

**District Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 14, 2013**  
**Mt. View School**  
**5465 Queen Anne Lane**

**1. Call to Order:** Tammy Johnsen called the meeting to order at 9:15.

**Attendees:** Superintendent William Banning, Assistant Superintendent Elizabeth DeVita, Chris Messner (Kellogg), Heather Shea (Isla Vista), Yael Brennan (Mt. View), GUSD School Board member Yvonne DeGraw, Sue Bruns (Community Representative of Goleta Womens' Service Club), Jil W. Ronkainen (Ellwood), Melissa Fitch (El Camino), Ned Schoenwetter (Principal at Mt. View), Tammy Merritt (La Patera), Karen Van Gool (Goleta Family School), Sandra Edgar (Hollister), Tammy Johnsen (Foothill).

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Minor corrections were made to the October meeting minutes. Bill Banning took detailed notes and will make those corrections on the official version of the minutes. Karen Van Gool moved to approve the minutes, as amended, from October 9, 2013. Melissa Fitch seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

**3. School Report by Ned Schoenwetter, Principal, Mt View School:**

Mt View School has 339 students with 72% Caucasian, 18% Hispanic, 10% Asian. This year Mt View's API was 953, the highest API of any public school in Santa Barbara County.

Like the other schools in the district, Mt View is changing their overall approach to language arts and math in preparation for the Common Core. In language arts, this means moving to the use of more expository text and continuing to use the Coherent Writing program purchased a few years back. In mathematics, this means using FactsWise and Number Talks. The Number Talks can be used in math as well as other curricular areas such as social studies. They are a means of verbalizing math concepts (the big shift is being able to explain your thinking or strategies.) District TOSA Anna Scharfeld is a terrific resource for additional training time and idea sharing throughout the district. William Banning and Ned Schoenwetter both noted that teachers are working to develop a higher level of enthusiasm and engagement from students. They are already noticing that students are very ready to do higher level work and are engaged and focused. Teachers are very positive about these changes.

The Mt View PTA funds many programs at school including the Cougar Mentor Program (reading tutoring), cultural arts activities, Poet in Residency, Peaceful Partners (working on getting along), Peer Mediation Program (training upper grade students to act as peer mediators.) MAGIC is a separate organization from PTA and it raises money to fund 75% of Mt View's specialist budget. The annual MAGIC appeal asks all families to contribute. Not all families participate financially but all students participate in specialist time in music, art, PE, computer, science and recess (anti-bulling).

Student safety and anti bullying are important issues that are the focus of some of the programs mentioned previously. In addition, the Student Council focuses on how to be an ally instead of a bystander when someone is bullied. The Anti Defamation League (ADL) recently gave an assembly. Also, all teachers and yard supervisors can give out “Star Cards” for when they “catch a student doing good.” These star cards accumulate and prizes are given out at occasional star card assemblies. Morning meetings in classrooms help to develop a community of caring. There are also friendship groups, community service requirements (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) as well as cyber safety awareness taught in computer lab.

GATE at Mt View is called “HLT” which stands for Higher Level Thinking. HLT is available to all students and replaced the previous pull out GATE model because 72% of Mt View students are considered GATE qualified (97<sup>th</sup> percentile on the OLSAT or 450 or higher on the STAR test). Fourth through sixth grades do three HLT projects per year and students can opt in or out of any particular project. The district funds the GATE specialist at 30 hours/project to spend across those grades. Mt View does not supplement the number of hours paid for by the district. Classroom teachers select projects and the GATE specialist helps facilitate them. The district sets a very general theme for GATE and this year it is “thinking like a disciplinarian” which means looking at an issue from various perspectives such as an economist, an ecologist, etc.

William Banning added that there is some controversy that surrounds defining a “GATE qualified” student. The OLSAT test is a national test and is in part an IQ test and widely agreed to be a good indicator. However, being qualified through a 450+ STAR test score is more troublesome because the test is written to test a student’s grasp of that grade level’s material. Some students who test 450+ are appropriately qualified for GATE but others are not and it is difficult to use that test as a predictor. Since the STAR test will no longer be given, this leads to an issue of how we as a district will determine GATE qualification in the future. Consideration is being given as to how to answer this issue in the face of the coming era of the Common Core. William Banning and the School Board are committed to keeping differentiation as a key component of the district’s education strategy.

#### **4. Strategic Plan Presentation by William Banning**

Our district’s current strategic plan was developed in 2005-2006. The school board is now discussing updates, re-considering the elements of the current plan, reviewing our core values and updating our aspirational vision. The full current strategic plan is available on the district’s website. William Banning reviewed much of the current plan with us.

In addition to updating the strategic plan, the district is required to write a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). This state requirement requires specialized goals in 8 priority areas for the district as well as for specific subgroups. We are required to officially adopt our LCAP prior to approving our budget for 2014-2015, which means that all of this must happen by May. (Our fiscal year begins July 1.) It is Mr. Banning’s intention to dovetail the strategic plan revisions with our LCAP so that they are integrated, aligned and actionable. Which leads us to the homework...

## **5. Homework for DAC Members, presented by William Banning**

The school board, district staff and William Banning are very interested in feedback, input and opinions that will help to inform and shape the strategic planning process. To that end, Mr. Banning asked that all DAC members submit a SWOT analysis and a “letter from the future” to him via email by December 3. (Or by the next DAC meeting if Dec 3 is too soon.) He handed out detailed instructions that outlined both of these tasks.

## **6. School Council and PTA Reports**

- Melissa Fitch (El Camino)—Principal Liz Barnitz received the Goleta Educator of the Year Award from the Goleta Chamber of Commerce! They received a grant for funds for band and science. The Bialis Foundation gave funding for a Top Scholar Award that gives out books monthly to the top boy and girl in each grade. At the end of the year, one boy and one girl will each receive a laptop.
- Tammy Johnsen (Foothill)—Just had science night. Michael Katz is coming in December. The Dream Campaign is underway to help raise money to pay for specialists.
- Jil Ronkainen (Ellwood) – ParentSquare is now in its second year and it is helping with communication. Breakfast at school is also a big hit and is correlated with a significant drop in tardiness. The jog-a-thon raised \$25k. Fall festival just happened.
- Sandra Edgar (Hollister) - ParentSquare is going great and has been a big help.
- Karen Van Gool (Goleta Family School)—4-6<sup>th</sup> grade just got back from a trip to Santa Cruz Island and an overnight at the Long Beach Aquarium (using an Ocean Guardian Grant.) The Move-A-Thon raised \$3900. Completed Axxess sales campaign and the annual ask from families. Dec 12<sup>th</sup> is the Winter Sing and craft sale.
- Chris Messner (Kellogg) – Hoopshoot just happened. 6<sup>th</sup> grade movie days are coming up with conferences. PTA craft day and 6<sup>th</sup> grade scarf sales coming up to raise funds for Astrocamp.
- Tammy Merritt (La Patera) – Sixth graders have returned from CIMI. Conferences and after school movies are coming up. They have a new principal on campus this year and he is working on engaging the English Learner families by having events at school as well as in the community. These events have been well received and well attended.
- Yael Brennan (Mt View) – Just held the annual science night and Halloween Sing. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders went to CIMI Camp. The annual holiday gift drive for CASA is underway.

## **7. Meeting adjourned at 11:25**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2013 at Brandon School.