

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
September 24, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

September 27: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, 6:00 PM

September 29: Board of Education Study Session, 4:00 PM DeJean Middle School

October 6: Board of Education, 6:30 PM, DeJean Middle School

Next Board Meeting October 6 – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.

Closed session will begin at 5:00 PM.

Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee Outreach & Application - Luis Freese

The Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) purpose is to inform the public concerning the expenditures and uses of bond revenues. The Committee’s legal charge is to actively review and report on the expenditures of taxpayer's money for school construction.

If you would like to learn more about the important work of the CBOC, please join us at an upcoming meeting and check out the website at www.wccusd-bond-oversight.com. The next scheduled meeting is September 27 via zoom starting at 6 pm.

Currently, the Committee is actively seeking new members. If you are interested in becoming a member please complete this [Membership Application](#) and the District will contact you on the next steps.

Drinking Fountain Modifications for Bottle Filling Stations - Luis Freese

Maintenance and Facilities continue to work together to complete the purchase, installation, and modification of drinking fountains throughout the District. The Maintenance department has retrofitted more than 200 drinking fountains with bottle fillers. In partnership with labor, the Facilities department issued two bid packages to expedite the additional installation of chilled bottle fillers in cafeterias and more complex drinking fountain modifications throughout the District. The first bid package was due on September 22, one bid was received and the delegated contract was expedited. The second bid package is due September 29, and the anticipated staff recommendation to award the contract is planned for the upcoming Board Meeting on October 6.

Contracts Update for the 10/6/21 Board Meeting – Tony Wold (Mary Kitchen)

Family and Community Engagement is bringing forward one contract:

HOPE Solutions:

HOPE Solutions will provide unlimited coordination of basic needs services (i.e. access to showers, warming center, etc.) and intensive Case management and/or Housing Navigation to 15-20 FIT families prioritizing unaccompanied youth, unsheltered and temporarily sheltered families, motel/hotel sheltered families, and victims of domestic violence. Case Management will include outreach and drop in hours for unduplicated and FIT youth, coordination of referrals between school and community agencies, and emergency assistance related to school attendance including home visits. HOPE Solutions will submit monthly intake reports to the District documenting all youth/families 0-25 served for state reporting, establish and report out on monthly on 30-60-90 day case management goals and a monthly service log

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recording services rendered and outcomes (temp housed, perm housed, warm hand off to agency with closed loops, etc). Services are available to ALL District Homeless students. Intensive case management will be available for 15-20 at any given time prioritizing unaccompanied youth, unsheltered a temporarily sheltered families, motel/hotel sheltered families, and victims of domestic violence..

[Link to Additional Information](#)

The Special Education Department is bringing forward one contract:

Mountain Valley Child and Family Services Inc:

Provides Educational Instruction, Residential and Board and Mental Health Services.

Due to Student Protection Act no attachments will be provided for NPA/NPS services

Positive School Climate - LaResha Martin (LaShante Smith)

There has been an increase of students participating in social media challenges on school campuses. To put it in simple terms, challenges are any idea that goes viral. They can be songs, activities, or dances that start trending and then get copied by users on social media platforms. Sometimes they're spontaneous, but sometimes they're planned out by brands, musical artists, or influencers for marketing purposes. Most popular challenges are harmless, while others cause dangers to self, others, or property. Due to the increase in student participation in social media challenges, school sites sent resources to families and teachers to encourage positive social media use and to remind students that they should not participate in social media challenges that cause danger to self, others, or property.

Parents/families/caregivers were encouraged to do the following:

- **Talk about it.** Though we can't always be with our tweens and teens to prevent dangerous behavior, our words really can stay with them. Say, "If you ever want to do an internet challenge, check with me first."
- **Get them to think.** Help your kid think through the challenges and whether they're safe or have potential risks. Say, "Walk through each step and figure out where things could go wrong."
- **Acknowledge peer pressure.** Today's kids think of internet personalities as their peers, so seeing kids and other "influencers" on social media doing a challenge could influence your kid. Say, "Why do you want to do this? Is this a video of yourself that you really want out in the world?"
- **Stay (somewhat) up to date.** Ask your kid about what's happening in their lives when they're not distracted -- even when it seems like they don't want you to. Sometimes kids are more willing to talk about what's going on with other kids than with themselves, so pose questions about friends, school, and trends. Once the conversation is open, you can get a sense of what your kid thinks about the latest craze -- and if they're safe. Keep an open mind and intervene if you're concerned. Say, "Would you consider doing a viral stunt if someone asked you? Which ones would you do and not do?"
- **Model responsible online habits.** Some parents are the ones recording their kids taking these challenges, so make sure your involvement sends the message you intend. Today it might be harmless, but tomorrow it might be more dangerous. Help your kids make the distinction so they can stay safe. Say, "Let's do a funny challenge together, but we'll only film it if you want to, and we'll only share it with family."

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Further resources included:

K–2 Packet: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

3–5 Packet: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

6–8 Packet: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

9–12 Packet: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

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

Math (Mark Lobaco & Team):

In celebration of Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month all schools have received these [STEM Heroes slides](#) to post daily in classes.

Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA) (Pat Martin & Team):

The VAPA Liaison program is starting again this Fall. Schools are being asked to recommend a member of their staff to participate and bring arts integration lessons and strategies back to their school sites. Here is the [VAPA Fall Update](#)

Assessment- (Stephanie Hearne & Team):

The STAR assessment window is open until October 1 and October 8 for High Schools. The Executive Directors work with schools to ensure we hit a 95% completion rate on all benchmark assessments. [Reading %](#) & [Math %](#) . The data will be used by all schools to develop and implement a 6 week cycle of inquiry to drive reading instruction in November.

Communications Update- (Ryan Phillips & Team):

Associate Superintendent Tony Wold appears on MSNBC

On Friday morning, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, Tony Wold, appeared as a guest on the nationally televised program “[MSNBC Reports With Craig Melvin](#)” to discuss the teacher shortage that our district, and districts around the country, are facing. Tony represented the district well, highlighting the amazing work principals and other teachers and school staff did in stepping in to ensure every classroom has a responsible educator. Tony was well prepared and had strong, clear answers to questions about the state of vacancies not just among teaching staff but also paraprofessionals, custodians and other school personnel. “If you are educated in education and want to make a difference, we have a job for you. We want you,” Tony said. “The people who are working in education, I have never seen more dedicated individuals. Our teachers and support staff come every day, they connect with kids. I was out on August 16, our first day, watching students come back in person: the smiles, just the joy of being together, that’s what keeps us going.” Currently, there is no clip of the show or segment available online but we are requesting one and will send along to you when it’s available.

Update on Board Website

The communications team is working on a large website revamp. In the meantime, we want to fix pages and items that are not working or out of date or are not serving the public as much as they should. With that in mind we started working on the Board website page and have some updates to share with you. This week, we updated:

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- **Address:** Moved up the address and added a google maps link so it is easy to find. Previously the address of meetings was buried and hard to locate.
- **Student Trustees:** We updated the Student Trustee area to take out email and contact information that was not filled in. We are in the process of updating to include more information.
- **Trustee Area Map:** We included the trustee map on the board page so constituents can find their trustee area.
- **Board Picture:** We would like to update the page to include a group photo of all the trustees together, rather than the front of the admin building. The comms team is working to locate such a photo now.

Next steps: we are working to create individual pages for each board member that include a photo, contact information, a list of schools in your area, and a bio. We will be in touch with you next week as we work to collect all the necessary information.