

LCAP Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)- Questions and Comments
5/21/21 & 5/26/21

Questions:

LCAP Action- Equity and Explicit Bias Training

Will staff be trained on a voluntary basis or will this be mandatory?

Answer; All teachers and administrators will be trained in explicit bias and equity but due to the number of staff needing training, it will be scheduled by cohort and may occur over multiple years.

LCAP Action-Literacy Plan and Teacher Training

Will literacy be for all grades or just for specific grades?

Answer: There is an elementary and secondary literacy plan. But, a major emphasis will be grades 1-3rd to set foundational literacy.

How are we going to be able to make sure that this will really happen?

Answer: We have a written plan that will be implemented and additional staff (co teachers in 1st grade and reading specialists at all levels) will be hired to ensure that students get the support they need.

There are high school students that are still struggling with reading and we need to help them too. So, how are we going to help them?

Answer: We are hiring a Reading Specialist for each middle and high school. In addition, we are purchasing programs that these specialized teachers will use with students that need the most support in the area of reading. There are specific strategies that all of our secondary teachers need to learn through training and incorporate into all of their classes to support students reading and writing.

This is a three year plan correct?

Answer: The LCAP is a three year plan. The literacy plan has initial training that will occur in year one but it might take several years of follow-up training to see the strategy implemented at high levels in the classroom.

How often will teachers be trained? Will it be once a year, three times a year? What does it look like?

Answer: We will spend all year on the training. For grades 1-3rd, the reading specialists and site strategists will be trained on Neuhaus Reading for 6 days in August. For the 1st-3rd grade teachers, there will be grade level specific training in August and September. In addition,

teachers will participate in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training which is intensive and will take multiple sessions over the year. Also, approximately 100 teachers have the opportunity to receive a Reading and Literacy Authorization through the University of Southern California (USC) which is a year long program. Teaching reading is complex and will require years of training and implementation.

Special Education teachers will also receive these training correct?

Answer: Yes, they will receive Neuhaus Reading training and can get the reading authorization if interested.

So, what I hear is that there will be additional accountability for teacher implementation of what they learn. Is that correct?

Answer: Yes, additional staff will be hired and specific data points will be collected and reviewed often and reflected in the LCAP.

LCAP Action-Numeracy Plan

So, you could have a sixth grader who has substitutes year one and then again in year two and again in year three. And, the student then has to learn and their teachers are out too often. Is that they plan; to train 6th, then 7th, then 8th?

Answer: We see how that could be a challenge for a grade level that follows the training. We will have a conversation about training 6th, then 8th, then 7th so that one group of students is not impacted for multiple years with substitutes.

LCAP Action-Assessment Grading and Data Training

Every school that I go to has different tech programs. What is expected and what is optional? I had a program listed in my child IEP and when we changed schools the next school didn't have it? What is the process for sites getting programs?

Answer: There are required programs such as Google Classroom, iReady, Footsteps2 Brilliance, LitPro, etc. that all sites must use. If sites want programs beyond the District required programs, they must take it to the curriculum council for approval and it is placed on a District approved technology program list. Part of the process is to ensure that student data that may be collected by a program remains secure.

LCAP Action-Wellness Centers

Are we going to be collecting data on the effectiveness of the wellness centers? We have had wellness centers at the high school for a long time. Do we know if they are effective and can be utilized? Most kids feel nervous to ask for a slip to go to the wellness centers. Students don't always feel safe.

Answer: There has been conversations by a team and documents are being created on how wellness centers will be implemented at the middle school and the best data to collect for effectiveness. Also, the wellness center staff will meet basic needs and will refer students with additional needs to resources in the community.

LCAP Action-Chronic Absenteeism

My child is often absent from school due to illness. Can I expect to receive letters again next year that warn me that I could be prosecuted if my child misses too many days of school?

Answer; Yes, SART and SARB letters will be sent next year. However, the district reviews each attendance concern on a case by case basis.

Are we investing in air filters because we have a lot of students with asthma?

Answer; Yes, we have purchased specialized filters for all classroom air systems and we have purchased an air purifier for each room as well.

General Questions

Before the June 9th Board Meeting, will parents be able to see the LCAP Draft?

Answer; Yes, the draft will be posted before the meeting on the District website.

Comments:

LCAP Action- Literacy Plan and Teacher Training

We purchase too many programs and what I don't like are the programs where the students are just sitting in front of the computer and no one is working with them and making sure they are understanding. They would need to wait until they get data from the computers. It is old school.

The District misses programs that are exciting to kids. They are not engaging to kids. I hope that the training for teachers will have pieces on teaching in a way that is exciting for kids.

Writing is not up to par and I see stuff like this and it's going to be a lot. I can see teachers getting frustrated with implementing these strategies and there are not enough people to ensure that these strategies are taught. I can see my child not getting the support that they need before leaving high school.

LCAP Action- Dual Language Immersion

Well, my son, at that time, he was younger and the program started in other schools. So, that is when I said, "How come the program is not available in every school?" Because when Mateo is ready to go to school, I wanted him to be part of the program but my school did not have it.

And, so, now this year our school has it. Now, my son still has the next school year left but he will be able to have the privilege to be in the Dual Immersion Program.

General Comments about LCAP

Thank you for having this meeting for parents like me that were unable to get into the other meetings who really wanted to but had to work. Thank you for sending the email so that we can hop on this meeting.

I just wanted to comment that the recorded meetings have been beneficial because we can replay them in case we have any doubts.

Well I want to thank you because this entire plan that has been created and all the changes that we foresee coming, they look very favorable for the children. And, also, as parents we always need to be involved and we know everything you do and your availability helps us out a lot to feel welcomed. So, for me, well I want to thank you for those STEAM courses. I think it is very beneficial for the children and also the platform. Well I think everything that is going to be done will be favorable.