

Pajaro Valley Unified School District
NORTH ZONE ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 8, 2008
Aptos High School - Career Center 7:00-8:30 pm

MINUTES

Members Present: *Deb Dorney, Casey O'Brien, Kathy Arola, Dianna Higginbotham, Gene Burk, Susan Perez, Brian Saxton, Lisa Cedarblade, Emily Nevitt, Victoria Morse, Andrea Willy, Sean Spencer, Grant Coffin, Susan Perez, Kim DeSerpa-Lyons, Karen Richmond, Tom Tatum, Andrea Miller*

Others Present: *Jim Lalanne, Sam Mann, Dorma Baker,*

COE Board Trustee: *Kathy Mann*

Board Member Present: *Libby Wilson, Kim Turley*

Members Absent: *Jackie Sternat,, Nicole Dennis Marc Kirby, Chris Hertz*

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Dorma Baker welcomed everyone and began introductions at 7:02 p.m. Dorma indicated that Cathy Stefanki had planned to attend the North Zone Advisory Meeting but a situation at her current district made it not possible our meeting tonight.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

The minutes from May 5 and June 2, 2008 were approved as presented.

4.0 Principal Reports

Deb Dorney-Rio Del Mar

- Rio Del Mar had a smooth start with a new principal and new Assistant Principal, Grant Coffin.
- The Life Lab has been expanded and refurbished with donations from Granite Rock, Home Depot and other community business.
- We are installing a new kiln made possible with the PE Arts money. Our Spectra Artist will be working with all students with clay projects.
- Our CST scores rose by eight points. We celebrated with staff last week.

Dianna Higginbotham-Valencia

- Valencia had a smooth opening with 550 students, a new teacher plus eleven more students in one week.
- We had a great Back to School Night with lots of families.
- Our scores are up to 854, the highest we've been.
- Construction projects going on:
 - Our new garden was finished
 - One of our parents built benches in front of 6th grade classes.
 - The restroom facilities were updated
 - Our parking area was updated
 - Status on playground-we are still waiting for the ground to turn

- Spectra will begin next month
 - Every child will participate in drama

Casey O'Brien-Aptos High School

- Aptos High had a great start and as the new principal I am excited, listening, learning and experiencing all classrooms and am getting to know parents and teachers.
- Athletics is rolling every day: tennis, cross country, football and lots of extra curricular activities.
- Homecoming-All grade levels are working on the Homecoming event with classes helping out the freshman
- On September 11th, we are having our grand opening event. Everyone is invited to attend.
 - 5:00 p.m. appetizers donated by Michael's on Main
 - 5:30 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony
 - Students will be available to give tours
- The Home Access Center through E Schools Plus will be available to parents with a log in and password where they can access their student's information. Students will also be issued a log in and password
- Aptos High is impressive with its academics and rigor.
- Staff is very professional, enthusiastic and amazing.
- Testing scores increased in a number of sections and we have quite a few students in the middle to lower ranges. Our API decreased by four points.
 - We lost restructured days but we will be looking at data.

Brian Saxton-AJHS

- Aptos Jr. High had a great opening with 45 more students than anticipated. We had to add six new sections. Mr. Hallet and Mr. Detterman and Brian had to create over 200 new schedules. By last Thursday, everyone was in their correct classes in time for Back to School Night.
- Brian thanked Assistant Superintendent Catherine Hatch for her assistance through this process and with the beginning of school.
- Back to School Night was very successful with 300 parents and families.
- E Schools Plus access information is going out this week.
- Fall Athletics is in full gear with cross country, boys and girls basketball.
- In our testing we decreased by three points to 809 (previously at 812). This is our 5th year in numbers over 800.
 - Met all subgroups except for Hispanics. We will work to meet AYP and API.
- Brian was complimented on his weekly article that he posts on the website.

Kathy Arola-Bradley

- Bradley is celebrating growth by eighteen points. We are celebrating tomorrow with teachers and students for working hard. Our parents are incredible.
- We had a smooth start with a packed school.
- We continue to have our traditional activities
 - Student elections
 - Walk for the Arts
 - Computer Lab k-6
 - Accelerated Reading -6-6
 - Success Maker (math)
 - Sweet Grant Tech team strong

- We are having our second in service on bullying prevention
- Teacher differentiation in Language Arts
- It took three years to get K-6 Language arts school wide
- ELD up to challenge block for high level for all kids all LEA
- Andrea is organizing the extended learning program
- Last year Driscoll partnership/Philanthropy Committee gave us a grant for Reading Intervention program and books for second language learners.
- We have been working with the County and Driscoll on the traffic issues. We now have a third turn lane to keep traffic going; we changed the traffic flow so that cars are not sitting. Driscoll donated a strip of land to support our traffic issue improvements.
- We lowered air pollution measured by the County and we qualified for an air quality grant through the county.

Tom Tatum-Renaissance

- Renaissance is comprised of students from all three high schools who have fallen behind on credits. A small number come from Aptos High School in addition to students from Watsonville High and Pajaro Valley High.
- We had a quiet and smooth opening with 220 students.
- We have some fifth year seniors at our school with special extended contracts that they sign at the end of the previous year.
- Our WASC visit is in March and we are gearing up for that.
- We have a wonderful garden that is a couple of acres made possible through UCSC students and grant monies.
- We had a good open house with a dessert social with participants visiting classrooms and the garden.
- E School Plus pain... Web based student information different than comprehensive High Schools.
- Our API increased by 7 points. We did not make our AYP and as a result this puts us at first year program improvement school. Our AYP is affected due to not making the graduation rate but overall we are doing great!
- Renaissance qualified to receive E-rate which will provide for telephone and computer wiring.

5.0 Items for Report, Update and Discussion

- **North Zone Advisory Meeting Dates-**
 - Dorma reviewed with the council, the 2008-2009 the list of meetings schedule. Regular meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of every month with no meeting in January and two All Zone Meetings one in December and one in June.
 - There was discussion about the last All Zones Meeting and the low attendance from the North Zone. Input given was that June is very busy for parents and staff with graduations and end of the year events, etc.
 - There was a suggestion to have the All Zones Meeting another month and not in June.
 - Another suggestion was to rotate the location of the All Zones Meeting and perhaps meet in Aptos.
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- **Membership-North Zone Advisory**
Membership was discussed as to what openings there were for parents and or teacher representatives from the schools.

- Principals indicated they would send names to the North Zone office as soon as their site councils met.
- There was discussion on how to get more parents to the meeting. Mar Vista usually has someone volunteer from the Site Council. Valencia hasn't had its Site Council meeting yet.
- It was noted that it was difficult to find the North Zone Advisory Meeting information on the PVUSD website.
- A suggestion was made to have a link on the main PVUSD web page for the each zone that would take you directly to the meeting information and Agenda.
- It was also suggested that the agenda contain more information regarding agenda items.
- Could it be added to the District Calendar?

World's Shortest Parade

Kathy Arola reported about the North Zone participation in the Aptos 4th of July parade. Kathy thanked Superintendent Dorma and Rowland Baker for providing the "Woody" for our North Zone Trustees, Kim Turley and Libby Wilson. It is important for our North Zone Schools to participate and extends a thank you to all who participated in this event. Kathy was recognized and thanked for all her work in putting it together.

6.0 Visitor Non-Agenda Items

New Assistant Superintendent

When will Cathy Stefanki begin with our district? Dorma indicated that they are working to have her here towards the end of this month.

Identify goals, working toward a coordinated effort that addresses curriculum and academics

It was suggested that the North Zone Advisory group make it a part of the meetings to have one or two goals to include the high school, Jr. high and elementary schools working together to address curriculum and academics.

- Our North Zone meetings are a good opportunity to look at and address zone-wide curriculum and academic issues. The example was given of how the school plan, under Language Arts, at the high school includes adopting Jane Schafer and at Jr. high level they never talked about Jane Schafer. Parents could give input on what's working and what's not working
- It was indicated that when we had a consistent leader our focus was rigor and writing.
- It was requested that we have the existing North Zone Goals for next meeting and that they need updating.
- Dorma asked that these conversations with that kind of lead-in take place at the sites and to please gather input from your respective School Site Councils and bring back to this meeting.
- A suggestion was made to bring the District wide goals, Master Plan along with the North Zone Goals.
- It was suggested that in the interest of progress and successfulness that we look at resources and what resources are available.
- It was noted that the four elementary schools have the same goals 3-4 goals all the same.
- Principals will bring certain items-Information from the sites
- Let's have a concerted focus

There was opportunity for discussion about there being a lower number of volunteers at some sites and how can we increase the number of volunteers.

- **It was reported that Mar Vista hit the over 800 mark on their API scores and that congratulations were in order.** Last Friday the teachers were celebrated with a pizza party.

7.0 Future Agenda Items

Identify goals working toward a coordinated effort that addresses curriculum and academics

- Bring the District wide goals, Master Plan along with the North Zone Goals.
- North Zone Goals review
- It was suggested that in the interest of progress and successfulness that we look at resources and what resources are available.
- Bring input from conversations from your respective School Site Councils and bring to this meeting.

Budget Update/How impacted is each site.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.