

**Written Responses to Questions/Comments from the District English Learner Advisory  
Committee  
May 14, 2018**

**Question/Comment:**

**Why is there always a change in School and Community Engagement Facilitator assignments. Can every effort be made to keep the same person at the same site as much as possible? If we want Hispanic and Latino parent engagement to increase, taking a familiar staff member away from the school who connects with parents doesn't help with making parents feel comfortable and trust in the district/school. Hispanic/Latino parents in the minority at Stevenson and need consistent support.**

The District follows the classified Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) when it comes to staff assignments or reassignments. This year, because the District was able to renegotiate its partnership/contract with School Linked Services (SLS) an additional 1.0 FTE School and Community Engagement Facilitator (SCEF) was added allowing all sites to have full time SCEFs. This caused a switch in some positions based on the assignment process in the CBA.

**Question/Comment:**

**Some parents may not be happy with changes in staff and some staff moving to another sites. Parents should all support the changes and move forward to support and welcome new leaders and staff. Thank you for keeping all facilitators and that all current staff are still employed.**

This year, because the District was able to renegotiate its partnership/contract with School Linked Services (SLS) an additional 1.0 FTE School and Community Engagement Facilitator (SCEF) was added allowing all sites to have full-time SCEFs. This caused a switch in some positions based on the assignment process in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. While all SCEFs have positions, some have moved sites.

**Question/Comment:**

**Thank you for hearing our voices on the issue of the School and Community Engagement Facilitators.**

Every school will have an full-time School and Community Engagement Facilitator in the 2018-19 school year. The LCAP maintains SCEFs at all sites through 2019-20.

**Question/Comment:**

**Before and after school programming is very important and helpful for working parents at Mistral. By the time parents get home, it is late and difficult to help**

**children with school work effectively. Please help children get ahead and catch up by keeping or adding afterschool homework help and tutoring.**

Currently, each site receives an allocation from the District for enrichment programming based on student enrollment. Sites are able to use this funding at their discretion. Five of our schools have grant-funded Beyond the Bell after school programs, which includes homework support and enrichment. The District has been researching the cost of adding additional afterschool tutorials and enrichment activities for sites. Currently, we cannot add any other schools to our Beyond the Bell grant as none of our remaining schools have over the grant-required 50% of students receiving free and or reduced lunch (The District tried to add Mistral when it became its own school, but were denied by the state). The current five schools in the program are grandfathered into Beyond the Bell as they have been as part of the grant since its inception. Once the District finalizes budget numbers from 2017-18 and has more information about the District's budget for 2018-19, we will look at the feasibility of providing additional funding for after school programming.

**Question/Comment:**

**Teachers should continue reaching out and communicating with parents to offer support for students falling behind so they can reclassify earlier and not have to wait until 4th grade.**

Teacher professional development will be offered next school year on how to best address the needs of English Language learners. Equipping teachers with the best teaching strategies will give them the tools to teach ELs and help students meet standards more quickly.

**Question/Comment:**

**The District should provide trainings to parents and the trained parents can help in classrooms to support small groups and/or run homework programs after school.**

Different trainings are offered at different sites depending on the schools' areas of focus. Site administrators will be able to let you know what the offerings are at their sites.

**Question/Comment:**

**Math homework should not be part of academic practice at home because of my experience with the new way math is done. I can't help very much. Math homework at home creates much frustration and a dilemma at home every night.**

Homework is intended for students to practice what they have learned in the classroom. The District is investigating resources for parents that can be added to school websites, particularly in the area of math. Additionally, the District is adding a new video series for

parents called “Let’s Talk.” One of the videos will focus on how parents can support students at home.

**Question/Comment:**

**Can the District replace technology programs for English Learners and hire English Learner aides in classrooms?**

The District could investigate making this change, although the cost of technology programs is much more affordable compared to the cost of hiring English Learner Aides for classrooms. The District would only be able to hire a few aides for a few classrooms, however a technology program, used effectively, can reach students across many sites and classrooms.

**Question/Comment:**

**Please continue the after school middle school programs to help with homework, especially in math.**

Graham Middle School will continue to have its after school tutorial program, The Beat and Crittenden will continue to have Beyond the Bell. In addition, each middle school will review the additional programs they have and revise or refine them to meet the needs of students on a yearly basis.

**Question/Comment:**

**Reading Partners helped two of my children years ago. I noticed that my younger children don’t read as well as my older children who benefitted from the Reading Partners program. Why did this program disappear?**

The decision to have a program like Reading Partners is a site-level decision. Sites review any additional programs they have and revise or refine them to meet the needs of students on a yearly basis. Sometimes, sites decide to try new programs and must make tough decisions about existing ones.

**Question/Comment:**

**Please think about adding support for reclassified students. It seems that once they reclassify, their performance plateaus or regresses/decreases and they don’t make academic progress. We would like to see support for reclassified students to keep achieving at higher levels.**

We continue to support students even after they have been reclassified. We monitor their progress up to four years after they have been reclassified. Student Success Plans are created for students not meeting standards and shared with parents. Sites are required to intervene and implement a plan to accelerate student progress and keep parents informed of progress.

**Question/Comment:**

**More events are needed at school sites to engage with teachers to close the communication gap between home and school. This will help parents feel comfortable to become active in school and support students at home.**

We encourage parents to become active at their site by participating in ELAC, School Site Council and PTA. Parents find that attending these events helps them learn about the school site and more about the U.S. school system. Sites offer various parent events during the year for parents to participate in such as PIQE, FEI, Literacy Nights, etc. By attending those events, parents will feel more welcome to the sites.

**Question/Comment:**

**Please continue English as a Second Language classes on Saturdays for parents.**

These classes were provided as part of the School Linked Services grant at Castro. Castro will continue to have support through School Linked Services, and the school reviews, refines, and plans for programs on a yearly basis.

**Question/Comment:**

**Please add more after school programs at all schools. More tutors, reading support programs and CHAC counselors.**

Currently, each site receives an allocation from the District for enrichment programming based on student enrollment. Sites are able to use this funding at their discretion. Five of our schools have grant-funded Beyond the Bell after school programs, which includes homework support and enrichment. The District has been researching the cost of adding additional after school tutorials and enrichment activities for sites. Currently, we cannot add any other schools to our Beyond the Bell grant as none of our remaining schools have over the grant-required 50% of students receiving free and or reduced lunch (The District tried to add Mistral when it became its own school, but were denied by the state). The current five schools in the program are grandfathered into Beyond the Bell as they have been as part of the grant since its inception. Once the District finalizes budget numbers from 2017-18 and has more information about the District's budget for 2018-19, we will look at the feasibility of providing additional funding for after school programming.

**Question/Comment:**

**Please maintain School and Engagement Facilitators at all sites.**

Every school will have an full-time School and Community Engagement Facilitator in the 2018-19 school year. The LCAP maintains SCEFs at all sites through 2019-20.