



Central Union School District
Lemoore, CA

District Advisory Council (DAC)

March 26, 2015

8:30 – 9:50 AM

Council Membership

Heiko Sweeney – Akers Principal	Nancy Davis – Central Principal
John Partin – Neutra Principal	Bill Bilbo - Stratford Principal
Lori Holaday – Akers Parent	Christa Orton – Central Parent
Mark Haley – Neutra Parent	Maribel Ochoa – Stratford Parent
Elizabethhe Lozano – Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services & Human Resources	

Call to Order

I. Meeting Called to order - Chairman, Mark Haley called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

The following individuals were in attendance: Mark Haley, Christa Orton, Lori Holaday, Danny Llamas, Margaret Gladders, Elizabethhe Lozano, Nancy Davis, John Partin, Penny Miller, Scott Chennault, Cindee Rael, Mark Tompkins, and Tom Addington.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Haley opened with meeting and introductions were made. Mr. Haley referred to the handout, "Robert's Rules" for the committee to use when attending a meeting.

III. Reading and Approval of the minutes from the November 20, 2014 meeting

All of those in attendance reviewed the minutes of the November 20, 2014 DAC meeting. It was motioned, second and passed (MSP) by Elizabethhe Lozano and Nancy Davis (Lozano, Davis) to accept the minutes. (6-0)

IV. Review revision and approve Bylaw changes to Article I. II, and III (EL)

√ Suggestion to the composition of membership.

Ms. Lozano asked the committee to address Article III; A. Composition

She continued, the bylaws would also include up to three community members representing NAS Lemoore Community, Central School Community, and Stratford Community.

Mr. Haley asked for a motion to approve the bylaws provided the committee receive a clean copy of the bylaw changes with the March 26, 2015 DAC meeting minutes. The revisions will be revisited at he May 21, 2015 DAC meeting. It was motioned, second, and passed (MSP) by Nancy Davis and Christa Orton (Davis, Orton). (6-0)

V. Update on Parent Engagement (CR)

A Parent Engagement night was held at the base on (Jan. 29th). The turnout was smaller than desired, but had good and effective outcomes. Parents were interested in hearing about Common Core and understanding the concepts. A Family Literacy Night was held at Central on (Feb. 25th). Parents were excited and had positive interaction with their children. A Math night is being planned, and a Family Engagement night at Stratford is in the planning stages. Ms. Rael shared there are fourteen videos on the district website under Common Core. One particular video, "What's Cooking with Common Core" is being used at parent meetings.

Mr. Haley asked, "What kind of questions are parents asking regarding Common Core"?

Ms. Davis shared Central school is holding "Showcases" at the site to inform parents of Common Core and to have conversations with parents.

Ms. Miller indicated Stratford school parents are more interested how to help their children with homework. Mr. Partin feels Neutra parents are on board for Common Core. He sees incredible steps, students presenting, great discussion and dialogue, etc. He supports Common Core and thinks it is helpful for students enrolling from other states to use the same standards across the United States.

Mr. Haley shared his experience with Math is not hard but more in-depth as a logical process rather than an illogical process. Ms. Davis added that differences in Math are more noticeable than some other subjects.

Mr. Chennault shared Kindergarten - 2nd grade had huge jumps when taking Administration 2 of the local assessments. Grades 3 - 8 had more difficulty due to not beginning their education with Common Core standards. It has been necessary for grades 3-8 to shift from using California State Standards to the Common Core Standards. Ms. Holaday reported students are feeling frustrated and defeated while taking the local assessments. Ms. Rael shared these assessments are summative tests that are being used. Meaning the test reflects a year's worth of learning being assessed three times during the year for growth. Students are taking the same test three times and are not expected to necessarily know all the content of this assessment during the year. Ms. Gladders asked, "Do the test results go to the students"? Scott indicated that currently the results are reported to the student immediately upon completion, but that we are working with Illuminate to turn off that function. Mr. Haley asked, "Since local assessment results are not being used for promotion/retention, what criteria is being used"? Ms. Lozano responded, "Teachers use formative and summative assessments, daily work, participation, etc.". Mr. Addington asked the school board to suspend the usage of promotion using local assessments during the pilot of new assessments. Mr. Haley indicated concern for writing proficiency. He continued, "What is the expectation for writing"? Ms. Lozano said writing is different. Mr. Haley asked if teachers have "bought in" to Common Core. Ms. Lozano responded, "All teachers are teaching Common Core". She continued, Tulare County Office of Education spent 70 days in our district this year devoting 10 days per grade level. Each grade level received CC training and developed units and lessons. Next year, site coaching will take place to support this training. She admits not 100% of teachers are on board, but she believes at least 98% are. She is convinced anxiety has lessened this year because of the TCOE training opportunity. Education changes constantly with society changes. Hopefully, improving. Ms. Davis added, "Changes are made over time . . . all teachers are uncomfortable, but they are moving in the correct direction". Mr. Haley asked about teachers being absent from the classroom and what effect it has on teaching outcomes. Mr. Chennault indicated that this year of TCOE training was difficult for some. Ten days out of the classroom and learning new concepts of teaching were a challenge. Most teachers "got it" and were happy about the TCOE training opportunities.

Ms. Lozano gave a small insight to the Professional Development plan for 2015-2016 school year. The PD plan will include not just standards but the philosophical way of teaching in the 21st Century. Including, more engaged and hands-on teaching. The plan is for six adjusted professional development days and two outside optional trainings. Please keep in mind, these are afternoon trainings and won't interfere with teaching time.

VI. Technology Update (MT and SC)

Mr. Tompkins gave an update on Central Union School District's Technology Department. He began his presentation by sharing the status regarding technology in the district.

Central Union School District has iPads for every student and teacher, WiFi, teachers also have a laptop or desktop, computer lab at each school, LCD projectors and Apple TV in each classroom, and a very effective web filter called, iBoss, which is required by Federal law to be in place.

Mr. Tompkins still offers his "Techtalks" held on Wednesdays once a month at each site focusing on requested instruction including email, Google Docs, iPad, PDF aps, iBooks, iTunes, Apple Apps, etc.

Mr. Tompkins also takes a "Techwalk" to each site once a month to evaluate any needed technology assistance. CUSD has Internet Towers, 10 Gb network backbone, 1 Gb connection to every classroom and a WiFi access point in each classroom, as well.

(Please see attached presentation)

Mr. Haley asked if iPads go home with all students. Mr. Chennault responded, grade 6-8 students take the iPads home, however, 4th and 5th grades are being considered. Mr. Haley asked about lower grades being included. Concern was raised by Mr. Tompkins regarding the usage of iPads, if the lower grade levels have assignments to do on devices at home. Ms. Davis added iPads are used for assignments every day in the classroom. This would require younger children being responsible to make sure the devices are brought to school each day. Parents and students are required to be responsible for the iPads. Younger children may have difficulty with this. Mr. Addington also raised a concern about not all households having internet access. Assignments that require the internet couldn't be completed. Ms. Holaday was concerned about children not being able to use a book or complete research without an electronic device, and added some schools don't use iPads. Ms. Lozano responded, 21st Century learning is knowing what tool to use at the appropriate time. Ms. Holaday continued, teachers could only let those students that are responsible take iPads home. Ms. Lozano shared CUSD is required to have equal education opportunities and cannot choose which students can or cannot take a device home, but lower grades are being considered.

VII. LCAP (TA)

California Public schools are now funded under a model known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Under this new approach, Districts are required to develop a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to guide priorities in the budget development process. Essential to that process, is providing opportunities for staff and community input. This year, student input was added through student surveys.

In the budget construction and spending priorities, a District's LCAP must address the eight (8) priority areas identified by the California Department of Education. The eight (8) focus areas include implementation of the Common Core State Standards, providing for adequate instructional materials and facilities, engaging parental involvement, targeting student achievement and engagement, ensuring a positive school climate, making sure access to core instruction as well as instruction designed to meet specialized needs for all students is provided.

Last year, the community and staff provided input related to these 8 areas in the initial development of Central Union's plan. This year, the survey will play a component in the continued refinement of the District's plan.

This month, parent surveys were sent home with each student. Parents have the choice of completing the survey via online or paper. Staff surveys were sent out as well. Results of the surveys will be shared at the May 21, 2015 DAC meeting.

Mr. Addington recently testified in Sacramento to the senate for a Jean Fuller bill to have the state cover twenty percent of the cost for maintenance projects. In recent years, Congress allocated a total of 945 million to address critical problems with conditions on military installations, but school districts are required to provide 20% of the costs, which are sometimes difficult. Hopefully, this will pass and the state will pay the additional costs.

State revenues appear to be improving. Funds are set aside for Common Core, Professional Development, Technology, etc. but categorically only.

Mr. Addington shared an article written by Dr. Michael Kirst. Dr. Kirst indicated in the past, the state judged school districts by one assessment, the STAR test. Using a single measure doesn't effectively work to indicate school performance. Usage of multiple factors as indicators for school performance is much more accurate. Huge changes will take place when this is implemented and a new rubric is in place.

Ms. Lozano added Stratford was a program improvement school, but impressive goals were being reached and great things were and are happening at this school.

Mr. Addington shared Federal issues. A three-year budget control is in place and sequestration was suspended for two years in 2013-2014 school year. Sequestration will return in the fiscal year 2016, 2015-2016 school year and could be a loss of \$700,000.00 for Central Union School District. Hopefully, this will be resolved, but CUSD can be covered by district money. The board and administration will be looking into budgeting to cover this possibility.

VII. Other

Ms. Lozano shared there is a teacher shortage in California. She has attended four recruitment fairs. CUSD is hiring teachers with an Intern Credential. Those on an Intern Credential have completed coursework and are highly qualified, but are completing their Student Teaching in a regular teacher position with monitoring and support from the university. All CUSD new teachers are supported by veteran teachers that have been in the district for at least five years.

Mr. Haley asked, "Why is there a shortage"? Mr. Addington responded, "Because in recent years teachers were being laid off during the recession. People didn't go into teaching and it will take some time to reach the same level of graduating teachers as in the past." Additionally, Special Education, Math, and Science teachers' pools are limited.

Ms. Lozano added some districts are not requiring CBED completion.

Ms. Lozano shared that during recruitment fairs, she displayed brochures containing information about CUSD including salary, various supervision duties, PD days, Ed. Services, K-5 aides, and Technology. Interested attendees were impressed our district offered so much support.

The next meeting will be May 21, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Presentation Center.

Adjournment

It was motioned, second and passed (MSP) by Lori Holaday and Nancy Davis (Lozano, Davis) to adjourn the meeting. (6-0)

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay Burrow