Friday Memo October 16, 2020

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

October 19: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, 2:00 PM October 20: AASAT Meeting, 6:15 PM October 20: DLI Committee, 4:00 October 21: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM October 22: MDAC Meeting, 6:00 October 26: Agenda Setting, 4:30 PM October 29: Michelle Obama Grand Opening, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Next Week's Board Meeting October 21- Matthew Duffy

Closed Session will begin at 5:00 PM.

State Board of Education Meeting: Bonding Capacity Waiver - Tony Wold

In September the Board approved submission of the Bonding Capacity Waiver to the State Board of Education for our Measure R Bond funds approved by the voters in March. We have confirmed with the State Board of Education that the District's bonding capacity waiver will be on the January agenda.

The meeting will occur on Wednesday, January 13th – Thursday, January 14th. The agenda usually posts about two weeks prior to the meeting. We will update the Board when we receive additional information.

Virtual Advising During School Closure - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team)

Our partners from the National College Advising Corps are continuing to provide college advising services to all students through virtual advising. In addition to making in-class presentations to engage with students, they have developed a platform that allows them to provide e-advising to students at our high schools. Advisors are available via open office hours and by appointment.

Help a Brother Go 2 College Month - Rubén Aurelio (Allison Huie & team & William McGee & Team)

October is Help a Brother Go 2 College month. This month-long effort consists of a virtual web series event, monday, October 12th through Saturday, November 7th. All students, grades 9-12 are welcome to register for the event. The <u>event flyer</u> and <u>registration form</u> are available online.

African American Student Achievement - Rubén Aurelio (William McGee & team)

- 1. The OAASA is supporting the AASAT with their first meeting of the 2020-21 SY, which will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, via Zoom. The AASAT will be discussing a variety of topics, conducting the election for the executive board member positions, and reviewing the WCCUSD resolution in support of African American students.
- 2. A game show will be hosted for Black students....they will compete in a variety of categories in a Jeopardy style format game. After they compete, students will participate in a talk/fishbowl conversation. During the conversation, they will express how school has been going for them,

successes, and needs they have as Black students during distance learning. The date is tbd, but may be 10/27, 10/29, or 11/5.

Support Budget for African American Students - Tony Wold (Andrea Arnold and Regina Webber) At the last Board meeting approval was granted to begin several proof of concept data projects with the long-term goal of being able to create data that is much more readily available to all stakeholders. One area that has been of significant interest is how much funding was redistributed to support the AASAT resolution. The current configuration of our financial system, MUNIS, does not create a simplistic report that captures everything in an easy to understand format. With the software programs we are now in the design phase of these proof of concept dashboards. This work will take some time to complete, but we understand that there have been requests to understand how much funding is available with all the programs supporting African American students. Staff has worked to compile the <u>attached</u> report which outlines funds in each budget and whether the funds have been spent already or encumbered for specific purposes. At this writing, of the \$6.9 million dollars in program support approximately \$3.3 million has not been spent. Within the PAASS components the funds that have been spent so far are for the staffing including the Director and Coordinator and some programs such as Mafanikio that directly provide support.

There have also been questions about how resources in the budget are allocated. The District budget is weighted significantly in employee compensation with approximately 85 - 90% of all funds devoted to personnel costs. This leaves approximately \$55 million for all other expenses. Last year as we reviewed all non-salary expenditures and made significant decreases we demonstrated that many of these costs are fixed (special education transportation and non-public supports, utilities, debt services, and technology). All told those fixed costs account for almost \$40 million.

Of the remaining funds a portion first goes to school sites leaving approximately \$8 - \$10 million to cover all other supports for all students in the District. The simple fact is that K-12 public education is not adequately funded and therefore there are not enough discretionary funds to cover all programs. The District worked feverishly to identify any, and all funds to shift to support the AASAT resolution and the results are tremendous with a significant investment available to support this critical work.

English Learner Achievement & Literacy - Rubén Aurelio (Christi Roscigno & team) ELPAC Initial Testing

The English Learner Achievement team is preparing for ELPAC Initial Testing to begin. Parents have the option to either have their children participate in Remote online testing or in person testing with staff adhering to the current CDC and County Health COVID-19 guidance during the testing session.

District level Literacy Teacher Leaders held grade level District wide PD sessions on Friday Oct. 16th on Writing Progressions as a vehicle for providing strength based feedback to students.

Spanish Digital Books for DLI

The literacy team has worked with DLI teacher leaders to create a collection of Digital Books specifically for Spanish DLI classes. This collection is through Capstone, and will be added to the Clever portal for student access to leveled Spanish Books for independent reading as a part of the Reading workshop.

School Safety Discussions and Forums - Tony Wold (Julio Franco and Michael Booker)

This past week District Operations conveyed a Campus Security Officer (CSO) focus group to discuss the role of the CSO in the District as we move forward without the support of School Resource Officers (SRO) assigned to each of our school sites. The issue of ensuring a safe and welcoming school environment is very much at the forefront of our thinking. This group met prior to the District Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday evening. At the request of Trustee Lara we are providing an update.

The working group was facilitated by Annie Song-Hill and was asked a critical question: What do we believe is the role of the CSO in the future and what do schools need? The group understood that some of the areas the group addressed fall under the purview of collective bargaining.

Groups represented in the meeting:

4 Campus Security Officers (Priscilla Chew, Mattie Felder, George Brown, Otheree Christian)

- 2 Teamsters 856 representatives
- High School Principal (Phil Johnson)
- Middle School Principal (Eric Mapes)
- Our District Safety Coordinator (Michael Booker)
- District Operations Director (Julio Franco)
- Parent/community representative that connects with this work (Tamisha Walker)
- District Cabinet member (Tony Wold)

Overarching Priorities defined by the group:

Make sure all students feel safe. When asked what the core function of the Campus Safety Officer the group agreed that the main function was to ensure the safety of students and staff at the site. **Critical to achieving this goal is building relationships of trust with students and working in partnership with the principal and staff at the site.** Keeping students in the classroom and engaged in learning is a primary way of keeping students safe.. The priority job functions are:

- Build trust among students at the site.**(See note below)
- Serve as mentors to students
- Exercise sound judgment in assessing threats to the safety of students through mediating conflicts, de-escalation and violence prevention.
- Provide resources to students to assist them to resolve problems
- Work as a team with the site administrator and staff
- Serve as a resource to teachers
- Build a good working relationship with local law enforcement when necessary.
- Serve as an advocate to help students succeed academically and socially.
- Ensure a safe environment for all students through enforcing school site and district policy as well as emergency and disaster preparedness.
- Serve as a liaison to parents

- Intervene when observing bullying behavior using social emotional learning strategies
- Assist in the safety and security of sporting events
- Creating a strong connection with the Districts Cost Care Team in order to provide necessary property security and monitor school facilities for vandalism and graffiti
- Assist students in navigating community resources and services in partnership with the District and school site staff

** One outward manifestation of creating trust and rapport with students is the clothing worn by Campus Security Officers. This has evolved over time to a less "police uniform" look to one that is more casual but still identifies CSOs. This issue is a negotiation issue.

Training and Professional Development:

The group talked about the importance of training and expressed appreciation for the training that the District has provided. Specifically areas of future training include:

- Threat assessment, knowing when to call in law enforcement
- Social-emotional health of students

Institutional Support

- Congruence between what is taught in training and direction from site administrators.
- Visible demonstrated support of Campus Safety Officers by site administrators. If students perceive that CSOs are not supported by the site administrator, respect is diminished.
- Include CSOs in membership of the COST/CARE Team.

We appreciate the work of the group to get some comprehensive ideas on paper and will utilize them more as the need arises. Moving forward, however it is critical that we include the voice of students and parents/community members and we are beginning to work on creating a student forum in the coming weeks. We will provide more information as more details are finalized.

Keenan Forensic COVID-19 Safe Operating Plan Analysis - Tony Wold (Phyllis Rosen)

The District has begun the process of ensuring that our facilities are assessed for all known issues as we look at options for possible return to school in the future. The District's Phase 2 agreement requires that both the County and surrounding Counties must move into the Orange range and that each individual zip code also meets this criteria. Once those measures are met there are also testing and contact tracing elements that have to be in place by the County. The trends are improving in Contra Costa County, but individual zip codes are still at levels within the Purple range.

The District, however, needs to complete due diligence and is working with our insurance provider Keenan to complete an assessment of our facilities to determine to what level District facilities can sustain students under the guidelines for social distancing within the Orange range. The assessment will provide a guideline for our school sites with a comprehensive evaluation of Richmond and Kennedy High Schools due to their plant layout and room configuration which does not have windows.

Keenan has partnered with Forensic Analytical Consulting Services to create a COVID-19 Safe Operating Plan Customization Service & Implementation Effectiveness Evaluation. This plan template customization service and effective implementation field evaluation are intended to achieve the following goals:

- Create a safety plan with protocols for operating schools safely following the shelter in place orders due to COVID-19, allowing schools to adjust to the "new normal" of operating safely in the presence of COVID-19.
- Protect People. Help prevent employees, customers, and other stakeholders from contracting COVID-19, and in doing so protect the greater public health.
- Protect Resources. Help minimize liabilities related to workers' compensation claims and 3rd party litigation by showing appropriate diligence in controlling COVID-19 risks.
- Protect Reputation. Help support business continuity by instilling confidence within students, guardians, staff, and local public health entities, that schools can operate safely.

The evaluation from Keenan will provide us guidance for our planning as the community hopefully moves toward conditions that allow us to safely reopen schools. We hope to have this work occurring during the next month with a formal assessment provided to guide and plan processes by the holidays.

FPM Follow-up - Tony Wold and Ruben Aurellio (Lyn Potter)

As was discussed in the Friday letter on October 2, 2020 the District staff is working with the California Department of Education to resolve the areas that were identified in the Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) evaluation of the District. Many of the issues regarding duty statements and funding were a result of the financial systems not being aligned with the position control which was something that we began work on prior to the beginning of the review. The adjustments of funding were appropriate to ensure that our Federal funds are used appropriately and we planned for these as we did budget development for the current year. As the board reviewed the unaudited actuals, the District was able to adjust the funding without creating a burden on the district budget and now has better alignment with requirements. Many of the other issues that needed to be addressed concerned required postings.

The FPM process is excellent in defining areas of compliance that need to be addressed as was very useful to be doing as we were addressing our budgeting configuration. Just as we are beginning a process to institutionalize our data practices and create genuine dialogue with our budget we must also align the required compliance with our budgeting practices. As we completed the FPM it was clear that we needed to integrate State and Federal Programs with the budgeting process and we moved the department to be within District Operations this year. This is already resulting in a much clearer level of communication and collaboration.

At the next board meeting on November 4th, staff will present the key elements of the FPM as well as updates on each of the required submissions to the State Department of Education. The full report with the updated follow through will be available as part of that agenda packet. We are currently in the process of reconciling all of the different areas of focus to ensure that a comprehensive report is provided to the public with all of the follow-up information that was required by the CDE as well. We believe that it is important that the information packet be complete and accurate to ensure that all stakeholders know not only what was identified, but also what the current state is on that issue. We look forward to providing all of this information in the packet that will be posted on Friday, October 30th.

National School Lunch Week - Tony Wold (Barbara Jellison)

What a celebration having served 4,207,705 meals so far at our curbside school sites and non-profit sites this school year. With continued marketing, special events and social media our counts continue to grow.

This week the Food Services Department celebrates National School Lunch Week. In this time of great uncertainty, one thing children and their families can count on is the availability of health school meals that ensure students are nourished and ready to learn. <u>We are extremely happy to announce that the</u> <u>USDA has extended the summer meal program through June 30, 2021.</u> This means that any student under the age of 18 will be able to pick up free meals for the remainder of the school year at our distribution sites.

We are also celebrating National Farm to School month and have partnered with the USDA to provide community families with boxes containing fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, cheese, eggs and a gallon of milk. Families have waited patiently and lined up in their cars for blocks to receive one of these boxes and their meals at the Nutrition Center on Wednesdays. This Wednesday was our most successful day serving 1,037 pizzas, 2,074 meals with bags of fresh spinach and whole pineapples and 600 Farmers to Families boxes. On Thursday, El Cerrito High served over 1200 pizzas, 4800 meals with fresh plums and zucchinis and 500 Farmers to Families boxes. Their normal count is about 250 meals.

We have also highlighted in the news and social media. Bay Area Univision featured a segment on us feeding the children in our community.

https://www.univision.com/local/san-francisco-kdtv/lonchera-movil-repartira-alimentos-en-las-quince-esc uelas-del-distrito-escolar-del-condado-west-contra-costa-video

And Schwan's Food Service K-12 featured us on their social media page.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1031174727327439

Contracts Update – Tony Wold (Mary Kitchen)

The October 21st board summary has 7 items for review.

There is one contract presented by the College and Career office.

• Equal Opportunity Schools will continue to partner with El Cerrito, Hercules and Pinole Valley High Schools to ensure that students of color and low-income students have equitable access to academically intense high school programs and succeed at the highest levels.

The Expanded Learning Program is bringing forward one contract:

• Calculus Roundtable to provide standards aligned Math and Science activities through the Digital One Room Schoolhouse Program at Chavez, Coronado, De Jean, Downer, Grant, Helms, King, Lake, Lincoln, Nystrom, Peres and Verde serving approximately 720 students during after school programs.

The Human Resources Department is bringing two contracts.

- Absence Soft is a comprehensive leave management to streamlined document software that will provide tracking and notification to both Human Resources and employees about their status. It will ensure that the District does not over or under pay employees who are utilizing leaves as allowable by law or the bargaining contract. Due to COVID related leaves this is a necessary contract for compliance to both Federal and State laws.
- Powerschool: We have six different contracts with Powerschool, all of the other contracts have been to the board for approval. However we missed this one due to a transitional oversight as we had contracts in multiple departments for the same vendor and did not get them consolidated in June as we were transitioning. The contracts will be consolidated and brought to the board at the same time next year.

The Office of African American Student Achievement is bringing forward one contract

• Beauty Scholars will provide workshops that are tailored to develop the students' ability to cultivate leadership skills, and excel academically through a host of relevant topics, structured interactive exercises and events led by highly qualified community leaders, and various activities focusing on promoting positive self-reinforcement, education, leadership and life skills.

Elementary Literacy is bringing forward an increase to an existing contract

• Reading Writing Project Network: On June 10th the District contract for Reading Writing Project Network was approved. This contract includes conference days, Leadership and Teacher Leader Days as well as School Based professional development. We are now increasing that contract by \$6,600 to add Teachers in K-3 for DLI conference days.

The Information Technology Department is bringing forward an increase to an existing contract

• T-Mobile: Increase existing contract to provide mobility to designated West Contra Costa Unified School District Staff via mobile phone and devices to ensure seamless communication between sites and central office. This increase is needed to provide cell phones and hotspots for staff for distance learning.

Bond Performance and Validation Audits - Tony Wold (Melissa Payne and Margarita Romo) Every year, the District must complete a Bond Program Financial and Performance Audit of the active Program. For the fiscal year 2020, Christy White is under contract to conduct the Bond Financial Audit and the District Wide Annual Financial Audit. The District solicited two proposals for the Bond Performance Audit and recommended awarding a contract to Eide Bailly to complete the Bond Program Performance Audit. This is on the agenda for the upcoming board meeting.

In addition, to the standard Bond Program compliance audits, the District is committed to independent third-party verification of implementation for recommendations provided by VLS in the Forensic Accounting Investigation Phase II Report and the Performance and Program Effectiveness Audits for FY 2017-2019.

With the publication of the bond Program Management Plan (PMP), the District has produced detailed processes and procedures to implement many recommendations. <u>At the Joint Board and CBOC on</u> <u>September 30, 2020, the District agreed to seek independent third-party verification of implementation.</u>

To that end, the District solicited proposals to verify the implementation of the 28 recommendations made by Moss Adams in the cumulative Performance and Program Effectiveness Audit for fiscal years 2017-2019 and the 29 recommendations that Moss Adams did not deem "implemented" in their Phase 1 report.

Staff believes that it is <u>essential to finalize the verification process and maintain appropriate audits</u> <u>moving forward.</u> To ensure independent validation, staff recommends that the District maintain the contract with Moss Adams to validate the 50 items, which are part of the Phase 2.0 contract. To avoid any potential conflict of interest, the District recommends contracting with Eide Bailly to complete verification of the 29 items left over from Phase 1.0 as well as the 28 items identified by Moss Adams in the enhanced effectiveness/performance audits. It should be noted that Eide Bailly will review current and 2019 – 2020 expenditures as part of verification, which was one of the concerns brought up by the CBOC.

Staff believes that the 2020 – 2021 school year should focus on **completing what was started by** validating the remaining recommendation. The Lead Internal Auditor's work will include independent verification of all of the previous additional audit issues along with Eide Bailly and Moss Adams. At the end of this school year, upon completing those reports, staff would then recommend that the Board then address and commission a new Effectiveness Audit if there are areas that the Board believes have not been sufficiently addressed. This should not be part of the required Bond Financial Audit or required Bond Performance Audit, but additional, if the need requires it.

We are committed to maintaining an accountability system that provides confidence in the integrity of our operations. This will include appropriate audits. For the past 5 years the District has been in a continual process of review and verification. During that period by the end of December there will have been 100% turnover in the Board of Education and senior management responsible for the Bond Program. With the verification audits done by Eide Bailly and Moss Adams this school year we will be able to identify a new baseline for the next board of education to utilize to determine the appropriate scope of audits beginning in the 2021 - 2022 school year. We believe that the course of action will provide the necessary accountability that we have been discussing for the past year.

Special Education (Kristen Hardy)

The Board Policy updates associated with Significant Disproportionality are going through final revisions. These are anticipated to be ready for review at the next Board Meeting.

Educational Services Team Update (Rubén Aurelio and team)

The following <u>slide deck</u> is here for your reference. The goal of this presentation was for a full introduction to the Educational Division with an emphasis on major initiatives from each of the eight offices that comprise the team. We've decided to table the agenda topic for a deeper look in upcoming board meetings. We will be updating our district Roadmap with the goal to operationalize the graduate profile and focus on deeper learning. Each of the offices are fast at work supporting our distance learning efforts and success for all. We hope that the slide deck provides a snapshot of the quality work that this department is producing in support of students, families, schools, and the organization.

State Budget Update - Tony Wold

The 2020–21 Enacted State Budget included language that gives the Director of the Department of Finance (DOF) discretion to avert cuts in the State Budget and reduce up to \$5.8 billion in K–12 deferrals if the federal government approved an additional stimulus package with sufficient funding by October 15, 2020.

While U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin continue negotiations for another COVID-19 relief package, the October 15 deadline stipulated in the current State Budget Act has come to pass with no additional funding for the DOF Director to consider.

Despite the October 15 deadline passing without a new deal, Assembly Budget Committee Chair Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) recently indicated that lawmakers would be able to react quickly if a federal relief package does come to fruition over the next several weeks. This could be done by Governor Gavin Newsom calling the Legislature into a special session (which would have to adjourn by November 30 per the California Constitution) or the Legislature could wait until the 2021–22 Legislative Session officially convenes on December 7, 2020. If there was sufficient federal funding provided in a stimulus bill, lawmakers would likely prioritize reducing the deferrals to education funding and minimizing the cuts to other state programs.

We have received guidance through School Services, FCMAT and the County Office of Education that the passing of the October 15 deadline should not change local educational agencies' (LEAs') preparations for the deferrals stipulated in the State Budget, as the Budget did not assume there would be additional federal relief. In other words, we will continue to operate and prepare as if there will not be any additional federal funding.

Our cash flow update is included in the upcoming board agenda and it has been revised to reflect the current potential impact from the State budget. Our overall situation is better with the committed \$35 million in reserves protecting cash flow. It is possible that, even with the full deferrals, the District will be in a positive cash position until June 2021. Based on timelines we will still be looking to make any cash borrowing resolutions in late March of 2021 to meet the County and State deadlines. The cash flow in 2021 - 2022 continues to be negatively impacted by the deferrals until we get more clarification on if the State will be able to repay the ones from the current year in a timely manner.

Moving forward we are preparing the First Interim report that will come to the Board in December. That report will be our actual expenditures through October 31st as well as the current two-year multi-year projection (MYP). We continue to project that the State will make significant reductions to K-12 support in the 2021 - 2022 and 2022 - 2023 school years (we are projecting up to 10%). This projection will be revised in January after the Governor's January budget proposal. **Based upon this worst case budget scenario, WCCUSD will still be able to meet all financial obligations for the current and next fiscal year so long as new expenditures not within the budget are not added.**

Finally, the CARES act funds that support or Professional Development and allowed us to maintain staff and services for the current fiscal year are being journaled to meet Federal compliance requirements. We received notice from FCMAT that there is a significant concern that the Federal government will actively work to take back these funds from school districts. There is control language already in the State budget

that allows DOF to recoup these funds prior to December 30 if they don't believe LEAs will get the funds spent.

While we have fully accounted for our CARES Act funds, the other LEAs across the State have spent less than 50% of those funds. FCMAT is working with Districts to ensure that all journal entry work is reflected in the next submission to the State to ensure that the funds are not pulled back by the Federal Government. This is once again part of the challenge in reporting of data that we have to continually make adjustments that are due to outside influences. These adjustments, however, change the numbers within the budget as items move from one area to the next which can create confusion with the public who do not see all of the behind the scenes issues that we have to address.

Michelle Obama School Grand Opening - Luis Freese (Ellen Mejia Hooper)

Join us on Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 11 am to witness the virtual Grand Opening for Michelle Obama School. The online event will feature students, various speakers, aerial flyby, band performance, and ribbon cuttings from multiple campus locations. The celebration will stream on Facebook live @westcontracostaschools & @MichelleObamaSchool. After the live stream, the event will be available on the website for viewing https://www.wccusd.net/Page/6945.



Special thanks to the Grand Opening Committee! Claudia Velez, Maisha Cole, Communications & Facilities Team.



We Need Your Input: Community-Wide Survey on Updating the Facilities Master Plan - Luis Freese (Ellen Mejia Hooper)

The District extended the deadline for the Community-Wide Survey to Tuesday, October 20, 2020. To date, we have received more than 442 total responses representing almost every school in the district. Please take the time to participate and share your voice. For more information, please visit our website: <u>https://www.wccusd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=5810</u>.





THE DISTRICT IS UPDATING THE BOARD APPROVED 2016 MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE MEASURE R.

What Does This Mean?

Thanks to the generous support of the community, Measure R, a \$575 million facilities improvement bond, was approved by voters earlier this year. The Facilities Master Plan includes a community-based process to develop district-wide criteria and metrics for prioritizing major school renovation/replacement projects. The committee will recommend to the Facilities Committee and Board of Education how to update the 2016 criteria.

SURVEY: ENGLISH SPANISH

Updating the Elementary Educational Specifications, Designated Material, and Product Standards and Sole Source Items - Luis Freese

Before commencing the next phase of Facilities Master Plan projects, District staff determined it necessary to update the District-Wide Suite of Standards to address code and product availability changes. The Suite of Standards includes three different types of documents: the educational specification, the designated materials and product standards, and the sole source items.

The educational specifications guide the District's design and align school facilities to the educational program. The architect uses the specifications to translate the curriculum and instructional program into a functional educational environment. The Designated Materials and Product Standards establish the quality

and application of items used to construct school facilities. In contrast, Sole Source items are manufactured by a single source to ensure safe, practical, and efficient construction and ongoing maintenance.

Collectively, the suite of standards provides consistency, alignment with current and future program needs and objectives, and emphasizes cost efficiency and effectiveness. Staff presented the changes to the Suite of Standards at the October Facilities Committee Meeting and will present to Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Meeting on Monday October 19th.

Lake Elementary School Campus Replacement Educational Specification - Luis Freese

The planning process for the Lake Elementary School Campus Replacement project in partnership with the Site Leadership and Perkins Eastman is complete. District staff have prepared a Lake Elementary project-specific Educational Specification to guide the District's design and align the new school facilities to the educational program.

Staff presented the Lake Elementary School Campus Replacement project concept design at the Facilities Committee and will present it to the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Meeting on Monday October 19th. Staff anticipates presenting the concept design and project specific Educational Specification at the Board Meeting on October 21, 2020.

