

Strategic Plan Parent Forum
October 14, 2020
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome (9:00 am) and welcoming ritual
2. District staff were introduced. Present today:
 - a. Director of School & Student Services, Tiffany Hazlewood, Deputy Superintendent Mark Miller, and Coordinator of Special Education Dr. Melissa Marovich
 - b. Program Supervisors in attendance: Mallory Thau (CVMS, COAST, Sunset), Jesse Mindlin (EWMS, LCC), Jennifer Havlat (OCMS, PTMS), Monica Davey (SDA, Seaside)
3. Mrs. Hazlewood gave an overview of the purpose of the Strategic Plan and the hard work done by the committee of parents and administrators over the past few years to evaluate and prioritize the needs of students with disabilities into six goal/priority areas.
4. Site and parent updates: All ten school sites shared how happy they have been to welcome small groups of students back to campus in the 2020-2021 school year. Everyone shared their appreciation for how hard parents and staff are working to support students in the distance learning model, and finding the “silver linings” in the current environment.
 - a. **Sunset High School and COAST Adult Transitions (*Rick Ayala, principal and Jim Cheeseman, parent*)** - COAST adult transitions program moved to it's new, permanent home at the Requeza Education Center which also houses Sunset High School. COAST is now in week 5 of serving small groups of students in two cohorts, 2 days a week. Mr. Cheeseman appreciated the reopening opportunities and the social interactions available to his student. Both reported their appreciation for the warm welcome from staff and students. Sunset is also now holding small group gatherings for students who need help two days a week.
 - b. **Torrey Pines High School (*Rebecca Gallow, Asst. Principal and Patty Tobin, parent*)** - Mrs. Tobin shared her 9th grade student's experience starting high school via distance learning and shared her perspective on Goal 2: Communication, with how schools are communicating their Return to School plans. Mrs. Gallow shared how TPHS is working to bring students onto campus for more support safely, within the parameters of the reopening framework and how district schools are using specific, agreed upon criteria to identify students for in person support.
 - c. **Carmel Valley Middle School (*Chuck Adams, interim Principal and Cathy Patrick, parent*)** - CVMS began seeing small groups of students September 14 and continues to phase in small cohorts of students, based on need. Mr. Adams shared how happy staff has been to see students in person. Mrs. Patrick shared how she is supporting her children via distance learning and that the silver lining is her ability to be so involved in her children's classes and learning. Mr. Adams added that CVMS is now hosting small groups of students on Wednesday

afternoons for social emotional support and as an opportunity to connect new students to campus.

- d. **Diegueno Middle School (*Cara Dolnik, Principal and Sarah Santos, parent*)** - DMS just began bringing groups of Learning Academy and EL students to campus this week, as there are no special programs currently housed on campus. Diegueno staff are excited to see students return and will be adding to their mixed-needs cohorts based on the district criteria.
- e. **San Dieguito Academy (*Dr. Jeremy Meadows, Assistant Principal, Monica Davey, Program Supervisor*)** - Mrs. Davey shared SDA's prioritized goals for the current school year including the continued implementation of the co-teaching model and utilizing technology to support special education students in the general ed classrooms. Staff is facilitating the PALs (Peer Assisted Learning) program with gen ed students supporting special education peers in classes and social groups. SDA's Seaside program students have been attending since Sept. 14, four days a week. SDA has now welcomed additional groups of students in the learning Hub this week, and will continue to add students to on-campus learning opportunities.
- f. **Earl Warren Middle School (*Justin Conn, Principal and Wendy Abelmann, parent*)** - EWMS has also been hosting small groups of students to campus and like SDA, are using the opportunity to troubleshoot how to best service students in safe, socially distant school settings. EWMS is adding more students each week to in person learning, including ELs and academic support classes (all students). Mrs. Abelmann shared her appreciation for the EWMS staff and their communication with families as students have returned to campus. Her son has benefitted from the "easing into" middle school as a new student, and like all students, is missing the social interaction part of middle school.
- g. **Oak Crest Middle School (*Katie Friedrichs, interim Principal, Jennifer Havlat, Program Supervisor, and Hannah Weber, parent*)** - Mrs. Friedrichs shared updates about the three groups of students who are attending in person learning on specific days. OCMS staff have identified the fourth group, starting next week. Mrs. Friedrichs and Mrs. Havlat shared how happy students are to return and how much they are enjoying campus. OCMS held "Meet & Greets" with teachers and gave socially distanced tours to new 7th graders. Clubs are starting soon as well as some other social-emotional opportunities. Mrs. Weber shared her student's experience so far in the distance learning format at OCMS.
- h. **Canyon Crest Academy (*Garry Thornton, Asst. Principal and Jamie Dicken, parent*)** - Mr. Thornton shared that CCA staff used the most recent grading period to identify and prioritize students who need to return for extra support, starting tomorrow (10/15). CCA will have teachers, aides and AVID tutors on campus to support students. Mr. Thornton shared that the CCA staff have been sensitive to students who are experiencing tech or communication challenges. Mrs. Dicken shared that tech issues have been one of the challenges of distance learning, though it has been "the best thing that has ever happened" to her student who is thriving thanks to his affinity for technology. She also felt that

teachers are much more accessible to students and parents due to office hours. Mrs. Dicken felt that the recording of classes benefits her son as he is able to go back and replay the lecture, and take better notes. The tech supports have been of enormous benefit for SWDs as well as the extra time. Mrs. Dicken echoed the concerns raised by others: a lack of access to social interactions and sports and hopes schools will bring back these opportunities in small groups soon.

- i. **Pacific Trails Middle School (*Kathryn Freeman, Asst. Principal and Heidi Wagner, parent*)** - The PTMS Seaside program returned to campus on 9/14 with 5 students and is adding 2 more students next week, four days a week. Additional groups of students have been added in 2 learning hubs, in groups made up of English learners, 504 students, mild/mod students and general education students, identified using the district's screening criteria. Two groups of 14 students attend 2 days a week. This opportunity has been giving new students an "insider" view of campus. The Boys and Girls Club operates at PTMS three days a week. Mrs. Wagner shared her son has had to learn some self-advocacy skills during distance learning to ask for help and shared the benefits for her student socially when he is able to go to campus and interact. Mrs. Wagner gave a "shout out" to **Mrs. Erin Harty**, the Seaside teacher, who emailed with her son throughout the summer when he was feeling anxious about returning to school; she appreciated the teacher's availability and kindness.
 - j. **La Costa Canyon High School (*Robert Caughey, Asst. Principal and Amy Flicker, parent*)** - Mr. Caughey shared the challenges of being a new Assistant Principal and not having students and staff in person (I concur!). LCC has had small groups of special education students on campus since 9/14. He thanked Jesse Mindling and district staff for their support in reopening. New groups of students are starting tomorrow, including "at promise" student groups. Mrs. Flicker shared her appreciation for the SPPF Committee for their work. She appreciated the group working together for ALL students with disabilities. She concurs with what other parents shared, her son has flourished except for the missing out on social interactions. She encouraged the team to consider ways to ease students back onto campus, especially for seniors who are missing out on traditional senior year activities.
5. Mrs. Hazlewood shared her appreciation for everyone's transparency, for finding the positive silver linings during this time and for identifying challenges, which will help the district move forward.
 6. Mrs. Hazlewood shared that the purpose of the Strategic Plan Parent Forum is to continue finding things we can do to improve, the importance of parent participation and how the Strategic Plan fits into the District's overall plans. She reviewed progress on the six areas of priority in the Strategic Plan (see slides)
 7. Dr. Marovich gave an overview of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the requirements for input from parent groups including those of students with disabilities. She also gave a brief overview of the one year Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan, which took the place of the LCAP for this year only, due to school closures.

8. Questions were solicited from the committee. Questions included:
 - a. Transition meetings from elementary to SDUHSD
 - b. Could the district form a “Think tank” to find ways to get students connected socially (for example “pen pals” or SDA’s PALs program)
 - c. Where to find the Special Education Org chart (On the District website, Special Education page.
9. The committee concluded with an Optimistic Close at 10:24 am,\.