

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
June 19, 2020

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

June 8 - July 31: 4-day work week for employees, all sites closed on Fridays

June 24: Board of Education, Video Conference, 6:30 PM

July 3: Independence Day Holiday Observed, all sites closed

July 7: Agenda Setting, 4:30 PM

July 15: Board of Education, Video Conference, 6:30 PM

Next Week's Meeting - Matthew Duffy

Next week's Closed Session will begin at 5:00 PM

Dual Language Immersion Update - Dr. Gracie Guerrero

Meetings with the Dual Language Immersion advisory committee continue with a regular attendance of staff and parent representatives from each DLI school and District Educational Services, Human Resource, and Special Education teams. Monthly meetings started in the spring and will continue during the summer. Group discussions have focused on district-wide programming structure, marketing, staffing, and training. The next few meetings will be working sessions that will result in the drafting of the WCCUSD Dual Language Immersion Master Plan as a part of the English Learner Road Map. The goal is to present the plan to the Board and community in December 2020.

This week and next, we are excited to bring the DLI Virtual Academy to our teachers and leaders on [June 19th & 22nd](#), [June 23rd](#) and [June 26th](#). A special session is also being planned for our parents.

Curricular Flexibility - Dr. Gracie Guerrero

A constant challenge for site leaders is to meet the needs of their unique student population with the allotted resources. During the past few years, various site leaders have sought supplemental staff development and curricular support, in addition to that provided district-wide. In the midst of these unprecedented times when differentiating instruction and access to multiple resources are a necessity, site leaders continue to consider available curricular resources to supplement the district adopted materials for Math and Literacy instruction. In order to ensure equity, we have streamlined the process that campuses follow to use supplemental materials to support core instruction.

TK-8th grade schools will be provided with flexibility and choice for site level use of supplemental curricular materials in Literacy and Math to address identified learning needs. District adopted core instructional materials will continue to be provided to all students. Supplemental materials must be standards-based and designed to provide students with access to rich and comprehensive Literacy and Math instruction based on the California Frameworks and elements of Deeper Learning. Leaders who exercise the option to use supplemental materials at a site level must engage in a criterion based review and recommendation process in order to ensure that Williams requirements are met and local progress monitoring continues.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Our goal for establishing and communicating this process is two-fold: to provide site leaders with clear guidelines to identify supplemental materials to implement at the site level and to ensure that all sites have the option to participate in curricular innovation with guidance and accountability from Educational Services.

The [Intent to Apply for Curricular Flexibility and Choice](#) for 2020-2021 is here. Educational Services staff has been in communication with site leaders who are considering using supplemental Literacy and Math resources to meet student and staff needs. Guidelines to support the process are outlined in the [WCCUSD TK-8th Grade Curriculum Flexibility and Choice](#) document. This formal process to support site level innovation with curriculum for Literacy and Math instruction will provide site and District instructional leaders with common expectations for training, purchasing, and implementation.

Parcel Tax Considerations - Dr. Tony Wold and Marcus Walton

Last week, the Board adopted the 2020-21 budget with the understanding there will likely be significant modifications based on the actions taken by the state legislature and governor. As Dr. Wold mentioned in his presentation, the District could need to cut as much as \$62 million over the next two years if the Governor's proposal ends up occurring. This number could be reduced to \$32 million over the next two year should the Legislature version be fully implemented. While the legislature did pass a budget that is more optimistic, the final budget must be negotiated with the governor. Whatever the outcome, it is obvious there will be a need for significant reductions in programs and people. We also know that both agreements will likely change and we won't have that information until later in the Summer after an "August" revision.

Schools and Communities First, the initiative on the November ballot, would help mitigate these reductions. But would not be enough to prevent significant reductions as it is estimated that may bring in approximately \$10 - \$12 million per year starting in two years. In addition, any additional Federal support in the form of one-time funding may allow us to manage the magnitude of cuts over a 3 year period instead of two and sustain services critical for our students. One solution that has been discussed throughout the process is a local parcel tax to help maintain strong programs and services for students. In November 2019, the Board received a report from Bryan Godbe regarding survey results and discussed the need for a parcel tax and bond measure. This report showed that there is strong support in one area, which is support for teachers and class size.

At the July 15 meeting, staff will bring forward a presentation so the Board can discuss whether to place a parcel tax on the November 3, 2020 ballot. It is important to understand that the budget consists of over 85% costs directed to staffing. Reductions that the District will have to make will require negotiations with all bargaining units as there is not enough non-salary expense remaining in the budget to be reduced to make these targets. A parcel tax can retain positions and class size that would otherwise need to be cut to remain fiscally solvent. While we understand the concerns about bringing forward another tax measure, we must also balance the need to clearly articulate what will likely be reduced without the additional revenue.

The State of California utilized this strategy to extend taxes several years ago but allowing the electorate to decide the best course of action. Under Governor Brown the amount of cuts to education was listed and

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

the trigger for those cuts was in December if the ballot measure did not pass. The District will begin to look at areas of reduction and follow the same timeline with negotiations beginning with the bargaining units immediately after the November election. By placing a parcel tax ax on the ballot we will be able to identify what programs and positions would be maintained and not subject to being cut and give our community a voice in those priorities. It will also support what negotiation options the District will need to take.

A few key deadlines to keep in mind:

Filing Deadline - August 7, 2020

Voter Registration Deadline - October 19, 2020

Election Day - November 3, 2020

Youth Truth Survey Data Release - Marcus Walton

The latest Youth Truth survey results are ready for public release. The data includes results from the 2018 - 2020 surveys and will be made available on the district website. The full data set can be found at <https://bit.ly/3hDx9yy>.

In 2018, the District began utilizing the Youth Truth survey to gather information about the culture and climate at District schools. This tool surveys students, families and staff. Previously, the District used the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) to conduct its culture and climate survey.

The results have been shared with principals, who will use them to help write school site plans.

Staff will schedule a time to bring a thorough report on the latest Youth Truth survey results to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Increasing the Project Budget for Michelle Obama School - Luis Freese

The Michelle Obama School Campus Replacement (“Project”) has had significant unforeseen cost impacts due to unforeseen soils condition mitigation requirements and increased costs to implement and monitor COVID-19 site safety protocols. Consequently, the staff is recommending that the Board increase the Project Budget for the Michelle Obama School Campus Replacement Project (“Project”) by 2 million dollars and the District’s Contingency by 1.8 million dollars using Developer Fee funds.

Soil Mitigation: The original soils report indicated the limited presence of shallow soft soil, noting that the *actual* soil conditions were unknown. During construction, significant soft soils were discovered, and mitigation was required beyond the previously bid scope of work. In addition, the top three feet of dark grey water-saturated clay over suitable soil and concrete debris have been found throughout the remainder of the Project site. As site work has progressed, soils technicians have continuously observed and inspected the work to ensure that compaction meets geotechnical standards. The required campus-wide

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

improvements have a sizable unforeseen cost associated with the work that will continue through Project completion.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Compliance with State and County Health Orders and additional safety protocols required since mid-March have resulted in additional unforeseen Project costs that will continue through Project completion.

If the increase to the Project budget and the District's Contingency is approved, the increase would be implemented via an amendment to the Design-Build contract with C. Overaa & Co. Thus, staff recommends approval of such an amendment to the contract.

The Fiscal Impact is 2 million dollars funded from Developer Fees, the Fund 25 Capital Facilities Fund. There is no fiscal impact to the Bond Fund, Fund 21. If approved, the total project budget will be 44.9 million dollars, and the account code will be 25-9025-6211-165-0000-8500-400130-0-0000.

Staff will present this item at the Facilities Committee on June 23, 2020.

Facility Options for Mandarin - Luis Freese

Staff is recommending that the Board approve an initial planning and feasibility project budget for the West County Mandarin Satellite Campus at Adams Middle School ("Project") in the amount of three hundred fifty thousand dollars using Developer Fee funds and approve the associated site investigation contracts.

The Mandarin Program has outgrown its current site at Serra and will need additional facilities starting in the Fall of 2021. The Superintendent and the West County Mandarin community have identified the Adams site as the long-term solution for their campus. The Adams site ("Site") was closed in 2009 and is in proximity to the Hayward fault line. As a result, reopening the Site to provide facilities to students requires an extensive site feasibility evaluation, which includes geotechnical investigations and various agency approvals, including California Department of Education, Division of the State Architect, and California Geological Survey before the District can build on the Site. Staff has completed the initial geotechnical investigation for the lower lot and conceptually sketched a portable campus option that could potentially provide satellite facilities.

Also, Staff recommends that the Board approve four contracts to support the initial planning and investigation at the Site. The services include initial design and agency approval for the lower lot, initial site feasibility for the upper lot, cost estimating for the demolition of the existing building at the Adams site, and initial California Environmental Quality Act compliance studies. Completing these initial services will allow Staff to assess the Site feasibility. Based on the results of the studies, Staff will be able

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

to present the feasibility of the Site, develop the Project scope and prepare a budget to convert the Adams campus into the desired long-term solution for the West County Mandarin Program.

Staff will present this item at the Facilities Committee on June 23, 2020.

COVID-19 Testing Center to Open at Kennedy High School in Richmond - Luis Freese

Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) and the District are partnering to provide free COVID-19 testing by appointment at Kennedy High School in Richmond. The testing will be available at the Kennedy High School County Health Clinic, located in the 500 Building at 4300 Cutting Blvd, Richmond, CA. Testing will be available Monday through Thursday, June 29 through August 16, 2020, between the hours of 7:30 am and 4 pm. To make a telephone appointment, please call 1-844-421-0804; no walk-up testing without appointments. Testing is key to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the health of all in our community. Testing will be available regardless of insurance coverage or citizenship status. Everyone who lives or works in Contra Costa County is encouraged to get tested.