

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
September 1, 2023

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

September 10: Solano Stroll, 10-5pm, Solano Ave. Albany

September 11: CBOC Meeting, 6-8pm, 1400 Marina Way S., Richmond

Next Board of Education Meeting September 6, 2023 – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

Associate Superintendent of Facilities, Maintenance and Bond - Luis Freese

Re: Public Access to School District Facilities

To the West Contra Costa Unified School District Community,

The West Contra Costa Unified School District has received inquiries from community members regarding public access to District facilities. While our schools are first and foremost schools, our sites are also quasi-public spaces when that use does not conflict with our students' and staff's constitutionally protected right to safe, secure, and peaceful public schools. The District is constantly working to balance these sometimes conflicting interests.

While the Civic Center Act (Education Code § 38130 et seq.) requires the District to provide members of the public access to its sites, that access is subject to the interests mentioned above. Like many school districts in California, our District allows individuals and organizations to utilize District sites through a third-party, Facilitron, which anyone can access through the District's website (<https://www.wccusd.net/Page/243>). That use includes rules, requirements, and fees, which are paid as part of that "rental" through Facilitron. That use includes different facilities for each site, but generally includes, theaters, athletic fields, gyms, and other indoor spaces.

The District also provides access to Sites through its partnerships with cities and other community organizations and are scheduled through those partnership entities.

Finally, we know that many community members are seeking more informal, unscheduled use of District sites (e.g., access to playgrounds, outside basketball courts, tennis courts, fields, etc., for unorganized use). The District is actively making changes to its practices with the goal of providing more public access to those areas at District schools, Monday through Friday, after school hours until dusk. Not every site will be the same and not every gate will be unlocked. For example, most elementary schools have after-school care and public access during those times may be limited. High schools usually have many after school activities, especially sports, and public access during those times will also be limited. The District encourages people to check with site administration for information regarding the appropriate access point for these areas.

The District continues to be a community partner. We are here to educate our children. At the

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same time, our school sites are often places where our community comes together. While we begin to institute these new practices, we ask the community to please remember the balance described above that the District is seeking.

Communications Update - Liz Sanders

[BARM's 'Heart of Rescue' features Coach Carter's return to Richmond](#)

The Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM) will host the “[Heart of Rescue](#)” event Sat., Sept. 16 from 2-4 p.m. at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond. The event is free to attend, however attendees can opt to make a donation when registering.

[West Contra Costa taps retirees, others to fill teacher vacancies](#)

Amid the ongoing national teacher shortage, West Contra Costa Unified started its second week of the 2023-24 school year with 80 teacher vacancies, which may lead to shuffling teachers during the first few weeks of school.

[The Ed Fund readies to roll out arts mini-grants for WCCUSD](#)

The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (the Ed Fund) is poised to open the application period on Sept. 1 for its [Bradley Arts Mini-Grants](#) that bolster classrooms and schools throughout the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD).

[Foothill VP resigns to become principal of El Cerrito High School](#)

Foothill High School vice principal Malcolm Norrington is stepping down from his position and will be leaving the district after accepting the principal position at El Cerrito High School.

[Richmond Promise distributes laptops to college-bound students](#)

Richmond Promise teamed up with [Tech Exchange](#) to host a laptop distribution event for college-bound scholars at the Richmond Main Public Library on Sat., Aug. 26.