



For the future of every student

Superintendent Parent Advisory Committee

September 7, 2021

“Notes”

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Roger Rice

Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice welcomed everyone to the first Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of the 2021-22 school year and asked members to introduce themselves.

School Attendance: AAPC-Calvin Peterson, Anacapa-Rosie Wilcox, Atlas-Bob Harrell, Balboa & Foothill-Carmelita Young Everard, Board Member Sabrena Rodriguez, Cabrillo-Audrey Page, Citrus Glen-Harmony Maldonado, DATA-Naxeli Hernandez, El Camino-Janna Shew, ESC-Rogelio Ramirez, Juanamaria-Nicole Wiese, Junipero Serra- Sara Baumgardner, Lemon Grove-Sarah Helland, Lincoln-Heather Lacayo-Neace, Loma Vista-Cindy Nestor, Montalvo-Andrea Gonzalez, Poinsettia-Alison Costa, Portola-Lucia Perez, Ventura-Sara Cameron, VACE-Jean Ellis and VEP- Kathy Asher & Debbie Golden.

Absent: Buena, Elmhurst, E.P. Foster, Mound, Pacific, Pierpont, Sheridan Way, Sunset School and Will Rogers.

District Personnel: Roger Rice, Antonio Castro, Rebecca Chandler, Brett Taylor, Andrea Crouch, Marieanne Quiroz, Greg Bayless, Rene Rickard, Kara Muniz, Soledad Molinar, Eric Reynolds, Cheryl Burns, Marissa Cervantes, Amy Dahm, SRO Matt Thompson, SRO Tony Gomez and SRO Jamey MacLellan.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Roger Rice

Dr. Rice shared the following new administrator information:

- Principal changes/additions: Mr. Mark Asher is the new principal of Lincoln; Mr. Pavlo Escobedo Garcia is the new principal at E.P. Foster; Dr. Audrey Asplund is the new principal at Buena; Mr. Todd Tyner is the new principal of Pierpont; Ms. Bobbi Powers is the new principal at Mound; Mr. Carlos Cohen is the new principal at DATA; and Ms. Marissa Cervantes is the new principal at Ventura.
- Assistant Principal (A/P) Changes/Additions: Ms. Petra McCullough is the new A/P at Anacapa; Ms. Jenee Wilcox is the new A/P at Balboa; Dr. Scott McNutt is the new A/P at Buena; and Ms. Stephanie Cruz is the new A/P at DATA.
- Open positions: Director of Student Support Services and Assist Director of Special Education.

Dr. Rice took a moment to introduce and thank our VUSD School Resource Officers Matt Thompson, Tony Gomez and Jamey MacLellan and allowed them a moment to share more about themselves.

Q: How does working with VUSD change the way VPD interacts with our community?

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A: Regular patrol will reach out to the SRO's for information and best techniques to use with youth. Also, restorative justice techniques are being used with community members. (Thompson)

Q: Should we invite SRO's to PTA school events?

A: Yes, we would love the opportunities to engage with the community. All administrators have our contact information, so please reach out. (Thompson)

Dr. Rice shared that due to the rising COVID cases, VUSD has spent a lot of time on contact tracing and on COVID protocols. Recently, a Modified Quarantine protocol was pushed out with the advice of VCPH and CDPH. Additionally, in collaboration with VCPH, VUSD has had several vaccine clinics on our campuses for anyone 12 and older. Indoor sports are currently required to wear a mask along with spectators per CDPH; no additional restrictions for music.

Dr. Rice shared that VUSD, like most districts in California, are having transportation issues due to a shortage of bus drivers. We are currently looking for additional drivers to work in the evenings and on weekends as our regular bus drivers are limited in the number of hours they can work each week.

- Dr. Rebecca Chandler shared that if anyone knows someone who needs a job, please have them apply. VUSD pays for the training and there are upcoming day and evening training courses available.
- Ms. Andrea Crouch shared that we not only need bus drivers, but also child nutrition assistants, para educators, clerical substitutes, accounting techs, social workers, and custodians. Ms. Crouch noted that they offer flexible shifts and are both full and part time. Please see a list of employment opportunities at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/venturausd>

Ms. Kara Muniz, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, shared that there are new allowances on meals and breakfast and lunch are free for all students. Ms. Muniz is currently working on updating the menus. However, there have been some supply issues, so please know that menus are subject to change.

Additional information:

- Back-to-School nights were originally scheduled to be in person; however, they have all been moved to Zoom meetings for health and safety of students, staff, and the community.
- Dr. Rice was excited about the opening day at our new K-8 Lemon Grove. He noted that the students in middle school have come from many surrounding schools and shared that there are additional slots in 7th & 8th grade, so if you know of someone in other VUSD schools, or even outside VUSD, please share this with them.
- First tree planting ceremony at Sa'Aliyas Ranch last week at Pacific HS. Dr. Rice was joined by Trustee Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and other administrators to plant the first avocado trees. Dr. Rene Rickard, Chief Innovation Officer, noted that all avocado trees should be planted by the end of the week and that they have enough trees for every student to plant one. Dr. Rickard shared that they are working to get a portable delivered to have classroom space for students. In the meanwhile, students will be doing outside learning. There will also be hoop house for berries, leafy greens in the greenhouse and citrus trees. Dr. Rickard shared that they are currently not allowing parent volunteers due to the COVID protocols for safety, but that eventually they will encourage this. If anyone is interested, please e-mail Dr. Rickard at Rene.Rickard@venturausd.org or Mike Etchart at Mike.Etchart@venturausd.org for more information. Dr. Rice finished by sharing that we could invite Mr. Etchart back to a future PAC meeting if there was interest to learn more about Sa'Aliyas Ranch.

**Ventura Education
Partnership (VEP)**

Ms. Kathy Asher &
Ms. Debbie Golden

Ms. Kathy Asher and Ms. Debbie Golden shared that VEP is a nonprofit that benefits VUSD. Ms. Golden thanked the VUSD staff for coming out to the VEP donor event last week to support them during this very busy time of year.

Ms. Asher shared that VEP was currently in the fall grant cycle. Any staff member working with preschool through 12th grade students can apply for a grant of up to \$1000. The deadline is September 24 and recipients will be notified on October 14. Projects will be then be implements beginning in January 2022. Please visit the VEP website for additional information at <http://www.venturaeducationpartnership.org/VEPGrants>. Additional information can also be found regarding an upcoming Grant Workshop on September 8 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Q: How much money will be awarded in total?

A: It depends on how much money is brought in. Currently VEP has approved \$60,000; however, we typically fund around \$100,000. (Golden)

Q: Is there a focus for each of the grant cycles?

A: General grants may be used to fund any project. However, we do have supplemental money that is used specifically for reading and/or are specific to health & wellness (physical education, nutrition, social/emotional). (Golden)

A: VEP is looking for long-term projects to make a difference for our students: (Asher)

Q: Can more than one grant be awarded per applicant?

A: Not for the same grant, but someone can apply during each grant cycle. (Golden & Asher)

Q: How can someone donate to VEP?

A: Individuals can donate through the website at <http://www.venturaeducationpartnership.org/Donate> by mailing a check into 255 W. Staley Avenue Suite 100, Ventura CA 93001, or through Facebook.

Comment: VEP is amazing and has helped fund so many incredible innovative projects that are implemented throughout our district.

**Learning
Continuity Update**

Dr. Antonio Castro

Dr. Castro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, noted that keeping students in school is the challenge this year as well as trying to limit the contact in large groups. He shared that the modified quarantine that was just pushed out should reduce the amount of students out on quarantine by up to 80% if not more.

Dr. Castro shared information that he was going to present at tonight's Board meeting giving teachers three options to support their students while they are out on quarantine. These include:

1. Asynchronous learning through SeeSaw and Canvas
2. Concurrent teaching through Zoom (California no longer has a Distance Learning Platform)
3. Curriculum packets

Independent Study is an option for K-8 students through Homestead. There is also an additional program called FLEX that offers independent learning to middle and high school students. Flex can be all independent from home, or a combination of independent learning and brick and mortar classes. Additional information can be found on our website at: <https://www.venturausd.org/2021-22.aspx>

Dr. Castro stated that VUSD would continue to monitor conditions and modify/change our plans accordingly.

Q: Just to clarify, teachers cannot teach through Distance Learning (DL) right now?

A: Yes, that is correct. Ed code no longer allows for DL, only Independent Study. (Castro)

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Communications

Update

Ms. Marianne
Quiroz

Ms. Marianne Quiroz, Communications Coordinator, shared that she is currently working on the expansion of Parent Square for teachers and coaches, which should help consolidate the amount of communications parents are receiving. Ms. Quiroz shared that all of the school website shells are complete. Currently she is working with the sites to see who will be responsible for updating them so that the training can begin. She is hopeful that the websites can be launched by Winter Break.

Questions/

Comments

Comment: A PAC member shared that his son who attends Ventura High School, informed him that Ms. Cervantes is doing an amazing job as the new principal.

Q: The Ventura County Public Transportation Committee has been working hard to solve transportation issues. Has anyone reached out to them for support or ideas?

A: Not as of now, but we have reached out to the City of Ventura and are hoping to jointly go to the transportation department to see how they might be able to help us. (Rice)

Next Parent

Advisory Meeting

October 5, 2021

If you have any questions, please reach out to: amy.dahm@venturausd.org