

East Side Union High School District Newsletter

Issue: 06

December 2013



Dear Parents/East Side Community Members,

In an effort to improve our communication with all stakeholders, I will be sending out newsletters updating you on all of the outstanding activities and successes in our district. I hope you enjoy this issue and please share it with anyone else who is interested in hearing the great things that are happening in our organization.

Season Greetings!

Dear East Side Community,

As we prepare to take some well deserved time off to be with loved ones, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the work that East Side Union High School District is doing as we continue to ensure that students are our number one priority.

McKinney-Vento Dinner

On December 18, 2013, the East Side Union High School District hosted its second annual McKinney-Vento Dinner. The event was a success! We had over 80 students and their families attend the event. I would like to extend a special thanks to all those who contributed to making this a wondrous holiday season for our students and their families. The smiles on their faces and that of their families humbled many of us who volunteered to make this a successful event. On Monday December 23rd, Trustee Van Lee will be attending the San Jose Sharks game accompanied by 20 of our students. Special thanks to Councilmember Campos for providing access to the City's box through the Sports Authority.

Strategic Plan

On December 12, 2013, the Board of Trustees approved a Strategic Plan for the East Side Union High School District. The Plan is a result of 22 community conversations and focus group discussions, soliciting feedback from parents, students, teachers, administrators and community members regarding the District's performance and its future focus and priorities. Meetings were also conducted with the Superintendent's Cabinet to solicit the development of objectives, goals and strategies for the Strategic Plan, including Study Sessions with the Board.

Quick Links

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School District
www.esuhsd.org

ESUHSD
Education Foundation
www.esuhdef.org/

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As a result of these meetings, five key performance measures were identified:

1. *Increase graduation rate*
2. *Decrease dropout rate*
3. *Increase A-G completion rate*
4. *Develop College & Career Readiness Indicators (5Cs, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Civic Engagement)*
5. *Reduction in the achievement gaps*

To guide the key performance measures in the strategic planning process, five key objectives were developed:

1. *Quality Learning & Instruction*
2. *Professional Learning Communities/Social Capital*
3. *Innovative Learning Structures*
4. *Aligned Resources*
5. *Stakeholder Engagement*

Click [here](#) to view the District's Strategic Plan. An executive summary will be posted after the new year.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

The Board adopted a new Vision, Mission, and Core Values. Our vision is:

Every student graduates prepared for college and career, empowered to thrive in a global society.

Click [here](#), to access the new Vision, Mission and Core Values.

A-G White Paper

The Board of Trustees at their December 12, 2013, Board meeting accepted East Side Union High School District's A-G white paper. This paper is designed to bring context to the historic step of improving the educational outcomes for all students when it approved the measure to make the A-G sequence of courses for UC/CSU admission as the default curriculum for all students.

In an attempt to reach the key performance measures as defined in the Strategic Plan and to increase the rigor for every student, this paper argues for taking the next step in closing the opportunity gap and establishing access to higher level course work for historically marginalized students by aligning ESUHSD graduation requirements to A-G.

The paper also outlines strategies that could be utilized to support student achievement, as well as redefine the school and work day. These strategies include providing for a more individualized and flexible learning plan for every student, extending the school day, and providing credit and grade recovery.

Meetings with the community will be scheduled in 2014, during which I will present and receive feedback on the components identified in the white paper. Based on the community dialogue, a recommendation will be presented to the Board late spring.

To view the District's A-G white paper, click on the link below.

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Vietnamese](#)

New Tech High

James Lick High School will be joining the New Tech Network as a New Tech High School. This wonderful opportunity will enable the school to better prepare our students for the demands of our global society, to better compete in the open market as a public high school, and to establish the institutional changes required to meet the demands of Common Core Standards. Students will be able to monitor their progress and skill building and to develop a personal plan for college and career success. New Tech High Schools offer inter-disciplinary, team teaching through project-based learning with technology infused in the instruction and learning. Please visit the link below to learn more about the New Tech Network.

<http://www.newtechnetwork.org/>

ESUHSD School Websites - New Look

We are beginning to rebrand the District developing a new logo and redesigning each school's website. The focus of the new websites is to serve the needs of parents, students, and the community. The new sites are a work in progress and will be updated when we return in January.

First Interim Budget Report

The First Interim Budget Report is the first of two interim financial update reports that are presented to the Board annually. The report provides the Board with the financial status of the district's 2013-14 budget as of October 31, 2013. This report is presented to the Board to provide the current fiscal status of the district and to meet the fiscal accountability requirements of AB 1200. To view the presentation made to the Board of Trustees at their December 12, 2013, Board meeting, click [here](#).

Recognitions

Applied Materials

Applied Materials has had an ongoing partnership with the East Side Union High School District spanning the last eleven years. Their support to the students and staff of the East Side Union High School District have made it possible to receive grant awards totaling \$1,450,000. The most recent grant award was in the amount of \$100,000 for Common Core implementation and \$50,000 for New Tech High School. East Side is honored to have such an outstanding partnership with Applied Materials. Click [here](#) to view the photo from December 12, 2013, Board Meeting.

Beautiful Day

Beautiful Day is an organization that works with community organizations, schools, businesses, groups, and cities to make improvements to facilities. They believe that this valley can only be great if all work together to achieve this vision. On November 23 and 24, 2013, Beautiful Day had over 1,700 volunteers at James Lick High School working on various campus beautification projects. Click [here](#) to view the photo from December 12, Board Meeting. To view Beautiful Day's project at James Lick, click the link below.

<http://vimeo.com/80952756>

Silicon Valley Education Foundation Pioneers and Purpose Dinner

Silicon Valley Education Foundation recognized ESUHSD for Establishing an A-G default curriculum. We were the second school district in Santa Clara County to pass this historic resolution. We are now on the journey to move to A-G as the default graduation requirement.

Click [here](#) to view the photo from November 14, 2013, Board Meeting.

Vito Chiala - Principal of the Year

Vito Chiala, Principal of Wm. C. Overfelt High School, was honored as Principal of the Year at the SVEF Pioneers and Purpose Dinner for his

visionary leadership in developing three unique academic houses, after-school student support, and community activism.

Goodwill of Silicon Valley

Goodwill Sponsored Initiatives in East Side Union High School District

Good Health

Coordinated by Marilyn Bliss. Initiated in the fall of 2009 with a \$127,000.00 grant from the City of San Jose. The Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund Grant allowed Goodwill to deliver a 3 component health program to 200 Academy of Life (low functioning high school students) and over 100 Post Senior Students at the Yerba Buena High School site. The program includes: 1) health lessons taught weekly by San Jose State Health Education Major interns; 2) healthy activities such as roller skating, bowling, hiking, bike riding, talent show and "The Prom"; and 3) career education where students receive training in our 19 retail stores and at the main plant. To further support the initiative, Youth Programs supports a large organic garden at the main plant where students can learn the values of growing healthy foods. In addition, in 2010, Goodwill purchased 20 bicycles (3 and 4 wheelers) for Brian Ward, one of the Adaptive Physical Education Teachers in ESUHSD.

Though Goodwill was one of the few exemplary programs, in June of 2011, the City of San Jose cut the Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Fund Grant. To continue services to ESUHSD in 2011-2012, Goodwill invested \$36,000.00 of its own funds to demonstrate its commitment to ESUHSD. In 2012-2013, the Goodwill Board of Directors and CEO Mike Fox Jr. added another \$30,000.00 for a total of \$66,000.00.

ASSETs (After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens)

Coordinated by Diego Certa at Mt Pleasant HS the programs are funded by 21st Century Learning Grants from the California Department of Education (\$242,000 for MP). Diego works closely with Principal Marquez to offer programs needed and requested by the students. Among the offerings both after school and during summer are: credit recovery classes in Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, World History US History, Economics; Ballet Folklorico; Weight Training and Conditioning; French Cooking; Journalism; Driver Education and Driver Training; ROTC; Girls Spotz (leadership class for Opportunity girls); Gang Diversion; tutoring in all subject areas; open library 5 days per week; summer field trips; CAHSEE prep sessions; staff recognition events; parent education.

In the fall of 2012 Goodwill collaborated with the administrations, staff, students and communities of Silver Creek, Oak Grove and Independence High Schools to draft a 21st Century Learning Grant proposal for the 3 schools. All 3 schools were awarded grants in April of 2013. The grant award is \$250,000.00 per school for five years.

Click [here](#) to view the photo from November 14, 2013, Board Meeting.

Family Giving Tree

The Family Giving Tree began in 1990 and is currently in its 23rd year of operation. They are the largest program in California that fulfills holiday wishes and provides backpacks filled with school supplies to those children in the most need, while inspiring the values of kindness, philanthropy and volunteerism. This semester, Family Giving Tree graciously provided backpacks filled with school supplies to our students in the most need, as well as care items to a number of East Side families during this holiday season.

Click [here](#) to view the photo from October 17, 2013, Board Meeting.

In closing, I wish you abundance, happiness, and peace in a new year filled with hope.

Happy holidays!

Chris D. Funk, Superintendent
East Side Union High School District

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