

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
December 6, 2019

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

December 9: Districtwide Budget Forum, DeJean, 6:00 PM
December 10: Solutions Team, UTR Office, 11:00 AM
December 10: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 4:30 PM
December 10: CBOC, FOC, 6:16 PM
December 10: DLCAP, Meeting Cancelled
December 10: Hercules Area Orchestra Festival, HMS Gym, 7:00 PM
December 10: DeAnza Area Festival, DA Gym, 7:00 PM
December 10, 11, 13: Hercules Jazz Dance Performance, HHS Theater, 6:30 PM
December 11: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean MS, 6:30 PM
December 11: El Cerrito Area Band Festival, Korematsu Gym, 7:00 PM
December 11: Hercules Area Band/Choir Festival, HMS Cafeteria, 7:00 PM
December 12: Middle School Winter Concert, DeJean, 6:00 PM
December 12: Richmond High Area Orchestra Festival, Richmond High Theater, 7:00 PM
December 12: Winter Concert, Hercules HS Gym, 7:00 PM
December 13: DeAnza Choir Concert, DeAnza Theater, 7:00 PM
December 13 & 14: Dance Performance, El Cerrito High Theater, 7:00 PM
December 17: AASAT Meeting, DeJean Library, 6:00 PM
December 18: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 PM
December 20: Minimum Day
December 23-January 3: Winter Recess
January 6: Classes Reconvene

Next Week's Meeting - Matthew Duffy

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

Upcoming Agenda Items December 11 - Matthew Duffy

First Interim Report
Kevin Gordon-Capital Advisors
RCP Decision Hearing
Teachers' College Update

Budget Update - Tony Wold

The District continues to work hard to engage all stakeholder groups in the process of identifying priorities and areas of focus for budget reductions. We have had Board presentations on September 18, October 23, and November 20th on the story of how the budget is configured and where our funds are spent in non-salary and management as well as a full and transparent accounting of all the factors that impacted the structural deficit.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

During this same window we have directly engaged multiple stakeholder groups with multiple meetings and significant portions of meetings devoted to discussion of the budget. The Associate Superintendent of Business Services has met personally with the AASAT, DLCAP, MDAC, DBEC, Solutions Team, Retirees, Site Administrators, Solutions Team, and outside advocacy groups, and will still be meeting with a student group and PTA, along with the upcoming December 9th Live Community Event. At that event we will be releasing a survey of priorities to all stakeholders for their input. The survey was developed in collaboration with our associations and with input from outside partners based upon best practices.

Simultaneously, the District is working with Contra Costa County Office Of Education and the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT). The Associate Superintendent of Business Services has also met with both agencies to ensure that our process is aligned to best practices. Both the County and FCMAT are in complete support of the timelines and process of involvement that the District is following.

At the December 11th Board meeting, the updated budget will be presented to the Board as part of the First Interim. This budget now has all expenditures accounted for and includes all carryover and anticipated spending and aligns to the cut targets that were presented to the Board in September. This budget will move the District to qualified status until the process of identifying reductions is completed. Beginning in January, the District will be bringing forward areas for reduction at each meeting as they are identified and verified. Many of these solutions may require negotiations and the District respects the process of appropriately working with our associations and not rushing to incomplete solutions. Solving this issue will require the District and Board to implement solutions in five areas: Cuts, Funding Shifts, Utilization of Reserves and OPEB, Investments, and Advocacy. All five areas need to be part of the solutions and it is likely that this full process may take both this school year and next to complete. Both FCMAT and the County Office have consulted with the District about this two-year systematic approach and have expressed confidence in the District's approach.

With any difficult process there will be stakeholders that have ideas about timelines and expediency of action that may not fully align with the pace that has been occurring, but our process has been following a consistent pathway that was outlined in August and we have not deviated from that pathway. Some of these stakeholders have expressed those concerns in the past weeks and the District respects their feedback and suggestions, and welcomes their continued participation in the process as we release the survey and move forward with our timeline in January. It is important that everyone operates with the understanding that our timelines have been carefully crafted to ensure an open process for a very complex issue. The District budget process of reductions can become very emotional as evidenced by a couple written communications received this week.

The District is committed to continuing with the open process that is validated by FCMAT and the County Office and respects the choices that each stakeholder is making, but at the same time an open process requires that no single group dictate the path of action and that the District continue to engage with all stakeholders in an open manner. The District website, under Budget updates, has

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

copies of all presentations, all documents regarding the budget that stakeholders have requested for review, as well as updated questions and answers.

The District is confident in the process and understands that the emotions caused by this issue and desires of some to move quicker, but our process has been designed to bring the entire community through the process together and will be accelerating in January and February. We look forward to Monday, December 9th as we complete telling the budget story to the community and through the delivery of the survey we can begin the next stage of identifying solutions.