

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

February 26, 2014

The Special Study Session meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by President Sonya Cuellar in the Boardroom at the District Office, 15110 California Avenue, Paramount, California.

Roll Call	Trustee Vivian Hansen Trustee Sonya Cuellar Trustee Alicia Anderson	Trustee Linda Garcia-ill Trustee Tony Peña
-----------	---	---

Administrators Present	Herman Mendez, Superintendent Michael Conroy, Assistant Superintendent-Business Services Myrna Morales, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources Deborah Stark, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services Randy Gray, Curriculum & Instruction/Projects Rosemary Green, Director-Human Resources Jose Iniguez, Director-Secondary Education Manuel San Miguel, Director-Student Services Chris Stamm, Director, Student Nutrition Services
------------------------	--

Approve Special Study Session Meeting Agenda February 26, 2014 1.69	Trustee Anderson moved, Trustee Cuellar seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve the Special Study Session Meeting Agenda February 26, 2014.
--	---

Ayes: 4 – Trustees Anderson, Cuellar, Hansen, Peña,
Absent: 1 – Trustee Garcia

INFORMATION ITEMS

Common Core Standards Update	Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services, Deborah Stark shared with the Board that the purpose of this study session is to answer the following questions:
------------------------------	---

- What are the benefits of the Common Core Standards (CCSS)?
- What is PUSD doing to prepare our schools for the CCSS?
- What should we expect during the first years of implementation?
- What are some key talking points for Board Members?

The Benefits of the Common Core Standards are:

- Consistent standards and assessments across states
- College and Career Readiness standards are built in
- More rigorous standards and assessments will prepare our students to be internationally competitive
- Fewer standards allow teachers to teach content in greater depth

How are we preparing schools for the Common Core Standards and Assessments? Educational Services planned a four pronged approach to preparing for the transition to the CCSS, beginning last year through:

- Professional development
- Changes to curriculum and assessment
- Upgrading technology
- Communication plan

Common Core Lead teachers represent every school in Language Arts and Math. Curriculum Specialists meet quarterly to train Lead Teachers and Principals; Lead teachers return to their schools to train other teachers. Educational Services staff and teams of principals visit schools to provide feedback on every school's implementation of Common Core instruction. Principals wrote individual SMART Goals to the implementation of the Common Core as part of their evaluation process.

Changes to Curriculum and Assessment include:

- The assessment that will measure how well students have learned the new standards is much more rigorous than the STAR test of the past. It requires students to think at high levels, to write in all subjects, to discuss ideas and collaborate.
- To prepare students for this increased rigor, teams of teachers are meeting to revise curriculum and assessments so they begin to align with new standards.
- To prepare students for online assessments, this spring all fourth grade students will take their Open Court Language Arts test on computer, in each school's new computer lab.

In preparation for on-line testing, the CCSS incorporate technology skills students are expected to learn beginning in elementary school. The new test, the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)-will be taken on line by students in grades 3-8 and 11. The CAASPP field test will be given to all students in May 2014. Two people from each school are being trained as CAASPP Coordinators to provide on-site expertise at every school. To prepare for this, new computer labs are being installed in all schools in PUSD. Software that teaches students keyboarding skills is being installed in new labs. Students also have access to this keyboarding program at home. Twenty-four computer labs have been installed this school year (2 at each middle school).

Educational Services created Common Core parent newsletters and brochures. Principals have been provided a CCSS presentation to share with site councils and PTA. PUSD's spring Parent Academy will focus on the Common Core and the District's website includes information for parents.

What changes can we expect:

- Because the CCSS are more rigorous, states that have implemented the Common Core have experienced a decrease in test scores. We need to prepare school and community for an

initial drop in scores. We need to share the benefits of the Common Core Standards over the long term.

- PUSD will collect data in academic areas that will be outlined in the LCAP Plan to show continued growth toward goals.
- Data on writing, which is a major instructional initiative for the next two years, will be collected to measure increases in proficiency.

In 2014-15, teachers will participate in professional development on Write from the Beginning, a writing program based on Thinking Maps. Ninth and tenth grade teachers will participate in professional development on Thinking Maps to build upon and articulate with this K-8 initiative. Educational Services will continue Common Core professional development modules in Language Arts and Math, expanding to include social studies and science in grades 6-12. A College and Career Task Force will be formed to study and implement best practices for creating a college going culture beginning in elementary school and extending through high school and new K-12 Common Core math textbooks will be adopted and purchased for implementation in Fall 2014.

All students will have access to the high level skills needed to be successful in college and careers. Graduates who attain proficiency on the standards will enter college without the need for remedial courses. In addition, all students will have the opportunity to succeed in rigorous courses-no matter where they live or which class they are assigned.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Anderson moved, Trustee Peña seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to adjourn the Special Study Session meeting of the Board of Education held on February 26, 2014 at 5:33 p.m.

Ayes: 4 – Trustees Anderson, Cuellar, Hansen, Peña,
Absent: 1 – Trustee Garcia

Herman Mendez, Secretary
To the Board of Education

President

Vice President/Clerk