

May 10, 2012 at Hollister Elementary School

Meeting commenced at 9:16 a.m.

Attendees: Dr. Kathleen Boomer, Elizabeth DeVita, Ryan Sparre, Pam Kinsley, Susan Zink, Claudia Leufkens, Jivka Nikolova, April Medina-Watson, Carin Ezal, Lauren Gleason, Sue Bruns, Cheryl Weakliem, Tammy Merritt

Correction to minutes of last meeting – correct spelling of Susan Zink’s name under “Attendees”. Elizabeth DeVita made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as amended. Claudia Leufkens seconded the motion. Minutes of the April 8, 2010 meeting were approved as amended.

### **School Report – Ryan Sparre, Principal of Hollister Elementary School**

Principal Sparre discussed the concept of professional learning communities (PLCs), which was started about 5-6 years ago as part of the district’s strategic plan. In simple terms, it is a team of teachers working together to improve teaching and learning.

On a site level at Hollister, teachers have monthly grade level meetings. Subjects discussed may include: academic vocabulary, grade level benchmarks, writing strategies, cross grade peer observations, grade level CFAs, and analysis of CST data. The site based PLCs have an “anchoring person” (a teacher with experience in that grade level). The anchoring person provides continuity from year to year for the PLC group and also can help a “new” teacher learn the content of that specific grade.

On the district level, district-wide PLCs meet once every 2-3 months. These grade level meetings are facilitated by Elizabeth DeVita, and address English language development and math. Next year, writing will be added. The PLCs are setting district CFAs, analyzing assessment data, having in-service time to discuss extension strategies for gifted student, etc. Most importantly, teachers are given the opportunity to meet with each other and share information.

### **Common Core – Elizabeth DeVita, GUSD Assistant Superintendent**

Currently, each state has its own set of standards and assessments. In early 2009, the nation moved to make a common core set of standards. States were allowed to add up to 15% of existing standards. In August 2010, the state board of education adopts California common core standards.

Elizabeth provided an overview of the priorities and anchor standards for both English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The 2014-2015 school year would be the first year for assessment for common core standards. California is part of the SMARTER balanced assessment consortium. Tests are still to be developed but will be on-line tests given in the last 12 weeks of the school year. There will be a 3-year transition period with a paper/pencil option.

### **District Update – Kathy Boomer, GUSD Superintendent**

Distinguished school luncheon – representatives and parents from IV, Kellogg, and Foothill attended.

The district continues to work on the truancy program with the District Attorney. However, it is more of an issue at the secondary school level.

There is a meeting today with the special education department. The process has been started to find a replacement for Jackie Law, who is retiring.

La Patera ACES program has moved to the Boys and Girls club in downtown Goleta. Children are bussed from school, and there is more participation now.

The Foodbank is doing distributions in old town Goleta, and at El Camino and IV schools. They are also doing demonstrations of food preparation at the distribution sites.

Summer – Isla Vista school has an ACES summer program. The United Way is going to use the Boys and Girls club to provide a summer program for students from Kellogg and La Patera.

Still waiting on Governor’s May revise of budget. When it comes out the district will produce a final budget to present to the board by the end of June.

Measures W and X in June regard class sizes. Goleta residents only vote on measure W (for the secondary school district). Measure X is for Santa Barbara Elementary District.

District is finalizing the staffing for next school year. Certificated transfer rounds are being completed. There are several retirements (several in the special education program) and a few resignations.

The first round of interviews for superintendent position was not successful. The board is going through another application process.

### **“Ask the District” – Kathy Boomer, GUSD Superintendent**

What is the status of negotiations with the teachers? Teacher contract negotiation is currently at an impasse. The next board meeting is May 16, but nothing can be resolved without the mediator present. The earliest the mediator will be here is May 24.

Bike to school day at Ellwood has notoriously bad access and poses a danger. Can anything be done? The school or PTA could host bike rodeos or assemblies for safe biking to educate students. Only municipalities can apply for safe road to school grants, could do a petition drive to the city council.

What is done for students who are not special needs students but have behavioral problems? The district is looking at options for students, but they are expensive and the situation is complex. There are programs in the district (ex: autism program at Kellogg) for specific issues, but not one specifically for behavioral issues. In addition, a family whose child is identified for a program still has the option of not participating in it. However, each school has resources and students will receive help beyond the student’s teacher, including intervention from the principal, counselor, and psychologist.

### **School Council and PTA Reports**

**Brandon (April):** PTA wound down early this year. School had open house and bbq, book fair, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at CIMI. April’s daughter went to CIMI and sent nightly updates, which helped to generate interest to continue funding the camp in the future. A strong effort was made to get someone from each grade level onto the PTA board for next year. Also, this year the PTA president said that committee chairs were on the board and had them come to board meetings to increase involvement and add their voice.

**Ellwood (Claudia):** PTA had to drop committee chairs from board so the meetings could have a quorum. Auction this weekend had a lot fewer donations. Spring Sing at DP next Thursday (with a flash mob performance). Having school carnival – does anyone having a karaoke machine they could borrow?

**Foothill (Lauren):** PTA board for next year set. Had successful gala. Jog-a-thon used a 1/8-mile track, which worked well. This year they really tried to ramp up the event with awards and prizes. Earned \$18K as opposed to \$10K last year. Additional events: spring sing, sports day, Korean drumming, and bike-to-school day.

**Hollister (Cheryl):** Had a successful Family Festival event with each grade performing a dance or song. Elks lodge did a chicken/hot dog bbq, and the silent auction and raffle baskets earned \$11K. Bike-to-school day had 137 participants and 76 bike riders. 6<sup>th</sup> graders are currently at CIMI. Upcoming events: 2-for-1 book fair and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Olympics.

**Isla Vista (Jivka):** Parents attended the distinguished schools luncheon. Currently getting ready for the multicultural fair. The playground installation is almost done.

**Mountain View (Carin):** Camino Real fundraiser a success. Teacher/staff appreciation is done monthly. Parentsquare has really helped with volunteers and classroom needs, especially with involving parents who don’t normally have a presence on campus. Final party book event is happening – a big party that someone is hosting (cost is \$75 per person). Book fair happening, and carnival is on Friday (tomorrow) 3:30-6pm.

**District (Elizabeth):** District art show reception at Goleta Library on Monday, May 14 from 5:00-7:00pm. Artwork will on display at the library from April 30 – May 23. The DPHS outreach strings concert at DPHS Elings performing arts center on Monday, May 14, 7:00pm. The GUSD band concert is at the GVJH auditorium on Monday, May 21, 6:30-8:00pm.

**Next Meeting:** 9:15 a.m. on September 13, 2012 at Brandon School, 195 Brandon Drive. Please invite your PTA president to attend and meet the new superintendent.

Meeting concluded at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Weakliem.