

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
September 3, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

September 6: Labor Day (District Holiday)

September 8: Board of Education, 6:30 PM, DeJean Middle School

September 14: Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, 2:00 PM

Next Board Meeting September 8 – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.

Closed session will begin at 5:00 PM.

Riverside Construction Update-Luis Freese

The Riverside Elementary School Critical Needs construction project is well underway. The soil stabilization and tree removal were completed during summer break. The remaining construction activities include the installation of the new trash enclosure and adding a new sewer connection to Amador Street. Completion of the sewer connection will require road work on Amador street that will begin the week of September 6th and is anticipated to be completed the week of September 13th. If you would like to learn more about the project, please check out the Construction [Newsletter](#) and Riverside Project Website (<https://www.wccusd.net/Page/15627>).

Lake Community Meeting-Luis Freese

The design process for the Lake Rebuild project is moving forward. A community meeting will be held on September 9th at 5:00 pm on zoom (<https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/91649932997>) to introduce the conceptual design, project timeline, and the Design Build Team. ([Lake School Rebuild Flyer](#))

Educational Services Virtual Academy Update - LaResha Martin

Enrollment: 248

SPED (Awaiting IEP Meeting):107

Waitlist: 267

Transferred Back to Homeschool: 82

Moved from Virtual K12 to Vista Independent Study: 18

Suggested Enrollment Cap: 350

Staffing:

7-General Education Teachers

3-RSP Teachers

2- New Teachers “Onboarding”

Planned Engagements to move students off the waitlist: 9/2, 9/7, 9/9 at 6:00

Current Reality:

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Because Vista was not set up, nor was there a school location for 300+ students, everything was arriving late from supplies, textbooks, technology, and even apps to support students. There is also a teacher shortage which has slowed enrollment.

Vista Virtual will also offer 1:1, small group, in-person learning experience, and electives, etc. Staff and Principal have made adjustments based on concerns/demand and a schedule has been created for parents and students for Math, ELA and Science.

There is a job posting for virtual teachers (which can be located anywhere) and Edith recently hired 4 new teachers, so it's not taking/pulling from the current need for in-person staff.

Next Steps

1. Send a written message to all students who have been waiting for a response. The email will outline the current staffing situation that limits enrollment. For students in grades 7-12, we will highlight the possibility of joining the Vista hybrid program by enrolling back at their current school and requesting a transfer to Vista and/or completing the Alternative Education Referral form.
2. Close current interest form and replace with a new Google Form, with an automated message indicating to remain enrolled at current school unless otherwise contacted (possibly an abbreviated version of letter listed on step 1).

Professional Experts - (Tracey Logan, Marci Williams, Tony Wold)

The District identified several gaps in our operational procedures and processes that need to be strengthened. These include the ability to provide clear data (performance, financial, and human capital) to our stakeholders in a timely manner with accuracy that works toward building trust and credibility. The ability to present and showcase our district and provide accurate and essential information is another area that we are working on. In addition, the need to have written processes and procedures and maintain and create documentation for our functional work in Human Resources and Business Services continues to be a need that does not get completed with the lack of staffing and increased workloads.

Utilizing one-time funding that is dedicated to infrastructure support we were able to identify and find several professional experts through Educational Pioneers that will serve a temporary fellowship this year in the District and support these operations. Because they are temporary they can focus on work that normally does not get completed due to our acute shortage of staff. We are excited to be able to have some resources to build this capacity that will last long after their temporary fellowship. The fellows will be listed on the Classified consent calendar at an upcoming board meeting. With our current status of vacancies any additional support, even that which is temporary, is very much needed and these investments will have longer lasting benefits than the temporary fellowships.