

MINUTES

District Advisory Committee Meeting

September 17, 2009

Welcome and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by John Berchielli at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed all in attendance.

Attendees

<u>Representing</u>	<u>Name</u>
Aerohaven	Isis Barajas, Adriana Rivarola
Allison	Renee Perry
Babcock	Renee Calderon
Castori	Amy Page
CCAA	John Berchielli, Kim Brownell, Deyanyra
Del Paso	---
Dry Creek	Amy Edmiston, Kari Scow
Eastside	---
Fairbanks	Cristina Guzman, Josefina Elson
Foothill Farms Jr.	Joan Bronkhurst
Foothill High	---
Foothill Oaks	Courtney Toms
Frontier	Jodi Keele, Ellen Giffin
Garden Valley	Leticia Huerta, Pam Depew, Maria Peña
Grant High	Delores Culpepper, Amy Page
Hagginwood	Karla Shaw, Alberto Becerra
Highlands	Rosemary Calkins
Hillsdale	Linda Wyatt
Johnson	Teresa Barragin
Joyce	Nivia Talavera
Keema	---
Kohler	Bernice Ritter-Hechtman
Larchmont	Kevin Lafer
Madison	Shannon Trom
MLK	Maria Alvarez, Tillman Wade Jr.
Miles P. Richmond	---
Noralto	Maribel Magena
North Avenue	---
Northwood	Gloria Vasquez
Norwood Jr.	Roxanne Mitchell
NOVA	Shant Hagopian
Oakdale	---
Orchard	---
Pioneer	Casey Saunders
Regency Park	Teresa Pitts
Ridgepoint	Madora Thomas

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Rio Linda	Lisa Stites, Debbie Hume
Rio Linda Jr.	Christina Chavez
Rio Tierra Jr.	Brian Ehnes
Sierra View	Kenny Smith
Smythe K-6	Elizabeth Hernandez, Minerva Tello
Smythe 7-8	Elizabeth Hernandez
Strauch	---
Village	---
Vineland/Pathways	Patty Newborne
Vista Nueva	---
Westside	---
Woodlake	---
Woodridge	Jamie Fallis
Parent Consultant	Alma Hernandez
Community	Maxine Pepper
DO/CAA	Ramona Bishop
DO/S&CR	Ziggy Robeson
DO/Categorical	Wendy Peacock, Lorena Morales-Ellis
DO/Emergency Prep	Danny Munoz

School Level Celebrations and Reports

Each of the parents present introduced themselves and shared something positive happening at their site.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Berchielli distributed the minutes and stated that this item would be tabled until the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Porter welcomed all present. He highlighted the new district office features. He said that the main purpose of this building is for staff training and for holding meetings. He said this building highlights a story of recreating and reinventing. He said that 26 schools had a significant growth in AYP and five schools that have exceeded API of 800. He said that Highlands Academy last year was the first year they had an academic decathlon team and the team placed in the top ten. He announced that this past year Grant High School API beat out Encina High and Natomas High schools. He said that the advisory committee is a great place to share ideas and network. He thanked the parents for being here.

Review SMART Goals 2009/10

Superintendent Porter distributed the Twin Rivers USD mission, vision statement and 2009-10 goals. He reviewed each of the bullet points listed under the 2009-10 goals. Several parents shared their experiences using the web-based program School Loop at the secondary sites. He announced that the grades K-6 transition will take a little longer.

Student Academic Achievement Results

Dr. Ramona Bishop commended Mr. Berchielli for his leadership as the DAC President and welcomed everyone. She stated that we want to use data better than we have before; one way to do this is to train parents on how to read and understand data. She commented that every year students are expected to move up in their test scores. She explained that API (Academic Performance Index) is a California measurement, while the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) is a national standard. She said that API is based on the STAR. She encouraged the parents to return to the schools and help the principal with ideas at the School Site Council meeting. She distributed the AYP from each of the schools. She thanked parents and stated that she is proud of our growth.

Dr. Ziggy Robeson called a five-minute break.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Dr. Robeson briefly outlined her area of responsibility in the district office as charter school programs, police department, emergency preparedness and family & community involvement. She introduced Kate Bishop-Hazarian, Family & Community Involvement Director, who stated that they are working with principals to encourage community partnerships and are looking for a panel of five to seven parents to discuss what schools could do to encourage more parent involvement.

Dr. Robeson said that at the community summits it was expressed that safety and preparedness was a priority. She introduced Danny Munoz who stated that he has been working on updating the web software program for emergency response information and has been training staff for incident response. He distributed the Emergency Preparedness Program pyramid and a summary of the district's emergency plan.

Dr. Robeson said that Twin Rivers USD was a recipient of a Readiness and Emergency System management grant which is a collaboration of Elverta, Center, Robla and Natomas school districts. This grant covers the software program, the training and the communication components. She stated that Mr. Munoz is on the district's H1N1 team and distributed a letter on this topic.

Family & Community Involvement Policy Draft

Mr. Berchielli introduced Lorena Morales-Ellis, the EL/Categorical Programs coordinator for Twin Rivers. She distributed the latest draft of the parent involvement plan and thanked the parents who came to the district office to develop this plan. The easy-to-read plan is based on the comments of DAC/DELAC parents and discusses what the parents want to see in the district. She said there is a meeting tentatively scheduled for October 7th from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. to review and finalize the draft.

RAFT

(This item was advanced on the agenda.) Mr. Berchielli invited Mr. Porter to speak, who stated that RAFT is a volunteer organization that takes surplus materials

donated from outside organization and recycles them into a usable resource for teachers. He introduced Mark Anderson, the Executive Director of RAFT. Mr. Anderson stated that his focus is on teachers especially in view of the \$18 billion cut to education in the state. He said that on the average, teachers spend \$400 to \$1000 per year for their classrooms. He stated that RAFT is 5,000 square foot store and houses standards-based materials to create activities to reinforce learning. They also have practical materials such as paper, pencils, staple removers, etc. For example, RAFT receives all of Office Depot item returns and excess materials. He showed a spectroscope to view light prisms made by a teacher using a leftover spindle formerly used to hold tea bag strings. He said that all teachers in Twin Rivers are RAFT members thanks to Mr. Porter. Has asked the parents to share this information with your children's teachers or give them a RAFT gift card to spend in the store. He introduced Mike Winans, Hands-on Sacramento volunteer coordinator, who uses the volunteer labor to sort the supplies and make kits from the materials. Mr. Winans said he can coordinate a service project with teachers and students. (Mr. Winans' contact information is 909 12th Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel: 916-447-7063 x338, Fax: 916-447-7052, E-mail: mwinans@handsonsacto.org)

Bylaws

Mr. Berchielli distributed the revised bylaws and stated that this item would be tabled until the next meeting.

Community Discussion Results

Mr. Berchielli distributed the results of the March 18, 2009 community discussion.

Update Contact List

Dr. Robeson passed around the contact list and asked parents to fill in missing contact information.

Future Agenda Items

Mr. Berchielli said he would strive to keep to the meeting end time. Dr. Robeson asked parents to discuss among themselves at each table what items they would like to on future meeting agendas. She noted the following items:

- Math adoption
- Budget Update – how will affect students this year
- How to help school site councils be more effective
- Meeting on school site plans
- Student calendar – rotating staff development days
- More volunteer participation, e.g. Project DREAM
- Community events
- More resources for schools and how community can support schools
- More information on parent involvement/community engagement
- Sharing best practices from schools with highest API /AYP including special needs students
- Hold cultural events at sites

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- Student discipline (suspension, referrals) - Need earlier intervention for students at junior high level (possible continuation school?)
- More information on School Loop
- Department introductions, e.g. Special Education – what are we doing to support students and families
- Better way to communicate information discussed at meetings to all families at school

Dr. Robeson said that all information from DAC meetings will be posted on the district website. She stated that there is a Student Leadership Council meeting on Thursday and a Superintendent Student Cabinet that will meet to share their ideas.

Mr. Berhcielli adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for November 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Oak Room, District Office, McClellan Park.