

## **PAC - LCAP Feedback**

April 13, 2021

### **Statement**

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) serves the Madera Unified School District in an advisory capacity on matters pertaining to district finances. As the PAC, we consult, review, and comment on the Madera Unified Local Control and Accountability Plan.

Some of our meetings have been focused on learning about the partnership between Madera Unified and the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) to create a District Systems Design Partnership (DSDP) team. The DSDP team was composed of community leaders, board members, district office staff, site administrators, labor partners, parents, and teachers. As PAC president, I was invited to engage in the learning and work as part of the DSDP team and provided the PAC members with an overview of the work.

The DSDP team used the 9 Building Blocks for a world-class education system. Of the nine building blocks, the DSDP team chose to focus on the first six building blocks and make those a priority in order to improve district outcomes.

Madera Unified then introduced the 6 Building Blocks during the LCAP Community Webinars and during other committee meetings such as the PAC meetings and requested feedback on making them goals. Part of the feedback included having stakeholders give recommendations on how the schools can meet those goals.

### **Recommendations** - Statement for formal PAC recommendation on LCAP

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) would like to recommend the Board and Superintendent consider implementing the following top recommendations:

- 1. Building Block 1 - Provide strong supports for children and their families before students arrive at school**
  - Work with parents prior to students entering school working with community agencies
  - Invest in the CAL-SAFE and Preschool Program tremendously
  - Development of teachers and parents to better understand what is being taught and how parents are important in their children's ed
- 2. Building Block 2 - Provide more resources for at-risk students than for others**
  - Provide specific training for working with at-risk students and how best to meet their needs in the areas in which they are struggling. Increase the number of students able to participate in the afterschool program.
  - Something they can do is recognize the students who need more help earlier, could be taken by using test or just the teacher noticing the students' lack of knowledge
  - Due to COVID-19, we will need to provide training, resources, and support, throughout the next few years to all parents/guardians and students in order to address the varying

and high social-emotional needs of all students. This needs to be a focus just as much as academics, if not, more...

### **3. Building Block 5 - Assure an abundant supply of highly qualified teachers**

- Recruit from Paraprofessionals, Parents, and Students within Madera!
- Training for teachers to reach an adequate level to be certified
- Continue to follow the research and model after other highly qualified instructional institutions. Continually evaluate our practices and hold each other to practicing highly effective strategies.
- Continue to provide training and support, throughout the year embedded within the day and to all teachers, counselors, and support staff in order to meet the social-emotional needs of all students.
- Encourage teachers to continue learning and take training. Better pay, benefits, and overall working environment for teachers
- Continue to observe our classroom teachers and provide feedback and professional development based on researched-based effective teaching strategies.

The PAC feels that these recommendations will help improve our school climate across the district.

Other Items Suggested During the Feedback Session:

Given that students have been distance learning for some time, what unique needs do you feel that students will have when they return to campus?

- We need to collectively motivate, re-engage and reconnect all students to their education by addressing their social-emotional needs. SEL needs to be a priority if we want all students to successfully progress throughout the levels and eventually graduate. COVID-19 has brought about great trauma, stress, depression, and anxiety among our student population (and teachers and parents).
- Special attention needs to be given to socializing, they are going to want to talk and be with friends, so do group projects and ease into the regular curriculum.

Is there any other information you would like to share with us?

- Since teachers impact student engagement and motivation (at all levels), we need to make sure that we provide all the needed supports and professional learning to our teachers so they have the tools to address the varying and high needs of all of our students
- Try to ensure that parents have a greater presence in our children's school
- I think you are doing a wonderful job making lemonade from the lemons life has thrown our way! Stay strong and focused, we are on a great pathway of equity for all students!!!