

**Re: Conversation with the Superintendent
Follow Up Questions – Pajaro Valley High School**

Below you will see the questions and responses of questions from staff that were not able to be addressed within the allocated meeting time.

1. Can we get P.D. time during the school day to create stronger course work such as curriculum creation, cross campus work and EL strategy trainings?

This year there will be several opportunities through our Directors and Coordinators to receive English, Math, Science, and CTE professional development, which will impact curriculum creation. For EL strategy trainings, we have the modules that align with the EL Master plan. Starting this year, each site will implement the modules over the next several years. I recommend that the site also accesses and engages with the ELS as an additional resource. From a district perspective, we have assessed priorities on a larger scale, funded, and created the above opportunities but this would not negate the department from working with the site administration to fund and structure additional release days for his teams to engage. The site budget can support this effort. I would encourage the teams to also discuss in their site level Cabinet what this might look like and be involved in the conversation of best use of funds based on needs. There is a substantial amount of site funding being spent on outside professional development that requires travel; this could be re-engaged at the site level.

2. Why was mindfulness PD taken away from us and teacher mindfulness mental health conferences are no longer approved?

We had over 100 secondary teachers attend the Mindfulness PD at both the novice and advanced levels during SBC Days. PVHS teachers had the opportunity to sign up for this PD until it reached capacity. Mindfulness mental health conferences are only approved if they are connected to education or application to students.

3. How much autonomy does the Principal have to modify/implement programs specific to the school?

PVHS administration has had significant autonomy throughout the years as shown by the work around mathematics instruction and the co-teaching model and the additional staff the District Office provided to support these efforts. It is the site administration's responsibility to ensure standards, rigor, and student success both academically and social emotionally. Assessing systems that support this work, collaborating with the faculty, and using data to engage and inform decisions is critical. There is significant autonomy so long as progress is being ensured for all of our students. When non-negotiables arise; grad requirements, adoptions, etc... the district will clearly communicate those to site administration.

4. Can we get more bird poop cleaned more often?

Once the nests begin to form, we cannot remove them. At that point, we must wait until the season has ended to properly have the nests removed by an environmental cleanup group.

Maintenance and Operations has scheduled a job walk to have the old nest removed and the bio washing on September 10, 2019 at 11:00 am to receive a quote. Since the nests are a biohazard, they must be treated and disposed of correctly with the use of a Biocide soap to clean walls and windows to remove all pheromones that were left behind. We will discuss with the company the possibility of adding periodic cleaning aside from the removal of the nests. We are also discussing the possibility of adding another cleaning machine specifically devoted to bird waste (similar to the one currently used to sweep the floors). This will help our custodial staff with the upkeep of the waste.

5. As we continue to build out the campus, how are we proactively solving the bird waste/toxin problem with new construction, and how will the entry points and areas of student exertion be kept clean and healthy without harassing the protected species?

Through a scheduled cleanup procedure and enforcement on abatement, we will be able to move towards a viable solution. While it had its challenges, the plexiglass, once in its current locations, helped protect student entry points. Once the cleanup has been finalized for this season, we will evaluate if additional plexiglass is needed throughout the buildings. In addition, the Maintenance Department installed new canopies over entrances and walking paths to help minimize dropping.

6. What is the long-term solution to our swallow issue?

We plan to focus our efforts in abatement rather than removal. The custodial crew at PVHS will continue to address the droppings with new equipment (Hydro-Scrubbers). Biocide soap will be used to clean walls and windows to remove all pheromones that will be left behind. The use of deterrents will be put in place before the next migration season.

7. When will PV High have the auditorium built? Is there a plan for building a pool for PV as our school lacks the necessary facilities? What about building a shop for CTE; is that a possibility at PVHS?

The settlement agreement with the Watsonville Pilots Association does not preclude us from building additional facilities within the existing PVHS footprint as long as it would not increase the height of any building or other structure and would comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Therefore, other facilities, such as a pool or CTE building, could be built if those conditions are met and the funding was available. Due to the rising cost of construction, the District had to allocate an additional \$3.9 million of one-time general fund monies to complete the Athletic Field project alone. Additional funding, such as Prop 51 or one-time monies, is needed in order to build the auditorium.

8. Is it possible to make (get) all the high schools on equal footing regarding after school sports programs? Aptos, WHS, PVHS all offer the same sports?

The goal is to ensure that all of the high schools have sufficient sports to engage students and support student athletes. The sports that are offered are aligned with student interest and grown through the Athletic Directors at each site. We will not reduce other high school's current

athletic programs. As PVHS has improved facilities, more student athletes will choose to attend PVHS and athletic programs will expand and grow over time.

9. When PVPSA goes through staff turnover and no counselors are available for our school sites are there other agencies that can be scouted to cover and/or make an MOU?

The PVPSA/PVUSD nonprofit agreement is a unique and very valuable partnership that provides a crucial support to our students. I checked in with PVPSA and they informed me that they have not had turnover at PVHS and the school is fully staffed with both mental health and substance abuse counselors. When they do have turnover, they work diligently to replace that position as quick as they can. They have a policy that when youth are being seen by PVPSA staff and there is turnover that they find coverage for those youth so that there is not a lapse in service. The biggest issue all of our outside partners have encountered is issues with space.

10. I noticed, on an SBC Day, that Watsonville High had a fleet of vans. How can we get more than one van for school activities?

All of Watsonville High School white fleet vans have been purchased through a combination of athletic fundraising, site funds and/or WHS Foundation. PVHS can also use these same types of opportunities.

11. Since the district is moving to require all students to complete two years of foreign language, what is the plan for students struggling with foreign language? Will all middle schools be eventually offering foreign language to help with this high school graduation requirement?

Students struggling with Language Other Than English (LOTE) courses would receive the same supports as students failing other core classes such as summer school, intersession and/or online learning. We are moving towards offering LOTE classes on the middle school sites, but this will be limited by the master schedule. We will need to alter the current elective wheel practice and increase elective access in order to offer rigorous courses.

12. Can we get more English novels approved?

Teachers are able to get more English novels approved if the books are not already on the Williams List. In order to do this, teachers would need to submit the request to Claudia Monjaras with a plan on how the novel will be used in conjunction with the 9th grade instructional MAP or the State Standards with English Department consensus. The request will be reviewed for approval. Once approved, the novel book will be submitted to board and then ordered. The District is in the process of evaluating all core ELA materials.

13. Will there be a re-evaluation period to reassess whether or not the mandated science course sequence change (all frosh in bio etc.) is actually working? What is the timeline to get NGSS books?

We have recently hired our new Coordinator of Science, Mike Russo. He was a high school science teacher within the District many years ago and has been a science coach through the New Teacher Project for over 10 years. He will work with science teachers throughout the upcoming year and bring a recommendation forward. We originally scheduled a pilot for Biology 1 textbooks for second semester of this year. I encourage multiple teachers to be part of the pilot to provide input and feedback.

14. Why do you think high achievement high growth schools are all in Aptos? Why not our schools in South County?

Currently, we do not have any south county schools that are performing over the 50th percentile in achievement and therefore they cannot be considered for the high achievement, high growth category. Many south county schools are making great strides through their high level of growth over the last two years which means that they can one day be included in that list.

15. What are we doing districtwide to solve the cell phone issue in the classroom?

We have not had any discussions about districtwide concerns in terms of cell phones in the classroom. Currently, each high school is implementing a similar policy in regards to cell phone usage, which includes parent notification and confiscation of the device with the improper use. Within all of the policies, teachers have the discretion to allow electronic devices for educational purposes. I encourage the site level Cabinet to discuss solutions to specific issues that the site may be experiencing.

16. Our District has an outsized number of administrative (district office and site) salary obligations. When will this be addressed?

PVUSD does not have excessive administrative staff. Below, you will see a report from Forecast5, which uses J-90 data released by CDE to create their graphs that PVUSD has one of the lowest percentage usages of general funds for administration compared to nearby districts.

