

Goleta Union School District  
**District Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 13, 2014**  
**Ellwood School**  
**7686 Hollister Ave.**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson Melissa Fitch called the meeting to order at 9:17 am

**Attendees:** Superintendent William Banning, Assistant Superintendent Carol Boyan-Held, Abby Vasquez (Principal at Ellwood), Jil Ronkainen (Ellwood), Maria Vaca (Ellwood), Yvonne DeGraw (GUSD School Board member), Melissa Fitch (El Camino, DAC Chairperson), Amy Marston (Brandon), Jivka Nikolova (Isla Vista), Susan Zink (UTP Teacher Representative), Karen Van Gool (Kellogg), Sandra Edgar (Hollister), Ana Requena (District Office, Interpreter), Ana Huynh (La Patera), Toni Gentry (La Patera), Judy Blue (Community Representative), Peggy Reagan (Foothill), Maria Lopez, Isabel Guzman, Marilu Arroyo (Ellwood parents).

**Approval of Minutes:** Karen Van Gool moved to approve the October 9, 2014 minutes. Yvonne DeGraw seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

**School Report: Abby Vasquez, Principal at Ellwood**

Ellwood School is the Home of the Monarch Miracle. There are currently 459 students. Demographically, Ellwood looks like a snapshot of the Goleta community as a whole. 52% qualify as Low Income and 36% are categorized as English Language Learners.

Special Programs: Ellwood houses two classrooms of the Center for Therapeutic Education which provides a social/emotional curriculum based on the program of Boystown. This year the program was expanded to a second classroom.

State Preschool offers 3 hours of instruction daily. Eligibility for enrollment is based on an income ceiling. Pre-K is a Transitional Program which focuses on the "Three E's": Exploration, Exposure, and Experience with a primary goal of Kindergarten readiness.

College and Career readiness is a focus at Ellwood. The Common Core State Standard ensures that students are ready for any college or workplace environment. There is an emphasis on Academic Language for all content areas.

Technology: Currently the only GUSD site with a PC Computer lab. There are also iPads for shared use in classrooms. The sixth grade has a 1:1 Chromebook to Student ratio. The idea is to see how they work in the classroom with the hope of also using these for State testing. Maybe not for this year as it is important to have a standardized testing environment in all schools, district-wide. The Chromebooks are used for research, creating documents and

presentations, are less expensive than iPads, and fit with the sixth grade curriculum. The Chromebook is a laptop that only accesses a Web Browser, it has no apps but can access most of what's out there. A grant from QED helped to purchase these Chromebooks, plus PTA and some site money-- so they were "multi-funded". The idea is get the most out of the Technology money and to avoid buying the "\$1,000 pencil".

Ellwood also has a Checkout MacBook mobile lab and Apple TV in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. The lower grades have "Smart Carts" available for use. The technology team here monitors how useful the various products are. In the classrooms the laptops offer the opportunity to learn and use computer skills like shared document writing and shared editing skills. Students must benefit instructionally and be able to integrate this into the curriculum.

Bill Banning: The District awarded \$80,000 to specific teachers or teams of teachers for technology purchases so that they can report back to the district about effectiveness.

Peggy Reagan: Expressed concern about too much concern and push for technology, since kids are already spending so much time on them at home. Karen Van Gool responded that because of the new trends in testing, computer dexterity is essential. Maria Vaca mentioned the success of Ellwood's reading program on computer.

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

Bill Banning suggested that this item be moved ahead of the District Update and to provide more time to this topic since many DAC members have expressed an interest in discussing how PTAs at each site raise money, to learn what works at the various schools.

Jil: **Ellwood** school has great success with the Jogathon-- we had over \$30,000 in profit this year. Other successful fundraisers are EScrip, the Amazon SmileButton, and the Monarch Miracle which suggests a \$100 contribution per student.

Peggy: **Foothill** also does Jogathon. They have The Fund which requests \$300 per family with a goal of \$50,000. The same group of people always contribute, would like to make it more inclusive.

Melissa: **El Camino** has had good results with potlucks, families get more involved. PTA activities support the goal to raise money: Student run Carnival, performances, family night. Also Fairview Carwash and Axxess Books.

Karen: **Kellogg** has "Fall Back to School" picnic--6<sup>th</sup> graders sell food and PTA raffle. Annual Giving Campaign is \$250 per family-- low percentage of participation with the biggest donations from same people every year. Jogathon as well. Recently cancelled Gala event in favor of Silent Auction since not enough participation for Gala effort.

Amy: **Brandon's** primary fundraiser is Jogathon with a goal of \$25,000. " Invest in your Islander" fund asks for \$100 for first child. Maybe 30 families have invested so far. Also Axxess books, Casino night, and class projects.

Karen: (speaking about) **Family School** asks for \$450 for first child, \$800 for two and \$1000 for three. They try for 100% participation and this request is strongly worded as students are at this school by choice. Gala brings in \$20,000 -- remarkable for a school of only about 60 kids.

Sandra: **Hollister** has "Soar to New Heights" which asks \$250 per family-- usually gets about 10% participation. Jogathon brings in \$27,000, Axxess books, Back to School BBQ, Taco Truck. Potlucks not so successful. Casino night takes a lot of effort and many can't afford to attend.

Jivka: **Isla Vista's** PTA uses fundraisers to pay for 50% of total price of 5th and 6th grade camps so that all can participate. EScrip and grant writing. PTA struggles to find leadership for positions. Jogathon makes \$20,000 to \$25,000 with focus on matching contributions, try not to ask too much from parents. Axxess makes \$4,000, Innisbrook is a personal fundraiser for students' camp fund. Would like more info on what incentives others use for Jogathon. Bill Banning will be requesting Principals at all sites to send him this info to be shared in future.

Ana: **La Patera** has changed the way they fundraise based on their demographics to make them much more inclusive. Many families live in Old Town so PTA provides busses to school for some events. Annual giving campaign provides incentives for giving. Example is a school magnet for \$25 donation. Back to School potluck, teachers provide desserts for auction. Goleta area Restaurant Nights, Boxtops, Jogathon, Fairview Carwash, Carnival. ELAC fundraisers have recently been implemented. They put together their own fundraisers which the PTA supports.

Bill Banning: Met with **PTA presidents** and found that ways to raise money and to build community are the two main concerns all expressed. The Goleta Education Foundation is becoming increasingly involved. Historically, there will be some who always participate and some who never will. It is the spirit of generosity that should be celebrated and every parent that gives should know and understand that their participation and contribution is important, whatever the amount.

**District Update:** William Banning, Superintendent

- **Progress Report on LCAP and Strategic Plan Goals**

Handout: LCAP-Strategic Plan Progress Worksheet

All of these goals are things we are working on right now. Just putting it in writing makes you more aware of how you are progressing.

Goal 1: Demonstrate achievement growth, reduce disparity: Not able at this time to make these comparisons, testing results not yet available. Each school uses different types of programs like MAP, Lexia, etc. which can't readily be compared.

Response to Intervention is now called Multiple Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Three schools have already been trained in this, the six other schools are being trained this year.

All of these goals and subcategories are on track or already complete.

Goal 2: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills: Task force for this goal includes all principals, all teachers who received special grants and other invited participants to talk about framework and standards for digital technology. Computer Specialists-- the amount funded had declined during the recession but this has come back up recently. There tends to be a revolving door for specialists--the good ones move on, within our district and to others. Retaining them is a challenge. Since they are paid on an hourly rather than salary basis, it would cost 3 to 4 times as much to make these permanent positions. The PTA can supplement but not replace technology or specialists. A specified number of minutes of PE is required, but other areas are not specified in terms of specialist time. Bill Banning will bring in a video that speaks to standardization in conjunction with creativity and autonomy. Standards can exist with some flexibility. Technology doesn't have a long life expectancy so we don't want to standardize something that won't last.

Goal 3: Applying best practices in teaching and learning.

Goal 4: Provide effective learning environments.

Goal 5: Value and encourage community involvement and local control: This is primarily a statement of philosophy. We are funded by state and mostly local government, but we value the local control that is personified by the governance of our elected school board members, encouraging partnerships with the community.

Members of the DAC and ELAC play an important role in this process and progress. This is an ambitious plan, with lots of time and energy invested, many meetings. It is a well thought-out plan. We began the process with a head start since we had already started formulating a strategic plan before the LCAP requirements.

- **Discussion on DAC Survey of Topics for Remaining Meetings**

Handouts: DAC Topics Survey-- Ranking and Summary

Superintendent Banning proposes that since the survey indicated that the topic of highest interest is Technology, the next two DAC meetings (Jan. and Feb.) deal with this topic. Summer learning and Intervention would be discussed at the next 2 meetings and then the final 2 meetings would focus on the LCAP. Each topic will be addressed for 2 meetings, the first to discuss the topic and the second to return to the topic after DAC members have the opportunity to meet with their principals, PTA, and community for input.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.**