

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
December 3, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

December 7: Reimagining Kennedy High School, 6:00 PM, John F. Kennedy High School
December 7: Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM, Middle College High School
December 7: Hercules Middle Winter Orchestra Festival, 7:00 PM, Hercules Middle & High School
December 8: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM, DeJean Middle School
December 8: Richmond High School Bands and Orchestra, 6:30 PM, Richmond High School
December 8: Hercules Middle Winter Band Choir Festival, 7:00 PM, Hercules Middle & High School
December 9: Helms Middle School Winter Performance, 5:00 PM, Helms Middle School
December 9: Reimagining Richmond High School, 6:00 PM, Richmond High School
December 10: DeAnza VAPA Showcase, 6:30 PM, DeAnza High School
December 10: El Cerrito Gaucho Dance Company Concert, 7:00 PM, El Cerrito High School

Next Board of Education Meeting December 8, 2021– Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.
Closed session will begin at 4:00 PM.

Communications Updates - Ryan Phillips

November 26, 2021

Richmond Confidential - [WCCUSD workshops give Black parents a chance to confront racial bias in schools](#) - Linus Unah

Shortly after the start of the school year, education consultant Mary Bacon encouraged about three dozen parents and guardians in the West Contra Costa Unified School District to engage teachers and schools to improve the educational outcomes for African American students across the district. Since the start of the academic year, WCCUSD's Office of African American Student Achievement has organized monthly workshops on Zoom for parents and guardians of African American students. These workshops offer families ways to engage teachers and schools as partners who are deeply invested in the success of the student. OAASA's monthly workshops provide a safe space for Black parents and guardians to share their concerns.

November 29, 2021

KTVU 2 - [Protest held against East Bay school district's vaccine mandate](#) - Rob Roth

A group of parents, along with their children and grandchildren, demonstrated in front of the West Contra Costa Unified School District headquarters in Richmond on Monday. They are upset about a vaccine mandate that is taking effect. "We believe any parent has the right to share their voice and protest. But also, our board and I, we have to look at students overall and the safety of all students," said Superintendent Chris Hurst. Under the plan, students who are not vaccinated can enter the district's distance learning program.

November 30, 2021

Richmond Confidential - [With the budget tight, Richmond middle school librarian crowd funds for books](#) - Linus Unah

In 2019, after eight years as an English teacher at Richmond High School, Rebekah Ponce-Larsen was excited to start a new job as a librarian at Lovonya DeJean Middle School. Being a librarian, she thought, would give her an opportunity to work with kids but in a different way “I have more time to get to know individual students sometimes than teachers do,” she said. Over the last two years, Ponce-Larsen has turned to DonorsChoose.org. Last year, Ponce-Larsen raised \$805 and used the money to create a new graphic novel section in the library. It’s a place where eighth grader Anahi Ruiz Moncada feels comfortable and likes to visit. She said Ponce-Larsen is kind, accepting and good at explaining things. “I feel like I can trust her, so I’m not afraid to ask questions,” Anahi said. That’s high praise for Ponce-Larsen, who wants students to see the library as an oasis.



Rebekah Ponce-Larsen is the librarian at Lovonya DeJean Middle School in Richmond. (Linus Unah)

Contracts Update for the 12/8/21 Board Meeting – Mary Kitchen

● **Contra Costa Community College District – Middle College High School**

In the 2019/2020 school year, Contra Costa College (CCC) and WCCUSD entered in a board approved agreement for CCC to provide three sections of physical education per semester for Middle College High school students for the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 school years for a total of \$97,200 over a three year period. In the spring of 2021, an additional section was added for an additional \$5,400. This 2021-22 school year, an additional section for Fall 2021 and an additional section for Spring 2022 is needed for an additional \$10,800 for a total of \$43,200 for the 2021-22 school year and a total of \$113,400 over the three year period.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

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- **Reading Writing Project Network – Curriculum & Assessment-Harding, Montalvin, Riverside**

Reading Writing Project Network, LLC will partner with WCCUSD and provide: Professional Development and Site based coaching at Harding, Montalvin, and Riverside Elementary. There will be 5 On-site days with a Primary Staff Developer and 5 On-site days with a Senior Upper-Grade Staff Developer at each site.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

- **Summa Academy – Special Education**

Non Public School that provides specialized educational, Speech, Occupational Therapy and Aide services to individual student per the student's IEP.

- **West Contra Costa Public Education Fund – Young Leaders-Downer Elementary School**

Young Leaders mission is to teach students Leadership skills through physical education classes, its junior coach program and student mentorship program. To have a positive impact on students physical/emotional health through fitness classes and in school leadership opportunities for students. The program will positively impact school climate by focusing strengthening peer to peer relationships The purpose is to have all students get the opportunity to experience inclusive play, a mix of modern exercises, and feel a sense of belonging on both the playground and in the classroom. Program supervised by Teacher of Record or other certificated staff. 5 days a week or 40 hrs/week.

[Link to Additional Information](#)

Educational Services - LaResha Martin

CDE requires recipients of the Educator Effectiveness Funds (EEF) develop and adopt a plan detailing the planned expenditure of funds in alignment with the ten approved uses of the funds. This plan must be presented in a public meeting before its adoption in a subsequent public meeting before December 30, 2021. The plan is subject to audit and if the EEF plan is not adopted in two separate meetings before December 30, 2021, the local educational agency will receive an audit finding that will result in the forfeiture of funds.

There is nothing in statute that prohibits receiving entities from amending a plan at a later date. Therefore, it is encouraged that all receiving entities get an initial plan approved according to the requirements in California Education Code 41480 and amend the plan, as needed.

Educational Services Job Descriptions - LaResha Martin

The following job descriptions are coming to the board for approval on December 8, 2021.

Director of Student Recruitment and Retention

This was a previous job description under the title of Director of Operations. This revised job description for the current Director of Student Recruitment and Retention is in-line with the work currently being performed.

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The Director of Student Recruitment and Retention is responsible for designing, implementing, and coordinating all aspects of attendance, enrollment, and transfer processes with the overall goal of meeting the targeted District objectives.

Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

This was a previous job description under the old Executive Director of K-12 Schools (Teaching, Learning and Learning). This is replacing the current opening of Executive Director of Integrated Youth Services because of the Equity Audit and a need for focus and alignment in the areas of professional development, textbook adoption, report cards, educator effectiveness grant, EL master plan, and dual language programming. The Executive Director of Integrated Youth Services will not be filled this year with a possibility of filling next year.

The Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment will be responsible for designing and implementing a quality instructional program in alignment with the State and District's goals and objectives. The Executive Director will ensure the use of effective instruction in every classroom for every student, every day; and the cultivation of student literacy across content areas necessary for success in college and career. The Executive Director is also responsible for understanding the academic needs of our students and capacity of our central office staff, principals and teachers to implement the best strategies for meeting those needs and must ensure that our students are provided a quality education that ensures that students may have access to an equitable education.

The Executive Director will assist the Associate Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer in supporting instructional transformation through innovative instructional approaches to transform the teaching and learning in all our District schools. Duties will span the breadth of responsibilities concerning curriculum, instruction and assessment, professional learning, and operations related to academic programs across the District.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Secondary- LaResha Martin (Gabriel Chilcott)

Chamberlin Education Foundation Schools Math Support - Mark Lobaco & Team

Teachers and site leaders at these schools are benefiting from the ongoing math coaching and Community of Practice support from Instruction Partners Coach Melissa Chipman. Here are some recent activities.

- At Verde, teachers are using a monitoring system to see how students are performing on standards in the end-of-module Eureka assessments. The 3rd and 4th grade teams met collaboratively to norm on scoring items using the rubric and entering/analyzing data.
- At Montalvin, the 3rd grade team has been collaboratively studying modules together. Melissa and the team studied module 3 together during her recent visit.
- At Helms, teachers were using Desmos to give all students the opportunity to grapple with rigorous content and students were excited to share their ideas with the class.
- At Michelle Obama, Principal Claudia and VP Tyler led their teachers through a student work analysis protocol so that teachers could reflect on student mastery and adjust their instruction going forward.

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- At Nystrom, teachers were engaging students in number talks using the IM curriculum and students were excited to share what number they saw and how they saw it!

English Learner Achievement - LaResha Martin (Esaul Orozco & team)

Here is the English Learner Achievement [Monthly Review Update](#) for the month of November 2021

Reimagining Kennedy HS (KHS): Luis Freese

Reimagining Kennedy HS Community Meeting #2 on December 7, 2021 @ 6pm

The process for rebuilding KHS will begin with reimagining the school.

We would like to encourage all interested community members including parents, students, educators, and staff of Kennedy High, and the school communities of Coronado, Grant, King, Lincoln, Michelle Obama, Nystrom, Stege, Washington, and DeJean.

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 7, 2021, from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at the KHS Library.**

A [flyer](#) is available, please help us share the information more broadly.

All participants must have proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test to engage in this meeting.

Reimagining Kennedy HS Website Page:

Additional information, presentations, recorded videos, and input forms will be available on the project page when the editing is complete. <https://www.wccusd.net/Page/16136>

Kennedy HS Site Master Plan Steering Committees:

Kennedy HS will form a Site Master Plan Steering Committee.

The purpose of the Committee is to gather insight from the community and school site family.

Participation on the Committee includes attending 4-6 committee meetings, 2 WCCUSD Office of the Superintendent meetings, KHS community meetings, and a Board of Education meeting.

Steering Committee Application forms are available online.

<https://forms.gle/BTUsD7aBZKAKkwVT9> (English)

<https://forms.gle/nRnuvo1gcfErCAZz6> (Spanish)

Reimagining Richmond HS (RHS): Luis Freese

Reimagining Richmond HS Community Meeting #2 on December 9, 2021, @ 6:30 pm

The process for rebuilding Richmond HS will begin with reimagining the school.

We would like to encourage all interested community members including parents, students, educators, and staff of Richmond High, and the school communities of Chavez, Dover, Downer, Ford, Lake, Riverside, Peres, Verde, and Helms.

Please join us on **Thursday, December 9, 2021, from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm at the RHS Theatre.**

A [flyer](#) is available, please help us share the information more broadly.

All participants must have proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test to engage in this meeting.

Reimagining Richmond HS Website Page:

Additional information, presentations, recorded videos, and input forms will be available on the project page when the editing is complete. <https://www.wccusd.net/Page/16144>

Richmond HS Site Master Plan Steering Committees:

Richmond HS will form a Site Master Plan Steering Committee.

The purpose of the Committee is to gather insight from the community and school site family.

Participation on the Committee includes attending 4-6 committee meetings, 2 WCCUSD Office of the Superintendent meetings, KHS community meetings, and a Board of Education meeting.

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Steering Committee Application forms are available online.

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