

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

**Friday Memo**  
**April 19, 2019**

**Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy**

April 20: Elementary Basketball League Playoffs, Greenwood Academy, 10-12:30  
April 24: Agenda Setting, DeJean MS, 4:00 PM  
April 24: Board of Education, DeJean MS, 6:30 PM  
April 25: PAL Scholars Award Program, DeJean MS, 6:00 PM  
April 25: MDAC, Helms, 6:30 PM  
April 26: MDAC, Kennedy, 9:00 AM  
April 26: SportATHon, West County Mandarin, 12:00 PM  
April 27: Elementary Basketball Championship, Kennedy HS, 12:00 PM  
May 3: Richmond Promise 4th Annual Scholars Celebration, Richmond Auditorium , 5-8 PM  
May 4: Cinco de Mayo Parade, 24th & Barrett, 10:00 AM  
May 7: AASAT Meeting, DeJean, 6:00 PM  
May 8: Board of Education, DeJean, 6:30 PM  
May 9: Spring Concert, Madera Elementary, 6:30 PM  
May 10: Ed Fund Soaring to Excellence Event, Richmond Country Club, 6:30 PM

**Upcoming Agenda Items - May 8 - Matt Duffy**

Roadmap Update  
Positive Climate Update  
ELA Adoption

**Update on Stege Redesign - Matthew Duffy**

Over the past few weeks there's been tremendous progress made on strengthening and stabilizing Stege for 2019-20 school year. Stege staff was presented with feedback collected via public survey, staff surveying, and community engagement sessions and structural recommendations were presented for further response. These recommendations and feedback will be the basis for the development of an MOU with our bargaining units.

The recommendations will be the catalyst for continued changes. The Stege design team will be formed at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year with a target for completing its work in time for the 2020-21 school year.

Highlights from the recommendations being made include:

- a longer work year for staff with the focus on professional development and collaboration
- additional specialized courses for students (i.e. PE, visual and performing arts, technology) that can also provide general classroom teachers greater opportunity for daily collaboration
- a longer school day for students
- addition of a full service community coordinator
- increased compensation package to recruit highly qualified and committed staff

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In addition, school staff is assessing needs that can be filled by volunteers and community organizations during the next school year. It is our hope to develop a community services group that will identify which organizations and engaged individuals can meet the identified needs. This work will be coordinated by the full services community school coordinator.

The recommendations and opportunities to support the school and its students will be shared with the public at a community meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, at Stege Elementary School. Staff will begin publicizing this meeting next week.

If you have any questions or suggestions for community groups to be engaged around supporting Stege, please contact executive director Ruben Aurelio at [ruben.aurelio@wccusd.net](mailto:ruben.aurelio@wccusd.net).

**Chromebook purchase - Tracey Logan**

At the upcoming April 24, 2019 Board Meeting, there are 3 related Consent Agenda items for your approval. These items are on the Consent calendar because over the course of the year we have been discussing the need to replace our end of life student tablets at the end 2018-19. The time has come as the tablets are failing and unreliable. We have not created this item as an open action/discussion item as we believe the work we have done over the year and the additional information here will be sufficient to take the needed action outlined below.

BEFORE YOU WILL BE

1. Two resolutions authorizing WCCUSD to:
  - a. Decrease our Technology Reserve from \$7M to \$1M thus releasing \$6M in funds  
*[Consent Item #12 Board Resolution 70-1819]*
  - b. Utilize the released \$6M Technology Reserve funds to purchase the 15,500 replacement student devices *[Consent Item #13 Board Resolution 76-1819]*
2. A consent item for the purchase of the 15,500 Chromebooks and associated set-up and deployment services for elementary and K8 schools *[Consent Item #14 Approval of CMAS Purchase Agreement]*

WHY CHROMEBOOKS?

- **Secure system** with built-in antivirus and central management, thus **increased safety for our students**
- **Simple design** that means no Windows updates, thus **increased instructional time**

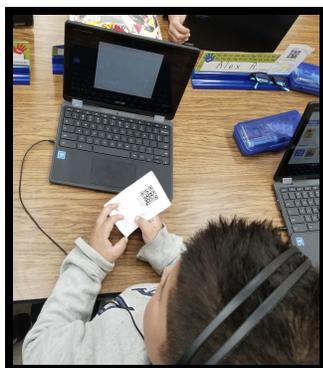
WHY THIS [ACER CHROMEBOOK SPIN 11?](#)

- **Touchscreen with world-facing camera** to function as a tablet, especially good for young learners
- **Long battery life** requiring little to no charging during the instructional day
- **Durable laptop** designed for the education setting to be in the hands (and fall out of the hands) of young people

HOW DID WE COME TO THIS DECISION?

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Over the past 6 months, staff engaged many stakeholder groups including Technology Teacher leaders, classroom teachers, Principals, Assistant Principals, IT, Library staff, Ed Tech, TLL, Community Engagement, and UTR. As a result of our rigorous review process, we decided on the Acer Chromebook for elementary and K8's, and have been piloting it in grades K, 3, and 6 at Lake Elementary since January 2019. We have received an overwhelmingly positive response from students and staff about the new Chromebooks. See photos and testimonials below.



“I am very happy to have replaced the Acer tablets with Chromebooks. With the Acers it was a constant battle to get all the students working. With the Chromebooks, I spend the vast majority of my time teaching.”

*Eric Swabeck, 3rd grade teacher, Lake Elem.*

“I like the Chromebooks, more than the ones we had before because they're easy to access at their age. All they have to do is just open it up, flash their badge, and they're on. So for me it's easy. I don't have to log them in individually because before, that was a big hassle. So I actually love these Chromebooks! Please keep them because they are awesome.”

*Erica Johnson, Kindergarten teacher, Lake Elem.*

“The Chromebooks have been wonderful because now my kids are getting to an independence level where they don't need me to start working on their computers. They have gotten into the routine of logging in by themselves. There are no update issues, and the computers are not stopping [freezing up.] My class is going very very smoothly when it's time to use the computers.”

*Adelina Abril, Kindergarten teacher, Lake Elem.*

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“Just wanted to let you know how much we love the new Chromebooks. My Kindergarten students are able to log in with a Clever Badge. This has made the tablets infinitely easier to use. Students are now able to log in quickly without my help. Internet access is super. We use various programs online including: Lexia, Videos of our K Reading Books, Splash Math, ABC Mouse. My class gives the Chromebooks 40 thumbs up!”

*Gordon Nadeau, Kindergarten teacher, Lake Elem*

We like the fact that the devices load faster, are easier to manage screen brightness, and that the devices are responsive.

*Four 6th grade students, Lake Elem.*

**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?**

In a future Board meeting, staff will bring for discussion the future of our 1-to-1 program given our funding context. In the meantime, we are actively exploring funding options, including corporate sponsorship.

**Elementary Soccer League Schedule - Marcus Walton**

The fourth and final session of the 2018-19 middle school sports league kicked off this week with coed soccer. This year we have 6 middle schools participating in the soccer league including Mira Vista and Verde.

Attached is a copy of the schedule. All games will be held on Wednesday and Friday afternoons at Helms. There are two games on Wednesday afternoons 3:45 & 5:00, on Friday the game is at 4:00.

We look forward to seeing you out at the games!

**Media Stories of Interest - Marcus Walton**

The following news stories may be of interest. You can view through the links or PDF copies are also attached.

Teach for America targeted as legislation seeks to limit inexperienced teachers in California - <https://edsource.org/2019/teach-for-america-targeted-as-legislation-seeks-to-limit-inexperienced-teachers-in-california/611089>

Rising rents in coastal California outpace teacher pay - <https://edsource.org/2019/rising-rents-in-coastal-california-outpace-teacher-pay/611216>

I-TEAM EXCLUSIVE: Principal, teacher on leave after girl's beating in Pinole classroom caught on camera - <https://abc7news.com/exclusive-girls-beating-in-pinole-classroom-investigated/5245334/>