

**District Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 10, 2012**  
**Ellwood School**  
**7648 Hollister Ave, Goleta, CA 93117**

**In attendance:** Kary O'Brien Isla Vista School, Lisa Steinberger Brandon School, Kathy Bohley Kellogg School, Susan Zink UTP Representative, Michelle Hay Foothill/ UTP-G, Jennifer Tangel Ellwood School, Carin Ezal Mountain View School, Tammy Merritt La Patera School, Tammy Johnsen Foothill School, Cheryl Weakliem Hollister School, Elizabeth DeVita District Office, Pam Kinsley Board Member, Sue Bruns Community Representative – Goleta Woman's Ser. Club, William Banning Superintendent, Melissa Fitch El Camino School.

**Call to order:** Tammy Merritt called the meeting to order

**Approval of Minutes:** September 13, 2012 meeting minutes approved by Tammy Johnsen, seconded by Cheryl Weakliem

**School Report:** Ellwood School by Principal Abby Vasquez 452 students, an on campus Preschool, 2 combo classes

Ellwood is a diverse school of social and economic backgrounds. Ellwood met all State and Federal testing standards. Ellwood is piloting new computer program with PC instead of Apple computers, which all other GUSD schools use. Apple software needs to repurchase every two years. The PC computers cost less to purchase and may in the long run be a cost saving choice for our district. The Computer Specialist Ms. Joan Barnett spent many hours this summer working out the bugs. The decision to change to PC's was made by the District and Ellwood jointly.

Our new garden produced a large harvest and a free farmers market this fall.

Another pilot program at Ellwood is an Apple TV large flat screen connected to a remote that receives transmissions from iPads and computers either Apple or PC with OS6. This will give teachers complete mobility. Teachers may teach from anywhere in the class and show examples of student work.

Ellwood is also recently using Parent Square (Facebook for families) a communication that sends mass emails to parents that have signed up! The school purchased two iPads for parent use. We also post Parent Square information in the office.

**CST Result Summary:** Elizabeth DeVita announced the results and achievement targets that come out tomorrow. This is year 11 of *No Child Left Behind*.

Elizabeth supplied 14 pages of graphs and information to help us understand the results and how they reflect our progress and future goals as a district. California requires an increase in students scoring proficient and advanced of approximately 11% in ELA and Math annually. Susan Zink asks where our GUSD % was in 2002. You can see a significant increase each year. The thought was that there would be adjustments to the accountability system a few years ago. But that did not happen. Grades 2-6 are tested. The District shows growth from 2008-2012. Slide show and documents show steady growth. We then looked at the growth of subgroups. SWD, SED, ELL, Hispanic, White, and Asian. Traditionally students in certain subgroups do better: Asian and White, SWD, EL and SED test with more difficulty. Our district is looking at the achievement gap, is it widening, static or decreasing? White and Asian groups have been increasing but more slowly than subgroups.

Pam Kinsley: We have to remember California is measuring all our students to be above proficient or above grade level.

Mr. Banning: The California standards are rigorous and the standardized test setting is increasingly challenging.

We then looked at Math we are in Program Improvement because multiple sub groups did not meet the target. GUSD schools are continuing to make improvement, but not up to the California State target. There are about 200 targets in total for all the subgroups and at all the schools.

Our district has about 1/3 of its students as English Language Learners or 33%. CELDT testing measures their English proficiency. Our identified students are surpassing the target.

How do we measure who is an ELL? Home Language Survey of children's families.

Abby Vasquez: There are four questions. An example might be: What language did your child speak first? What language is spoken in the home?, etc.

William Banning: If parents answer positively to these questions, then students are tested with the CELT which is given in October. This exam, which assesses their ability to speak English identifies English proficiency across five levels. Abby Vasquez: Results can vary according to their level of comfort speaking to a stranger for the verbal test. A kindergartener might find it very difficult.

Elizabeth DeVita: It seems to take longer to advance through the Intermediate proficiency level. The District implemented a plan, which includes 30 minutes per day for students in English language instruction and we are seeing great improvement.

Cheryl Weakliem asks: How do we support the classroom teacher?

Abby Vasquez: At Ellwood three students came from China in 6th grade. They have an ELD teacher who teaches them basic vocabulary and simple sentence structure in addition to using Rosetta Stone.

William Banning: Issues of Beginning versus Advance levels of proficiency are very difficult. Students verbal language may seem advanced but comprehension of instruction and complex academic language structures may be very limited

**District Update:** William Banning has implemented a new Website for GUSD, based on new blogging software. GUSD can update and parents can subscribe to it for updates on articles and meetings. Kellogg is also redoing their website. Pam Kinsley thanked Mr. Banning for spending many weekends and long nights for doing this. Mr. Banning is hoping for all the schools to have consistency as they update their sites.

October 18th at the district office will be the Child Abuse Parent Preview Night for grades K, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parents are invited to see the information that will be introduced to students.

Criterion reference vs. norm reference test: California Set standards are higher than other states. After 2014 there will be the new Common Core Standards: cover less with more depth. New tests, new benchmarks, different achievement benchmarks.

CELDT testing happens in October after summer. It is a critical issue as the ELL students are not challenged or maybe even hearing English being spoken during their months off from school. This is why summer programs are so laudable.

CFA common formative, we are learning and changing as the standards of achievement adjusts. We are always in continuous improvement.

Superintendent Banning provided DAC by-laws and asked all members to read through them for discussion at the next meeting.

Topics for possible future: instructional minutes, curriculum for January, less curriculum oriented for November will cover Special Education and Basic Aid. After the elections Superintendent will cover how the results affect the current status of GUSD and how Goleta Education Foundation is partnering with us.

Susan Zink said the teachers are grateful that the contracts are settled and dialogue has been reestablished. Final settlement is pending with proof to the Santa Barbara County Education Office that GUSD has the ability to meet financial commitments

Jennifer Tangel asks: RBST free milk for children's school lunches is it possible to change what we are giving to the children to RBST free milk? Mr. Banning says he will look into it! She also asked if GUSD could provide purified water for water bottle filling stations. San Marcus School has it. All school in Santa Barbara school district may have received a grant to provide it. Tammy Merritt said that she would send the information to Mr. Banning and he said he would look into it.

#### **School Minutes:**

**Kary O' Brien - Isla Vista School:** New Principal has established lunch clubs and flag football at lunch. Students see the computer specialist every week, I.V. is expanding their garden program, and having a healthy food bank.

**Lisa Steinberger - Brandon School:** Last week Brandon had a big BOW Wow event. They encourage students to walk or bike every Wednesday. Carnival is next Friday, which runs from 3-6 pm. Brandon has lunch activities and after school programs. They have a wonderful Computer Teacher, Trevor Takayama, who offers computer support to families and after school Robotics, Digital Photography and Chess Club.

**Tammy Johnson - Foothill School:** Foothill has received eight to nine thousand so far from request letters.

**Kathy Bohely - Kellogg:** Kellogg has a Robotics afterschool class, a new website is coming.

**El Camino - Melissa Fitch:** Ms. Liz Barnitz Our new Principal has placed an emphasis for the year on health. As the focus this year of health they are starting a healthy food pantry sit opened yesterday and has not lot of left. Their Preschool class attended the health screening. The after school program ACES has 80 kids enrolled. They will offer dance class, a Band program, Polynesian dance, nutrition, etc.

PTA hosted Mc Teachers Night at McDonalds at Fairview and even though it is not the healthiest choices, families who don't normally come to school events came with many smiles. They had a great turnout. McDonalds donated 20% of sales to El Camino including drive through.

**Jennifer Tangel Ellwood School:** Ellwood has a wonderful school garden. Also Ellwood has the Monarch Miracle, which is a direct campaign, raising \$1,500 so far this year. Upcoming Reflections PTA event which Jennifer encouraged all schools to participate in. Also Ellwood is having a Jog-a-thon this week and School Carnival this month!

**Carin Ezal - Mountain View:** Every Friday the Principal and teachers hand out small tokens to students when they show school spirit by wearing a school t-shirts or sweatshirt, which have just been redesigned. Tomorrow the PTA is holding the first of three Book Swap events. Parents and children bring books they have read or outgrown and exchange them for new ones. The PTA is hosting a Chaucer's book night. The PTA just finished a Families Helping Families blanket and jacket drive for students in Goleta. Mountain View will be starting its annual CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) drive where students can pick a first name and age of a child to buy a present for at Christmas time.

**Tammy Merritt - La Patera:** La Patera has an Email list where they can email families about up coming events or pertinent information. La Patera's live dessert auction, where each teacher bakes a confection to be raffled, brought in \$400 more this year than last year. Their fall carnival moved from the spring and will be held this week. PTA is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair.

**Melissa Fitch - El Camino:** El Camino has an annual giving campaign encouraging 100% participation no matter the size of donation. Last year only 28 families contributed.

**Tammy Johnson Foothill School:** Foothill's direct giving campaign encourages 100% participation and ask for \$400 from each family! Foothill Carnival is a 5th and 6th grade fundraiser run by kids and parents to pay for camp.

**Cheryl Weakliem - Hollister School:** Held a Bike and Walk to school day. Helmets were donated. Principal Ryan Sparre is requiring all students to be safe and wear their helmet if they are riding a bike to school. Cheryl shared how valuable the Tall Ships 4th grade overnight program was as it fits in with the curriculum and meshes well with the California Standards. This year the CIMI camp will be a 3 day trip over Halloween. Hollister School has a Halloween Parade in the neighborhood. Their direct giving campaign stresses all families to give as much as possible with a goal of \$150. Hollister PTA is participating in the Reflections Art Show. PTA is sponsoring a student workshop on Thursdays for students to work on their reflection projects.

Several members asked about fundraising at the different schools. Jennifer Tangel asked about fundraising as a unified all school district fundraiser with Goleta Education Foundation

#### **Next Meeting:**

**El Camino School**

**5020 San Simeon Drive**

**Santa Barbara CA 93111**

**November 8, 2012 at 9:15 a.m.**