

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
August 26, 2022

Upcoming Events – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D
September 1: Back to School Night - Elementary Schools, Minimum Day

Next Board of Education Meeting September 7, 2022– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

Special Education News: Sonja Neely-Johnson, SELPA

Contra Costa County is going to receive a Family Empowerment Center (FEC)! It was originally denied but the new budget signed by the Governor includes funds for Contra Costa County and other counties that were originally turned down. Advocacy by SELPA's and families of children with disabilities helped make this a priority. West Contra Costa SELPA and other SELPA's in the county wrote letters of support and advocated on the importance and need for our families of school age children with special needs. Kudos to Hannah Michaelsen, Program Director at the CARE Parent Network. For more information about CARE Parent Network check out their website - [Care Parent Network](#)

Educational Services Updates - LaResha Martin

Instructional materials

The Educational Services department is providing a brief update to the board on the different instructional materials processes and types of approvals.

- **Adoptions** - for all-district core curriculum. We go through a curriculum review process with central and school site staff. Select teachers pilot the curriculum with their students in the classroom and recommendations are presented to the Board for approval.
- **Approvals** - for small courses, such as one course at one or two sites, are added to the district [Adopted Materials list](#). The list is on the Board Consent Calendar once or twice a year.
- **Public hearing** - The Textbook Sufficiency hearing is held by the Board in late September or early October. Every teacher in every school is asked to sign an affidavit acknowledging that students have their instructional materials. Staff fills insufficiencies prior to the public hearing.
- **Williams Review** - is an in-person review in August & September of 26 sites by CCCOE. In addition to instructional materials, facilities and teacher credentialing are evaluated. Results are presented to the Board in late fall.

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

WCCUSD Students Complete Summer Legal Fellowship

Eight students from three WCCUSD high schools recently completed the Summer Legal Fellowship Program coordinated through the Center for Youth Development through Law. These students interned with firms and organizations throughout the Bay Area including: East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, Bay Area Legal Aid, Root and Rebound, Contra Costa Public Defender, Contra Costa County District Attorney, Family Violence Law Center, Adibi IP Group, PC, and the Services, Immigration Rights, and Education Network.



“Honestly, before, I was kind of on a route to going into construction. I didn’t think I could really make it to college. I thought I wasn’t cut out for it. This program gave me the perspective that I can really make it to college, and I can really impact a lot of people with what I do.” – Kaiden, DAHS

Funding Student Internships

Many of our pathways were organized under and are supported by the California Partnership Academy grant program. Part of that program model includes supporting students to obtain internship experiences. In order to provide high quality paid internships for students, we rely on funding support from grants, employers and generous donations from partners. The Center for Youth Development through Law, for example, raises significant private funding each year to be able to provide student interns with stipends for their work. College & Career staff also submitted a grant application in July to the Department of Health Care Access and Information for \$500,000 to support internships for students in our healthcare pathways.

You can support our student internship program by [donating here!](#)

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Educational Services Highlights! - LaResha Martin

Middle College High School granted a "6-Year Cycle" for their WASC Accreditation

Congratulations to Finy Prak and her staff on their WASC Accreditation! The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) announced the action taken at the Summer 2022 Commission Meeting. The ACS WASC Commissioners have determined Middle College High School (9-12) meets the ACS WASC criteria for accreditation. This accreditation status is based on all of the information provided by the school, including the school's report, and the satisfactory completion of the accreditation visit. It is the decision of the Commission to grant six-year accreditation status through June 30, 2028 with a mid-cycle visit during the 2024-2025 school year.

End-of-Year Data Highlights and SBAC 2022 Data

At our Annual Management Advance meeting with Administrators and Community School Directors we reviewed end-of-year and SBAC data with leaders and their teams. The attached [slide deck](#) provides data on:

- SBAC
- Attendance
- Disproportionately in Suspensions
- California Healthy Kids Survey
- Highlighted Schools with STAR High Growth

Leaders and their teams had the opportunity to reflect on their end-of-year data and opportunities for engagement with staff, parents and community for inclusion in the data and next steps. We also spent a great deal of time discussing Culture and Climate, setting expectations on Safety and creating Cycle of Inquiry plans with clear goals and outcomes for student behavior the first 2 weeks of school. Attached you will find the [Vital Sign Scorecards](#) and the [Power Point](#) of the day!

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

Recruiting and Supporting Staff for our College and Career Programs

College and Career staff are working tirelessly to recruit teacher and counselor candidates for our schools. In addition to the District's postings on the EdJoin job website, we actively share current position openings with credentialing programs and widely within our personal, professional, and community networks.

Additionally, this year WCCUSD is formalizing a partnership with Orange County Office of Education that will provide credential services for Designated Subjects CTE credential candidates. Via this partnership, OCOE will provide CA Commission for Teacher Credentialing approved coursework for CTE teacher candidates and WCCUSD will serve as the employer partner and provide each CTE preliminary credential candidate with a mentor.

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This new teacher mentorship component will be provided thanks to the continuation of one of the many grant programs that the C&C Department applies for each year to support CTE in WCCUSD. The CTE TEACH program supports the unique needs of new Career and Technical Education Teachers transitioning from industry into the classroom with free resources such as early orientation and professional development modules, teacher induction resources, CTE media and mentor training. We have been awarded the CTE TEACH grant for a second year in a row and the grant funding will compensate veteran CTE teachers to support these new teachers in mentorship roles.

C&C staff provide intensive personal support to individuals who are or were previously employed in industry who wish to transition to roles within education and work closely with site leaders and key personnel in our Human Resources division to ensure seamless onboarding into vital roles. Thanks to these collaborative efforts WCCUSD's College and Career Department is proud to be supporting **19 newly-credentialed teachers** via these partnerships for the 2022-2023 school year.

We are always looking to support individuals with experience in the [key industry sectors](#) identified by the state of CA for development who wish to explore careers in education. If you or someone you know may be interested in teaching tomorrow's workforce, please have them [contact us today!](#)

Business Services- Robert McEntire, Ed.D.

[Attached](#) is an article with statewide attendance data broken down for Elementary, High, and Unified school districts in California. WCCUSD had a districtwide attendance rate of 89.3% for 2021-22, which is very close to the statewide average for Unified districts at 89.6%

Human Resources Updates Permits/Waivers - Sylvia Greenwood

If a fully credentialed candidate is not available districts must recruit candidates in this order:

A candidate who is qualified to participate and to enroll in an intern program

A candidate who is scheduled to complete his or her preliminary credential requirements within six months

A candidate who qualifies to use a local assignment option

A candidate who qualifies for the Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) or the Short Term Staff Permit (STSP)

Provisional Internship Permit (PIP)

The Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) was created in response to the phasing out of emergency permits and became effective on July 1, 2005. It allows districts to fill an immediate staffing need by hiring an individual who has not yet met the subject matter competence requirement needed to enter an intern program. Prior to requesting a PIP, the employing agency must verify that a diligent search has been made, and a fully-credentialed teacher cannot be found.

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The PIP is only available at the request of The district. Individuals may not apply directly to the Commission for this document. Holders of the PIP are restricted to service with the employing agency requesting the permit.

The PIP is available in the areas of Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Education Specialist. Individuals who were issued four or fewer Long-Term Emergency Permits may be issued the PIP as long as the employer requirements have been met. Individuals who were issued five Long-Term Emergency Permits do not qualify for the PIP. The PIP will be issued for one year.

Short-Term Staff Permit (STSP)

Short-Term Waivers give districts the ability to cover unanticipated, immediate and short-term needs. This waiver allows employers to assign teachers who hold a basic credential to teach outside of their credential authorization for one semester or less with the teachers' consent.

Variable Term Waiver

The Variable Term Waiver is a document issued for employers who meet the waiver criteria when a fully credentialed teacher is not available for the assignment. It allows the employer to fill the assignment while searching for a fully credentialed teacher in the subject area of the assignment and gives the waiver holder additional time to complete requirements.

Communications Update - Ryan Phillips

Friday, August 19, 2022

[Soulful Softball Sunday returning with expanded field of teams - Richmond Standard](#)

This softball tournament gets straight to the soul of the Richmond community.

The popular Soulful Softball Sunday will return to Nicholl Park on Sunday, Aug. 28, with an expanded field of 11 teams from around the Bay Area, all vying for the annual Mayor's Cup Challenge Trophy. Soulful Softball Sunday is more than a single event. The organization has hosted a number of charitable community fundraising events. When schools closed during the pandemic in March 2020, it worked collectively with the West Contra Costa Unified School District to distribute millions of meals to families in need.

Thursday, August 18, 2022

[Juveniles arrested, investigation ongoing in Richmond school break-ins](#) | Richmond Confidential

Police have arrested four juveniles and are looking for others who they say are connected to break-ins at five West Contra Costa Unified School District buildings last month, smashing windows and electronics and ransacking classrooms.

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The juveniles who were arrested late in July and early this month ranged in age from 12 to 16 years old, said Sgt. Aaron Pomeroy of the Richmond Police Department. He said police are still gathering evidence and working to identify other suspects.

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

[Healthier options on the menu as California begins providing free meals for all students](#) | San Francisco Examiner

With an influx of state and federal funding aimed at expanding access to school meals, California districts are ramping up food production, upgrading menus and using more fresh, healthy ingredients than before. School meals will continue to be free for all California students, as they have been since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. West Contra Costa Unified, in the East Bay Area, used the extra funds to purchase a mobile food truck, and through a partnership with nonprofit Conscious Kitchen, the district receives fresh produce for scratch-cooked school meals. Conscious Kitchen works with schools to provide organic meals to students.

Some of West Contra Costa's new menu offerings this year include spicy maple-glazed chicken, ham musubi and strawberry muffins.

Sunday, August 14, 2022

[San Pablo community collab prep hundreds of youth for return to school](#) | Richmond Standard

The event served children in kindergarten through 12th grade. Young people and their families received 500 backpacks and school supplies to help them prepare for back to school. The Kiwanis supplied the backpacks and Love Apparent Senior Services gave out the school supplies. Alfaro noted that many local businesses and community partners made Saturday's event possible, including La Strada Restaurant, Love Apparent Senior Living Services, Finas Pizza, El Palenque Grill, Kool Cuts by Brenda, Primorosa Hair Salon, Ricardo Ramos of Platinum Home Mortgage, Realty World, Lifelong Medical Care, McRod Team, Republic Services, West Contra Costa Unified School District, the Office of County Supervisor John Gioia.