

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
September 28, 2018

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

September 29: Special Education Conference Parents & Caregivers, Pupil Service Center, 8:30 AM
September 29: Site Council Awareness Event, DeJean MS, 9:00 AM
October 1: Special Education Community Advisory Committee, Cameron, 7:00 PM
October 2: School Board Candidate Forum, DeJean MS, 6:00 PM
October 3: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean MS, 6:00 PM
October 10: College Day
October 10: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 4:00 PM
October 12: State of the Schools Breakfast, DeJean MS, 7:30 AM
October 17: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean MS, 6:00 PM

Next Week's Board Meeting – Matthew Duffy

Closed Session for next week's Board Meeting will begin at 4:30 PM.

Data Embargo – Matthew Duffy

This year, the SBAC data embargo will be lifted by the State on October 2, 2018. We are unable to include the data results at the time of publication of the October 3 agenda. The results for the West Contra Costa Unified School District will be available to be presented at the meeting for the Board review.

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.

Media Story of Note - Marcus Walton

The PVHS marching band was featured in the East Bay Times this week. The story is attached.

Public Records Request Log 2018 - 2019
Week Ending September 21, 2018

	Date of Receipt	Requestor	Requested Records/Information	Current Status
56	3/22/18	Scott Rafferty	Communications regarding CVRA allegations	3/26/18 Email sent with DOCs & Links 3/27/18 Email sent with DOCs & Links Gathering/Reviewing Documents
65	4/27/18	J. Paul Fanning Lankford, Crawford, Moreno & Ostertag LLP	Richmond High School / Asbestos Records	6/8/18 Email sent requesting clarification in order to narrow search, per our Facilities Department 6/11/18 Updated/Revised PRR received by Requester COMPLETED
67	5/9/18	David Stephan	Roster of all WCCUSD High School Faculty	5/15/18 Acknowledgement email sent
1819-04	8/1/2018	Scott Rafferty	Communications, social media regarding trustee elections	8/6/2018 - Acknowledgement letter sent Reviewing Documents
1819-06	8/6/2018	Partida - Berkes Crane Robinson & Seal	Documents regarding the presence of asbestos at De Anza HS	8/10/2018 - Acknowledgement letter sent 9/21/2018 – DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE
1819-08	8/30/2018	Nicole Bates – LSC	Referral, Suspension, Expulsion, Transfer, Arrest data	8/30/2018 – Acknowledgement email sent

Community News

For Pinole Valley High's marching band, halftime shows are a choreographed tradition

By **ALI TADAYON** | atadayon@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group
PUBLISHED: September 24, 2018 at 4:06 pm | UPDATED: September 26, 2018 at 5:13 am

PINOLE — With Pinole Valley High School's football team ahead at halftime of a Friday night home game against Alhambra, the school's 60-member marching band took to the field and, for its second number, played "Forget you" by Cee-Lo Green.

The crowd went nuts and started dancing and singing along, then cheered as the band moved into a heart formation and, on cue with the song's lyrics, the heart broke.

"We prepare all week for this, and there's a lot of anxiety before we play, but as soon as we got on the field it goes from anxiety to 'Let's do this,' " said junior Simone Allen.

Pinole Valley High's band is used to accolades. It is one of the few high school bands in the East Bay that does a choreographed halftime show. In fact, for years it was the only high school in the West Contra Costa Unified School District that did so, district spokesman Marcus Walton said. Most other schools have symphonic bands that play during games.

ADVERTISING



And while other Bay Area high school marching bands get large donations from parents, Pinole High band director Erik Radkiewicz only asks for a \$25 donation per student.

The band doesn't win many competitions and isn't as flashy as some other well-funded marching bands in the Bay Area, but the school and the musicians take a lot of pride in keeping the tradition alive, Radkiewicz said.

"We're not the best marching band in the land, but we use this to keep kids active and involved in the community," Radkiewicz added.

David Gibbs, a longtime adviser for BD Performing Arts — which puts on high school marching band competitions for the Western Band Association — said marching bands aren't as popular in Northern California as they are in Southern California and the Central Valley, though he couldn't pinpoint why.

Several young musicians indicated their favorite part about being in the band is the friends they make. Kaitlin Wilkerson said she's made some of her best friends in the band, and drum major Kenny Phan said he will cherish the memories of performing for his entire life.

"It's like we're a family, we spend so much time together, and work so hard for this, and it's an experience we all share together, Phan said.

For 17-year-old Caleb Spakousky, who uses a power wheelchair to get around, being in the band allows him to feel like part of the school spirit despite his disability. The routines are choreographed to include him.

"These kids are the ones that make up the routines, so for them to be so inclusive is amazing," said Maryanne Spakousky, Caleb' mother.

The students practice several times a week on Monday nights and on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch. All participants also take symphonic band classes, which Radkiewicz teaches.

“It takes a serious commitment,” Radkiewicz said.

As Pinole Valley High School’s enrollment has dropped over the years, so has the number of participants in the marching band, Radkiewicz said. It’s an extracurricular “club,” so students don’t get grades and likely won’t get any scholarship money for college.

What students get out of it, Radkiewicz said, is a sense of satisfaction and a feeling of being part of something bigger.

“They put the time and work in, and we’re all happy with ourselves in the end. I think that gets lost in the age of social media, and instant gratification,” Radkiewicz said.

Tags: [Music](#)



Ali Tadayon Ali Tadayon is an award-winning journalist covering Oakland for the Bay Area News Group. He joined the team in 2017 after working as a crime reporter in Riverside and Idaho Falls, Idaho.

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of Contra Costa & Solano

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