

**NEWS UPDATE**  
March 5, 2018

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## **March CUCPTSA News Update**

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

I want to begin by addressing school safety concerns and social emotional supports for our young people. I have sent two letters to all CUSD families since the shootings in Parkland, Florida, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the employees, families and community of Parkland, Florida.

The history of our work for students and safety goes back to Columbine High School. After Columbine, our District reorganized student safety, moving it out of maintenance & operations to Education Services and Mike Beekman, our Executive Director of Student Safety & Support Services began building the infrastructure, protocols and safety procedures that we continue to build upon today.

After Sandy Hook, we built the School Safety task force and received a number of safety grants to build the infrastructure of our EOC and supply sites with emergency preparation supplies. We also have an extraordinary partnership with law enforcement and will continue to build and enhance our work to keep our students, teachers, staff and family safe.

I want to appreciate all of the work you do to keep our students and our District safe and stress the importance of “See Something, Say Something.”

We will be bringing to the Board a comprehensive overview of CUSD Safety & Security on March 14, 2018. This will give us an opportunity to publically review our procedures and plans and receive guidance from the Board to continue to strengthen and enhance our safety and security measures.

### **SCHOOL WALKOUTS PLAN**

We understand that there are students organizing a school walkout across the nation to have their voices heard on March 14, 2018. Our priority as a school district is for our young people to be safely inside classrooms learning. While we will not encourage any school walkouts, we are working with principals to ensure a safe and organized school day and to keep young people who participate safely on campus and quickly back to classrooms.

### **SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS**

Last week, District staff began the process of organizing a Task Force made up of experts from throughout southern California. We are working to invite individuals from UCI, CHOC, the OC Chapter of American Pediatrics, the District Attorney's office, Orange County Sheriff's Department, the County of Orange and like organizations. We expect our first meeting will be held around the middle of April.

### **CCP NO LONGER A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

CCP will be available as an elective, but will not be a high school graduation requirement as of the next school year. While we feel this is a great course for many students, the Board desired flexibility for students in choosing the courses they felt best applied to their college and career goals.

CCP will be included within Health for ninth graders and we are creating sections for an online Health curriculum. We will also continue to encourage students who should take CCP to do so during their high school career.

### **SEX ED CURRICULUM**

As you may know, we postponed the implementation of the state required comprehensive sexual education curriculum last year. We have continued to engage our teachers and our community in this curriculum and it is clear that we do not have consensus or agreement. It is staff's recommendation that we hold off on implementation and continue to use the curriculum we currently have in our middle schools while we define a clear curricular outline that falls within state law and meets required education code elements. March 14, Dr. Holliday will be presenting the requirements of the law and we will build a plan to put a curriculum together for our District.

### **FACILITIES BONDS**

It looks like, based on guidance from the Board last week, that we are going to focus on March 2020 for a potential bond in one geographic area, or possibly several bonds in several geographic areas. Additionally, depending on community support and desire, we could consider other options for facilities bonds, upgrades and improvements. Our work until then will be to continue to engage with our communities, our elected officials and our families to talk about funding and facilities and potential upgrades and improvements in our classrooms and on our campuses.

### **EXTENDED DAY KINDERGARTEN**

Extended Day Kindergarten will be offered at the following Elementary school beginning in August of 2018:

- Clarence Lobo
- Del Obispo
- Harold Ambuehl
- Hidden Hills
- Kinoshita

- Marblehead
- R.H. Dana
- Wagon Wheel
- Wood Canyon

Extended Day Kindergarten is a program that will provide the same instructional minutes that students experience in grades one through three. This greater instructional time supports student success in Kindergarten and throughout their educational careers.

In the Fall of 2019, every elementary school in the District will offer Extended Day Kindergarten. For more information, please contact the schools listed above.

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