



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

March 1, 2016

Dear Stakeholders,

Thank you for the plethora of feedback that I have received regarding my email describing the rationale for moving to a single grading platform and the transition to moving from School Loop to Infinite Campus gradebook. I have considered your comments and concerns and have read, reread and considered many of the concerns that are being raised by teachers, students and parents.

There are three points that I would like to clarify. First, deciding on an electronic gradebook, student information management system, and email system is not covered by the collective bargaining agreement. These decisions are made by the school district. The impact on working conditions using such systems is covered by the collective bargaining.

Second, as Superintendent I have a clear expectation that teachers update their electronic gradebook on a weekly basis. This statement does not violate the collective bargaining agreement. What my statement allows for is a dialogue to take place. If a principal calls a teacher in to discuss why grades have not been entered into the gradebook in two weeks and the justification from the teacher is that the students are working on a project and nothing has been turned in and graded, then that is a reasonable explanation. However, if homework is assigned every night and is graded, but those grades have not been entered into the gradebook in over two weeks, I think it is fair to say that is not a reasonable explanation. It is all about the conversation that needs to take place between the teacher and administration. Each situation deserves a unique response.

Finally, the two main differences between School Loop and Infinite Campus gradebook that I am most concerned about is the fact that teachers must take attendance. Infinite Campus provides real time data. Whereas, School Loop has a 12-24 hour lag time in the availability of information. If we were able to get 100% of our teachers using School Loop and entering grades on an ongoing, regular basis then I can live with the 12-24 hour lag time. Unfortunately, there is no other way to take attendance.

Therefore, based on the overwhelming support for School Loop, I support maintaining School Loop. What I need from you is to be the champions of School Loop and to support and hold your colleagues

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830 N. Capitol Ave.

San Jose, CA 95133

T 408.347.5000

F 408.347.5015

esuhsd.org

accountable for using and maintaining School Loop. Our desired outcome is to improve communication on the progress of each student in terms of his or her grades, attendance and progress toward graduation. In addition, we want to implement an early warning system for families, which provides information at early stages so that parents and students can make changes in their behavior to get back on track toward success. We know that constant and accurate communication improves performance and reduces parent complaints by putting the onus on students to maintain their grades. This is an area that we must improve on as a school district. I hope you can join me in this endeavor.

Thank you for your input. You have been heard. Lets work together to improve our communication with students and parents regarding student grades and progress towards graduating from high school, college and career ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CDF", is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Chris D. Funk
Superintendent