

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
October 22, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

October 18-22: Digital Citizenship Week

October 26: Lake Elementary School Rebuild Community Meeting, 5:30, Zoom

October 26: Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM

November 3: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 PM, DeJean Middle School

Next Board of Education Meeting November 3– Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.

Closed session will begin at 5:00 PM.

Communications Update – Ryan Phillips

[WCCUSD in the news: Week ending October 22, 2021](#)

October 18, 2021

[CBS SF Bay Area - Parents Rally Statewide To Protest Newsom’s School COVID Vaccination Mandate - Juliette Goodrich](#)

Thousands of parents staged protests statewide Monday, voicing their anger with Gov. Gavin Newsom over his mandate that would require school age children to be vaccinated against COVID in order to take part in classroom instruction. Newsom announced the vaccine mandate for students ages 12 and older on Oct. 1, but the deadline for when it would go into effect has not yet been announced. Several Bay Area school districts including the West Contra Costa County, Oakland, Hayward and Piedmont have put their own mandates in place joining Los Angeles and Culver City in requiring student vaccinations in the months ahead.

[SF Chronicle -Bay Area largely sits out protests over vaccine mandates for students - Jill Tucker and Alexei Koseff](#)

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Sacramento on Monday and parents across the country held their kids out of schools to protest COVID-19 vaccine mandates for students ... The political action at the state Capitol followed school district decisions across the state in recent weeks to require students to be vaccinated against the coronavirus. Oakland, Hayward, Piedmont and West Contra Costa are among the local districts that will require COVID-19 vaccinations for students in the coming months, joining Los Angeles, San Diego and others. But the Bay Area school districts have seen little organized opposition.

October 19, 2021

[KQED - California School Districts Fear Major Budget Cuts as Enrollments Drop- Ali Tadayon](#)

Despite this year’s return to in-person learning, districts throughout the state are seeing major declines in both enrollment and average daily attendance, and fear the reductions could result in significant funding cuts next school year. West Contra Costa Unified, a district of about 26,000 students serving Richmond and surrounding areas, anticipates a loss of around \$30 million in the 2022-23 school year barring no change in the funding formula, said Tony Wold. “Knowing that approximately 90% of most districts’

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budget is spent on people, a 10% reduction would affect people,” Wold said. [WCCUSD] is looking to state leaders to figure out a way to avoid devastating budget cuts in the 2022-23 school year.

Cal Matters - [California schools are running out of money](#) - Emily Hoeven

California school districts have two choices: Bite the bullet and make budget cuts now, or delay them and face even more painful decisions. West Contra Costa Unified, [confronting a possible \\$30 million deficit](#), says it may have to lay off teachers.

October 20, 2021

The Richmond Standard -[Thousands in Contra Costa County plan to ‘drop, cover and hold on’ for Great ShakeOut](#) - Mike Aldax

Over 30 million people worldwide have signed up to participate in the 2021 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill at 10:21 a.m. ... Among those signed up are nine West Contra Costa Unified School District schools.

Bay Area News Group - [School districts hit hard by teacher, substitute shortages](#) - Summer Lin

Public schools throughout the Bay Area and the state are grappling with a spike in teacher absences and vacancies as schools have reopened, coupled with a shortage of substitutes, leading them to increase pay for subs, offer signing bonuses for new hires and ask other school and district staff members to take over classes. West Contra Costa Unified School District has seen a similar spike in uncovered jobs. Blake Mengotto said his son Logan, an 11th grader at Hercules High, didn’t have teachers for either his 4th and 6th periods during the first week of classes. “When you talk about the higher subjects, you’re significantly stunting students when you push back a week and that has a big impact,” Mengotto said.

Lake Elementary School Community Meeting - Luis Freese

The Lake Elementary School Campus Rebuild Project is currently in design. If you would like to learn more about the project, please check out the [project website](#). In addition, there is an upcoming community meeting scheduled for October 26th at 5:30 pm via [Zoom](#). If you would like to join the meeting by phone, please dial 1-669-900-6833 and enter the meeting identification number 91649932997#.

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

Math (Mark Lobaco & Team)- TNTP’s Good to Great Program with WCCUSD--Eleven (Grades 6-8) teachers participated in an intensive coaching program run and stipended by TNTP. Teachers attended learning sessions in August. For one week in September, teachers practiced math language routines with their students, with live Zoom observations by TNTP coaches and daily reflections, debriefs and preparation after school each day. Follow up learning sessions to occur in October and November. We mutually hope to continue our collaboration throughout the school year. Here is a summary [ppt](#) and [video](#) documenting the learning.

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) (Pat Martin) - Our VAPA programs are happy to be back in person and growing after a very difficult year. [Here are some updates and upcoming events.](#)

Educational Services - LaResha Martin

Timeline for School Plan for Student Achievement (Lyn Potter-State & Federal)

The School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) is a document that represents a school's cycle of continuous improvement of student achievement. The annual process of developing, reviewing, and

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updating the SPSA includes a comprehensive review of data and the development of actions necessary to achieve school goals. The timeline for the SPSA development by the School Site Councils (SSCs) with advisory input from the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) and African American Advisory Council (AAPAC) has been extended for the 2021-22 due to impacts of COVID-related Return-to-School events. The timeline for 2021-22 and 2022-23 SPSA development can be found [here](#).