

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
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The OAASA in conjunction with Richmond Promise will host two workshops in the month of September supporting a college going culture.

The OAASA is working with Contra Costa College and will be visiting all school sites to promote a college going culture and meet our Black/African American students. The beginning of the visits will start with all high schools, and branch down to middle and elementary schools.