



Orange Unified School District
District Advisory Council (DAC)
Meeting Notes

Wednesday, March 26, 2014
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Board Room 2 - Building H

Superintendent Michael Christensen welcomed the participants and thanked everyone for coming.

Joe Sorrera, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services started the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation on the OUSD 2nd Interim Budget. He explained that this budget was a “good” budget. With the passage of Proposition 30, there is an increase in the funding for schools and the balanced budget proposed by the Governor is “good”. Previously, the Governor had issued IOU’s to school districts and now there will be funding to cover those IOU’s. This will not increase the District’s budget, as the IOU’s had been listed in our budget as revenue. Mr. Sorrera spoke of the Governor’s proposals for 2014-15 budget to eliminate; inter-year deferrals, enhance the *Rainy Day Fund*, fund the COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment), and fund 4.5 billion for continued implementation of the LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula). The impact to the District is \$17.3 million in funding. There are LCFF targeted programs that will be funded from this income: Supplemental Funding; \$4,843,483.00, K-3 Class Size Reduction; \$480,169.00, Career Technical Education; \$149,511.00. Total reserve for the LCFF Targeted Program is \$5,473,163.00. Mr. Sorrera continued his report with the multi-year projections, and detailed by 2016-17 the unappropriated fund balance is projected to be above 3% at \$7,629,066. The 2nd Interim Financial Report was filed with OCDE on March 15, 2014. It was based on actual financial results as of January 31, 2014 and projections through June 30, 2016. This Financial Report will be reviewed by the Orange County Department of Education. Governor has proposed revision for 2014-15 budget will be released in May 2014. Public Hearings must be held prior to the adoption of the Districts LCAP – the deadline is slated for June 30, 2014. Mr. Sorrera elaborated that the five furlough days were restored this year and the additional five will be restored next year – 2014-15.

Dr. Gunn Marie Hanson presented on the Local Control Accountability Plan and the District’s efforts to engage the stakeholders and community with the LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) Survey. She presented a summary report of the survey. This survey was distributed to the community through various community

group meetings, school site and District meetings as well as available on the District website. These surveys were completed by parents, staff, students and community members. Over 1000 surveys have been received back at this date and have been sorted and categorized by themes. The collected information is presented here in this document (handout) with the greatest number of responses per survey question listed first. Dr. Hansen explained how to read the document and asked participants to share out or ask questions regarding their reflection on the responses.

Q. There is a low percentage of responders requesting more technology, why is that?

A. In looking at the entire survey/questions – you will notice that technology is repeated on several of the responses.

Dr. Hansen shared that technology does distract from the human element and that technology is a tool but not the tool to end all. The student's relationship with the teacher, their connection to school and they are treated is essential to a healthy school climate. In addition, and opportunity to talk with adults when needed is critical.

Q. Why do some schools not recognize the higher achieving students as they have in the past? Is there a District policy that determines how/which students are recognized?

A. There is no District Policy. Different schools handle recognition of students in various ways. Decisions are made by teachers, staff and principal. There is competition for the instructional time to get through all requirements of instruction. From this survey, we now recognize we need to motivate and celebrate all achievers. We will see some changes moving forward. We need to look at the total child with more tutoring available and additional counselors added to school sites.

Q. Why is there no ROTC program at high schools other than Orange HS? Can ROTC be part of a career path?

A. Villa Park HS is looking into the possibility of adding an ROTC component to their schedule. The Common Core State Standards have emphasis on “career and college ready” and this would be part of the spectrum of preparing our students.

Discussion followed regarding craftsman courses and the need to teach skills as well as academia. The fact that only 10 people responded on the survey regarding vocational classes was that the question was open ended. The District looked at the high demand jobs predicted for the future to determine education to meet these high demand sectors – technology, health & medicines (as bio-med) and engineering and design. Canyon HS will be adding a new pathway, Aviation Science as part of STEM; Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. These

classes provide a different track to reach career and college. The courses work to supplement college to focus on career readiness.

Q. Will Aviation be offered to students at other high schools?

A. The program will grow in time but currently it will only be offered at Canyon. We can look in to expanding the offering.

Q. Will the GATE program be expanded at Nohl Canyon?

A. The District is looking at universal testing at the 3rd grade and possible GATE clustering at more schools. All students at the school site will benefit with the GATE program on their campus. This will take time, strategic planning and transition over the next few years. Since the transportation for GATE was cut in previous years, this has created a problem at the GATE schools.

Dr. Hansen told the group that the “survey results” document is being shared with the DAC members is not yet posted on the District website – this is the first opportunity that it is being shared with stakeholders.

Elsie Simonovski presented on the 21st Century Teaching and Learning/Common Core State Standards Update. She shared the form “Pillars of 21st Century Learning Skills – Ensuring College and Career Readiness” (handout) which helped to explain the focus for 2013-14 and for 2014- 2015 school years. She told the group that the schools have five focus areas – and transition teams at each site decide on one of the focus areas for concentration. Focus area *Collaborative Learning* is the one most often selected and then *Culture of Inquiry*. Next year the schools are most likely to keep their same focus area and mirror what Common Core is saying – Balanced Instructional Design. We want students to ask and wonder; teachers give direct instruction; students investigate and then come back with the answers and how it fits into their project. Math now becomes relevant when you tie it to creation of solution. College and Career ready: know it and apply it. We can ensure students are ready when they leave OUSD. Teachers are creating lessons and units of study focusing on Common Core anchor standards – integrating science with math. Teachers are asking for - 1.) More professional development – teaching skills, 2.) Time to plan and collaborate, 3.) To see it – what will it look like (show example) 4.) Time to reflect – how did it go? Teachers are excited about getting the time back for Professional Development.

Elsie told the group that on April 7th the SBAC pilot would begin with grades 3rd – 8th with some 9th and 11th grades also testing. The technology department is working with schools, principals to prepare for the testing – working out logistics of extra iPads that the District will loan to schools on an as needed basis for the SBAC test. This upcoming test is a “test of the test” and there is no grading.

Q. How will it be determined for students moving into honors classes if there are no current test scores as in STAR?

A. This will be a year of change and this year's SBAC will not be a good measure. Other benchmarks and previous years test scores will help determine who qualifies for honors courses.

Q. Honors math does not cover the 7th grade math core standards – is that correct?

A. OUSD plans to move slowly especially with the A – G courses. We need to know which level as there will be shifts at each grade level. We will place students the same for next year. When we change, it will only be better and strategic for students.

Q. How much time is allowed for the test?

A. This is not a timed test but we know it can take up to four hours. Students will test for one hour at a sitting. We will have more information available at the next meeting and after the mock test of the SBAC. Dr. Hansen encouraged the group to use the District website to access the SBAC practice test and take it with your student. All CAPA tests will also be on computer.

Mike Christensen reminded the attendees that the next “traveling” Board meeting would be held at Villa Park High School on March 27. There is very little on the agenda just the high school presentations of the vision of what can happen with the facility improvements. This is all in preparation for the Board to make a decision as to whether to move forward with a bond issue to raise taxes to improve OUSD schools. Mike Christensen pointed out that slide 5 on the budget presentation – the reserve for maintenance is for ongoing maintenance will build up significantly and its use will be for all schools with 25% going to each school. He told the group that polling will begin immediately following the March 27 Board meeting and to expect phone call.

Follow up questions and discussion included:

Q. Do schools have a dollar amount needed or priority for each school for the facilities upgrades?

A. Based on the stakeholders input from the survey, the priorities differ at each of the high schools. Classrooms, especially the science labs had the highest requests. There will be four separate architecture firms, one for each school.

Mike Christensen reminded the group of the next DAC meeting April 22. It is an evening meeting beginning at 6:00 pm and an important one. We need as many people as possible to attend. Please look for the e-mail regarding the Draft LCAP and add your input.

Attachments/Handouts:

- OUSD 2013-14 2nd Interim Budget Report
- Local Control Accountability Plan 2014 - 2017
- Summary Report; Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Community Survey (October through February 2014)
- Pillars of 21st Century Learning Skills; Ensuring College and Career Readiness

Adjournment – 12:05 p.m.