

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Board Weekly Memo
February 16, 2024

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

February 19-23: President's Week - No School

February 27: District AASAT Meeting, 6-8pm, Zoom

Next Board of Education Meeting March 6, 2024 – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

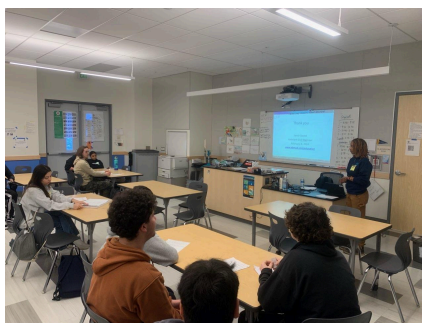
College & Career – Sonja Neely-Johnson (Dr. Allison Huie & Team)

CCC IT/Media Day

Students in Information Technology and Media Academies/Pathways at Kennedy HS, Hercules HS, El Cerrito HS, DeAnza HS, and Richmond HS participated in the IT/Media Day at Contra Costa College. This event was organized and hosted in partnership with Contra Costa College and the WCCUSD Department of College and Career. Students participated in programs and workshops focusing on:

- Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Information Technology
- Automotive Collision & Technology Services
- Media Arts & Film Production
- Computer Science
- Engineering

PVHS Engineering Day



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Industry professionals Ken Forward (PG&E), Jamie Sweet (EBMUD), and Peter Su (Roche Diagnostics) speak to students in the Pinole Valley High School Engineering Pathway about careers in engineering.

Pinole Valley High School hosted an Engineering Pathway Day on February 8, 2024. The event aimed to expose pathway students to diverse engineering and trade disciplines, offering valuable insights and experiences. The in-person event, which ran from 8:30 AM to 12:45 PM, involved students rotating through different rooms for presentations and hands-on activities, featuring industry guest speakers Ken Forward, Program Manager at PG&E, Peter Su, Senior Systems Engineer at Roche Diagnostics, Jamie Sweet - Civil Engineer at EBMUD, and Jon Celesia, Professor at APECS at CCC. Students actively participated in career awareness as part of their work-based learning personal plans, further enriching their Engineering pathway experience.

Family & Community Engagement - Sonja Neely-Johnson (Martine Blake & team)

The Expanded Learning Office (EXLO) is working closely with three youth serving nonprofit organizations, [Headwaters Science Institute](#), [StudioFive10](#), and [YMCA of the East Bay](#), to offer spring break camps for up to 400 unduplicated TK-6th grade students at three district locations: Riverside, Chavez, and Coronado. Information about the programs including the [application](#) QR code will be disseminated to families at Title I elementary schools and unduplicated families at non Title I elementary schools via ParentSquare and Peachjar. Additionally EXLO will be working with SCOWs and after school program providers to both outreach and support families with completing applications. Spring Break Camp will run Tuesday, April 2 through Friday, April 5th from 8:30am-5:30pm. Participating students will receive breakfast, lunch, and snack/supper courtesy of Nutrition Services. Contracts for spring break camp will be going to the Board for review and approval in March.

Update: RIF Procedures for Grant Funded Positions - Kim Moses

The Business Services Team reviewed all grants and grant-funded positions to analyze the fiscal impact of temporary positions funded with “soft money”. “Soft money” refers to grants with time limits, strict spending rules, and/or positions that need community approval annually. As a formality to ensure that positions hired through grants or site-specific funding are not rolled over to the general fund obligation, we will be recommending a Reduction List specific to “soft money” positions. These positions will be recommended for reduction for one of the following reasons:

1. The positions are paid with private donations and future funding has not yet been secured (6.1 FTE)
2. Early Literacy Block Grant is Expiring, positions related to the grant must be eliminated (9.96 FTE)
3. The position is funded by a grant with an insufficient fund balance (2.0 FTE)
4. Site Funded Positions need SSC approval to be renewed for the new school year’s State & Federal funds (21.3 FTE)

These expiring “soft funded” positions total \$4.7 million in grants/donation funds.

Update: FCMAT Fiscal Health Risk Analysis - Kim Moses

The Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) has begun the process of conducting a Fiscal Health Risk Analysis for our district. There is a team in place and Business Services is starting the process of collecting documents needed by the FCMAT team. It is estimated that the process will take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete. The FCMAT evaluators will present the report during a public session at a school board meeting in late May or June. The report will be provided to the Board ahead of the presentation for review. This [FCMAT slide presentation](#) outlines what the team will be assessing.

Communications Update - Raechelle Forrest

News of the Week: None.

Legislative Updates:

*These legislative updates are only meant to be informative to our Board and community so they are aware of legislation that may affect them and our community

Fair Play for Women Act

The Fair Play for Women Act would promote fairness and equity in participation opportunities and institutional support for women's and girls' sports programs, ensure transparency and public reporting of data by college and K-12 athletic programs, hold athletic programs and athletic associations more accountable for Title IX violations and discriminatory treatment, and improve education and awareness of Title IX rights among college and K-12 athletes as well as athletics staff.

STATUS: Introduced to US Senate and to US House

One Pager

California Assembly Bill 2222

Evidence-based practices, collectively known as “the science of reading,” would become the mandated approach to reading instruction for TK-5, if Assembly Bill 2222, authored by Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, D-Baldwin Park, becomes law.

The bill would shift the state’s decade-old policy of encouraging districts to incorporate fundamental reading skills in the early grades, including phonics, to demanding that they do so. This would depart from the state policy of giving school districts discretion to choose curriculums and teaching methods that meet state academic standards. The California Commission on Teacher

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Credentialing would receive money to add several experts for accreditation of teacher preparation programs in the science of reading. The bill would strengthen accountability for those programs that have not taught effective reading strategies, as required under recent state law.

SPONSORS: CA Assemblymember Blanca Rubio, D-Baldwin Park

CO-SPONSOR(S): EdVoice, Decoding Dyslexia CA, and Families in Schools

STATUS: Introduced to CA Assembly

[Full Bill Text](#)

[School Lunch Integrity Act of 2024 \(Senate 3674\)](#)

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to prohibit the use of cell-cultivated meat under the school lunch program and the school breakfast program.

STATUS: Introduced to US Senate

[Right Start Child Care & Education Act](#)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care services, to provide incentives for students to earn child care-related degrees and to work in child care facilities, and to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance.

STATUS: Introduced to US Senate

[Full Bill Text](#)

[California Assembly Bill 2226 & Senate Bill 1056](#)

Assembly bill 2226 would require parents to send their children to school for one year of kindergarten before they attend first grade. The legislation would go into effect in the 2026-27 school year.

SPONSORS: CA Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi and CA Senator Susan Rubio

STATUS: Introduced to Assembly

[Full Bill Text](#)

Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone (PACE) Act

The PACE Act would modernize the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and enhance Dependent Care Flexible Spend Accounts (FSAs) to make the credit refundable and allow for annual updates to keep both incentives effective and provide more financial support for working parents.

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC):

- Makes the credit refundable in order to expand the credit's reach to working parents.
- Enhances the value of the credit for working parents through an increase in the credit rate.
- Indexes the credit to inflation to ensure the value of the credit will not be eroded over time by rising childcare costs.

Dependent Care Flexible Spend Accounts (DCFSAs):

- Increases the amount of pre-tax dollars parents can put into the accounts from \$5,000 to \$7,500.
- Indexes the new cap to inflation so DCFSAs can keep pace with the cost of childcare.

STATUS: Introduced to US House

California Assembly Bill 2548

California Assembly Bill 2548 is a piece of legislation that aims to improve educational outcomes for students in California by establishing a new accountability system. The bill proposes to amend Section 69996.3 of the Education Code, demonstrating the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to advise and assist school districts and county superintendents. This bill aims to create a more effective system for identifying and supporting struggling schools and districts, aiming to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap. The systems change would include creating a new accountability system with updated district performance measures and data collection and also would provide supports for struggling schools and districts. These systemic changes could lead to changes in curriculum, teaching methods, and resource allocation within the district, aiming to improve student outcomes.

SPONSORS: California Assemblymember Tri Ta

STATUS: Introduced to CA Assembly

[Full Bill Text](#)

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Specific Events Throughout District

Event	Date	Time	Location
Black History Month Assembly	February 16, 2024	*contact school site for time	Peres ES
Black History Joy Event	February 16, 2024	1:30-3:30 PM	Kennedy HS
Black History Month Passport Walk	February 16, 2024	*contact school site for time	Lupine Hills Elementary
Black History Month Assembly	February 16, 2024	*contact school site for time	Dejean Middle
Black History Month Laser Show & STEM Assembly	February 16, 2024	*contact school site for time	Tara Hills Elementary
Black History Celebration Banquet	*contact school site for date	*contact school site for time	PVHS
Black History Month Assembly (led by BSU)	February 23, 2024	9-11:30 AM	Middle College
Black Professional Panel	February 27, 2024	*contact school site for time	Greenwood Academy
Black History Lunchtime Celebration	February 28, 2024	11:20-1:00 PM	Helms Middle
Black History Month After School Program (Performances, Speeches/Poems)	February 29, 2024	*contact school site for time	Betty Reid Soskin
Black History Month Performance	February 29, 2024	9 AM	Ford ES
African Diaspora Museum	February 29, 2024	*contact school site for time	Greenwood Academy