

Weekly from Dr. Rudolph

August 10, 2018

### **Square Panda and Dyslexia**

As you know last year CDOE released guidelines on Dyslexia and have instructed districts to start looking for assessments. Educators across the state are struggling with how to properly assess this and are working for a solution. Earlier this year, we established a partnership with Square Panda, where the company will provide us with free use of their platform in our preschool and TK classrooms; the platform is a multisensory approach to learning how to read. I recently found out that they are also developing an assessment for dyslexia and we may have an opportunity to be a part of their research with Vanderbilt, Stanford and SFSU. I will keep you posted.

They have also asked for me to join their advisory board; which is allowed per my contract. While it has taken me several years to find a board that belong to, I think joining a board that is focused on early education and special education aligns well with our SP2021.

### **Presentation at NCERT**

Earlier this summer I had the opportunity to present at NCERT about our safety initiatives. How we were engaging our community and developing a plan of action to make sure that our students are safe. I discussed the use of thought exchange to not only inform our safety summit but also to assuage parent concerns about gun violence at schools. I also had the opportunity listen to other Superintendents speak about innovative things that they are doing to promote safety; which we can incorporate into our districts plan.

### **Upcoming events:**

Friday, August 17, 8:30 a.m. All hands, Graham MUR

### **The Superintendent's Calendar in Review**

- Multiple meetings regarding staff housing
- Led the weekly Cabinet meeting
- Met with five direct reports
- Met with representative from Google
- Welcomed new teachers at the orientation

### **From the Public Information Officer**

- Updated and launched Landels new website at <http://landels.mvwsd.org/>
- Edited videos for four programs/departments
- Worked on district survey planning for the coming year
- Many school and district website updates and social media posts
- Castro and Stevenson dedication planning and promotion, including [an insert](#) this week in the Mountain View Voice
- Supported Bubbs, Huff, and Landels in their planning of MUR opening events
- Supported student information verification process with parent communications
- Public records requests (2)

### **From the Director of Technology**

- Getting schools ready for the first day of school. Working on re-installing network switches and wireless access points that were removed before construction.
- Installing upgraded network switches and access points at Castro and Stevenson.
- Supporting sites with enrolling students into class sections for 2018-19.

### **From the Chief Business Officer**

#### **Capital Projects**

The summer construction programs are starting to come to an end and readying school sites for opening. Contract work is complete on Aug 10. The movers are on site Aug 13-14 to move boxes and classroom furniture into rooms. Staff has access on Aug. 15 and schools are open to the public. (TH is an exception; the contractor finished early and movers are on site Aug.9-10 and staff can access the site on Monday, Aug 13.) Some items will not be complete prior to Aug. 20, but they will not hinder the opening for students. Incomplete work will be completed after hours, Saturdays, or, if possible, during school days with site approval.

#### **Fiscal Services**

Fiscal Services has been focused on closing 2017-2018 books, opening 2018-2019 books for the new school year, and continuing progress to transition the District to online purchasing.

#### **Food and Nutrition Services**

The concentration this summer has been on the Seamless Summer program, feeding children 18 years and younger at various locations in Mountain View. Aug 10 is the final day of the summer program. The number of meals will be reported in next week's update.

#### **Maintenance Operations & Transportation**

The Maintenance and Grounds staff have been working on summer maintenance projects and preparing campuses for the start of school.

#### **Business Services**

I met with all Business Services Directors for individual check in meetings. I presented at the Back to School Secretary meeting and reviewed summer construction and transitioning to opening schools. I attended a meeting with the City regarding the Facilities Joint Use Agreement for the District fields at school sites. I toured a vendor showroom for possible DO office furniture as part of the new DO build. I toured all construction sites to check status of construction. I worked with Director Lakshmanan on the Unaudited Actual 2017-2018. I met with the middle school principals to update both on the Yosemite Program and upcoming fall trips.

### **From the Chief Academic Officer**

The Educational Services department is busy with professional development and meetings to get sites and administrators ready to start the new year. This week ,Cathy Baur worked with the District's New Teacher Support Providers to set up caseloads and welcome new teachers to our District. This year the District will be supporting 52 teachers to meet requirements to have clear

credentials. On Thursday, Cathy was trained in i-Ready, the new middle school Response to Instruction support program and attended meetings with the middle school administrative teams to discuss the English Language Arts program. Cathy also attended new teacher orientation on Friday.

### **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

This has been an exciting start to the 2018-19 school-year in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment department! We have been reviewing and sharing state test data with all of our principals.

Tara has been meeting with our new principals to discuss RTI, curriculum and assessment, and site plans.

Optional professional development has been provided and well attended by our new teachers in the areas of Eureka Math, writing, and SIOP. Veteran teachers have also participated in trainings this week in the areas of writing and differentiation in math.

Our middle school teams have been able to participate in training this week for their new RTI programs in ELA and Math and take advantage earlier in the summer in professional learning in the areas of social studies and science.

New and improved pacing guides and assessment calendars have been posted to help support all of our teachers with planning for the new year.

### **Federal, State and Strategic Programs**

English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) initial testing notification and 2018 summative score letters were mailed out to parents. Initial ELPAC testing at sites for new English learners will take place starting August 27th through approximately September 30th. New this year, parents will be allowed to dispute English Language learner designations after students are tested. The California Department of Education will have waiver forms and processes available on the state website beginning in September (anticipated). MVWSD has a centralized approach to manage family requests through Education Services department--EL Coordinator. This may cause a drop in English learner official counts this year.

Aligned to the Strategic Plan, a SIOP Onboarding training for new hires took place at Graham Middle School with a focus on SIOP implementation year one information and strategies. The purpose of this training is to share institutional knowledge about foundational SIOP principles and MVWSD prior work. Forty-one new teachers participated and will connect this training to the 2018-2019 district wide SIOP implementation work of "Interactions" and "Strategies" components this year.

A welcome back meeting for facilitators was held on Friday, August 10. Facilitators confirmed DELAC and ELAC meetings, staff meeting schedules, and fall big event items. Free and reduced lunch and registration supports were discussed as well as discipline tracking and roles/responsibilities.

Monta Loma school engagement facilitator, Monta Loma EL Assessment Coordinator, and Board interpreter (1 of 2) interviews were conducted and positions were filled. Support plans for Stevenson, Monta Loma and Graham are in place to support leave absences of School and Community Engagement Facilitators. All sites have support to start the year.

Parent University preparations are underway with a focus on communication documents and flier magnets for distribution at schools on Back to School Night.

English Learner Program/support meetings were held with principals and Ed. Services staff for Castro, Landels, Monta Loma, Graham, Theuerkauf, Crittenden Bubb and Huff Schools. Remaining meetings are scheduled for the week of August 29. A review of English learner goals, at-risk/long term English learner counts, reclassified student achievement goal setting and SIOP implementation support/feedback were provided.

### **Special Education**

All certificated/licensed special education positions have been filled. We are still looking to hire and/or contract for 10 Instructional Assistant positions. Professional development for five new teachers who will be co-teaching this year was provided by Acantha Ellard, Mariko Kobata, and Gary Johnson this week.

### **Preschool**

Preschool is fully staffed and we have an exciting week of staff development planned for both teachers and IA's - including STEM, fostering language development and training on ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale).

Program-wide, we are over 80% fully enrolled. All Fee-based spaces, full-day and AM part-day spaces are filled. This is a higher enrollment number for August than we have experienced in the last several years.

At the end of last school year, we received a QRIS/Quality Matters Inclusion endorsement for high quality inclusive practices for children with special needs. This endorsement was achieved through external assessment from Santa Clara County Office of Education's Inclusion Collaborative at both our Obama Latham (Castro at the time of endorsement) and Theuerkauf Preschool sites.

## **From the Chief Human Relations Officer**

### **Human Resources:**

Teaching Staffing Update:

We currently have only one certificated position unfilled, and currently posted.

Classified Staff Update:

We currently have 18 classified position openings and currently posted

Carmen has facilitated various meetings this week including the Secretary and Clerk Training.

**Student Services:**

The Student Services Department is busily providing support to parents to verify their student information documents for the upcoming 2018-19 school year

**Health Services:**

The District Nurses are verifying immunization records of our newly enrolled students.