

Friday Memo
March 31, 2017

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

April 3: District Holiday
April 3 – 7: Spring Recess
April 10: Technology Subcommittee, IT Center, 4:00 PM
April 10: Special Education CAC, Cameron, 7:00 PM
April 12: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 PM
April 13: Student Art Show Reception, Richmond Art Center, 5:00 PM
April 17: Youth Commission, Helms, 6:30 PM
April 18: Facilities Subcommittee, FOC, 4:00 PM
April 18: Governance Subcommittee, Alvarado, 6:30 PM
April 19: CBOC, FOC, 6:00 PM
April 20: Nutrition Festival, Mira Vista Elementary, 8:30 – 1:30
April 20: Elementary Open House, times vary by site
April 20: PAL Scholarship Awards Program, DeJean, 6:00 PM
April 20: WCCUSD Jazz Festival, ECHS Theater, 7:00 PM

County Office of Education First Interim Approval – Sheri Gamba

The Contra Costa County Office of Education has reviewed and approved the District's First Interim Financial Report. The Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools, Deputy Superintendent, letter is enclosed for your review.

Project READ Exemplar Site Awards – Nia Rashidchi

Congratulations to Helms and Korematsu Middle Schools! Both sites participated in the Project READ Exemplar Site competition and are being recognized for their exemplar status. Only 12 schools receive this status so we are proud of their accomplishment.

Project READ is a California Department of Education, Special Education Division project funded through a federally competitively awarded State Grant. The goal of the Exemplar Site Awards is to identify and recognize public school and districts sites that demonstrate improvement in working with middle school students to increase the reading and English Language Arts proficiency and outcomes of all students- including students with disabilities, English learners, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

The focus is on evidence-based practices for teaching reading in the content areas; monitoring student reading progress; enhancing assessment, instruction, and intervention; establishing a collaborative data culture; and involving family members to improve their student's reading. Project READ's selection committee reviewed applications using a three-step review process comprised of an individual review, a panel review, and a post-panel review. They will reference Smarter Balance Assessments and School Accountability Report Cards as part of the review process.

Helms's recognition is specifically for Family Involvement in Improving Student Reading. Their dedication to fostering academic excellence for all students and their innovative approach for improved family engagement is outstanding.

Korematsu's award is specifically for Using Strategies for Teaching Reading in the Content Areas. Their focused effort on implementing key literacy strategies across the curriculum is a model for success.

With the award comes leadership deliverables. Representative team members from each site will create and facilitate a Webinar panel for invited middle schools across the state, present at the Project READ State Institute, and host three site visits in the 2017-2018 school year.

In addition, each site receives a \$3,000.00 cash award to present on the Webinar panel and present at one of the Regional Institutes and an additional \$4,500.00 for carrying out other deliverables and to use to support their continued efforts to improve student literacy at their sites.

We are proud of Korematsu and Helms for their hard work and commitment in supporting their students to be college and career ready upon graduation from the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Practices for African American Student, Support and Success (PAASSS) Draft Brochure – Nia Rashidchi

We continue to think of ways to share the work that is happening in WCCUSD with our stakeholders. At the March 29 board meeting, we gave board members and stakeholders copies of the draft PAASSS brochure dashboard that is focused on Practices for African American Student Support and Success (PAASSS). While we did not have an opportunity to talk with the board about the content of the dashboard on March 29, we do think it is important for you to know what it contains. The brochure contains the major supplemental actions and strategies that we are carrying out in support of improving academic outcomes for our African American students. There are program descriptions, number of students and schools served, and costs. After June 2017, we will also add end-of-year results. We hope this brochure will be a helpful document for board members and other stakeholders to understand some of the critical work happening in our district for our most underserved population of students. We are on a mission to change the current trajectory!

Public Records Log – Marcus Walton

Included in this week's memo is the log of public records requests received by the district. If you have any questions, please contact me.