

Coordinating Council Meeting 09/12/2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 on 09/12/2014 by Lindy Khan. The following were in attendance:

John	Angell	John Swett USD
Valarie	Bell	Pittsburg USD
Sean	Brown	Oakley UESD
Barbara	Byrd	WCCUSD
Pete	Cardinale	Liberty UHSD
Laura	Delahunt	DA's Office
Maria	Espinosa	Pittsburg USD
Steve	France	Acalanes UHSD
Julio	Franco	WCCUSD
ReJois	Frazier-Myers	Pittsburg USD
Scott	Gerbert	SRVUSD
Greg	Hetrick	Brentwood USD
Lindy	Khan	CCCOE
Lynn	Mackey	CCCOE
Felicia	Stuckey-Smith	Mt. Diablo USD

Welcome and Review Agenda

- District Personnel Changes? (update contact list)
The current coordinating council list was passed around for the group to make edits or additions to.

District Sharing

- **Introductions**
Valarie Bell of Pittsburg District and Sean Brown of Oakley district have joined the council.
- **Start of year – hot issues**
Many districts have experienced a great deal of growth and are dealing with the challenges this creates. Brentwood district has had to deny interdistrict transfers because there is no available space in their schools. Because of growth and school impaction, districts including San Ramon Valley and Pittsburg are strengthening their district's address verification procedures to ensure students do reside within their district.

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- **District Updates**

Felicia Stuckey-Smith shared that MDUSD Board has approved school counselors and has drafted a district-wide discipline matrix to find alternatives to suspension.

John Angell discussed the intervention class at Willow continuation school for 9-10th grades and the increase in district staffing as a result of increased funding.

Maria Espinosa was pleased to announce that the Pittsburg district has hired Dr. Janet Schulze as their new superintendent.

Julio Franco and Barbara Byrd stated the WCCUSD is striving to achieve a 95% attendance rate, they are currently at 94%.

September Attendance Awareness Campaign

- Supt. Letter, ACR 149

[ACR 149](#)

- **Board Proclamations**

In an enthusiastic and unanimous vote, on Wednesday, September 3, the Contra Costa County Board of Education proclaimed September Attendance Awareness Month for the county. Contra Costa is joining the state of California in the important effort, as explained in California Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson's message. The program's goal is to help our children succeed in school by building the habit of good attendance early, because school success goes hand-in-hand with good attendance.

[County Board of Education's Attendance proclamation](#)

[Tom Torlakson's message](#)

- **Principal Toolkits, Posters, Banners & checklist**

Lindy Khan visited 13 districts and 4 charter schools, bringing customized attendance “toolkits” and banners to raise awareness regarding the negative impact of chronic absences. Many of the districts spoke of their district’s involvement with the September Attendance Awareness campaign. Mt. Diablo district is sharing data/names of students who were chronically absent last year with their school principals. Oakley district is having conversations with parents of students who were chronically absent last year. Scott Gerbert shared with their Board the data that daily attendance is eight times better at predicting success after high school than test scores and the San Ramon district’s board passed a resolution declaring September as attendance awareness month. Each SRVUSD school has added an attendance goal to their site plan.

- **Media & Key Messages**

Lindy Khan expects to see more media awareness regarding attendance, especially with the upcoming press conference of A.G. Kamala Harris.

[Key Messages](#)

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State SARB Updates & Legislation

- Attendance Awareness Campaign
Gearing up for attendance awareness campaign. The newest truancy report will be released soon
- A potential new SARB Report was distributed

Legislation (and 10/1 update re: Governor's action)

- **AB 2512 Bonilla-Gender Equity - Vetoed**
Authorizes, but does not require, districts to include how they are dealing with gender equality in their LCAP
- **AB 420 Dickinson-Willful defiance – Signed**
Limits the use of subdivision (k) of Section 48900 which currently provides for the suspension or expulsion of any student who has “disrupted school activities or otherwise willfully defied the valid authority” of school personnel. encourages the use of other means of correction.. It further allows for suspension of high school students only, and removes the ability to expel students for such acts.
- **AB 1442 Gatto-Social Media – Signed**
Requires schools/districts/County Offices of Education to notify parents/students and allow for public comment prior to taking any student information from social media sites.
- **AB 2276 Buchanan-Transfers from Court Schools - Signed**
Specifies that a pupil who has been enrolled in a juvenile court school, upon release, shall not be denied immediate enrollment in a public school for any of the reasons specified in Education Code Section 48853.5(e)(8)(B), including, but not limited to, a delay in the transfer of educational records. This will give these students rights that are similar to those of foster youth.
- **AB 1993 Fox-Bullying - Signed**
Authorizes schools to suspend or recommend for expulsion a student who engages in an act of bullying.
- **AB 1866-Bocanegra- Vetoed**
Would expand Calpads to enable collection of absenteeism data, pending funding.
Two of the four AG sponsored bills were signed (AB 2141 – DA reporting and AB 1643 - additional reps to SARBs.) AB 1866 and AB 1672 – expanded truancy reporting were vetoed.

Other Relevant Legislation

- AB 2382 – limit the ability to reduce grant aid to families of truant students - Signed
- SB 1111 – transfers to community school only with parent permission - Signed

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County SARB

- Overview
Deals with Golden Gate Community Schools and county authorized charter schools because at present there is no district level SARB process.
- Planning Meetings
Many agencies have been involved in the planning process (public health, DA's Office, mental health, etc.) and hopefully will have the added benefit of awareness of school issues and access to resources.

Court & Community Schools

- Community School update
Lynn Mackey said the community school MOU has been revised, and there will no longer be a charge if ADA doesn't cover services provided, with the exception of special education. The COE is investing in the community schools with new technology, resources and improved facilities. She also wanted to impress upon the group the need to continue to provide services to students via home/hospital school until the student is formally accepted. The district will be notified of intake via fax. Lynn asked each district in attendance to provide her with a single point of contact for their district to facilitate this process, and a contact sheet was passed around the table.
- Transitions from Court Schools
Title 15 requires that each district follow up with students who have left court schools. Legislation was passed and awaiting the Governor's signature to give exiting court school students the same rights as foster youth regarding immediate enrollment. **(AB 2276 Signed)**

District Attorney's Office

- News from the DA's office
The DA's office is continuing to meet with Judges Latener and Hardie, as well as others, to discuss ways to improve the SARB process. Laura Delehunt and Dan Cabral have spoken with the presiding judge to get truancy court budgeted, and are currently looking for funding. Members of the council were invited to meet with Judge Latener on June 3rd in his courtroom. The next meeting will be at noon on September 25th.

The DA's office is continuing the GIFT program (gang intervention/anti gun violence) in Antioch for 6th and 7th graders. This is a six-week program that meets one day per week. They hope to expand this program to 3 middle schools in west county this year.

Laura sits on SARB panels for several districts and said she is happy to sit on a panel or participate with districts in any way. She invited the council to email her and let her know in what ways she can be of assistance.

Laura and Steve France of Acalanes district are trying to reach out for community funding sources to aid in keeping kids in school. Some of the institutions they've spoken with require goals or vision statements on how and where their funds will be utilized. Steve and Laura are currently

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putting together 3 documents that they are piloting to meet these requirements, which they will be sharing with the group. The judges have asked Laura and Steve to create an introductory packet that can be given to businesses which will include a letter from the District Attorney and information on the connection between truancy and criminality. They will also include statistics in a chart form showing truancy in Contra Costa County. Lindy Khan suggested adding letters from educational authorities, such as the letter from County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joseph Ovick, regarding the importance of good attendance. She also suggested creating a memorandum of understanding or belief statements regarding attendance which would be signed by all of the district's superintendents. She envisioned this being similar to the interdistrict transfer MOU that is currently used in the county. Scott Gerbert suggested reaching out to Alameda county to see if they would be willing to share their grant information packets, to avoid duplication of effort.

- Update on Attendance Initiatives & Truancy Court

Upcoming Events

- **Eliminating Barriers to Learning**
Early identification of student mental health
Oct. 30, Dec. 4, Mar. 5, Apr. 16 - CCCOE
- **NAMI on Campus**
November 13th - CCCOE
- **LCAP – School Climate/Student Engagement**
November 6th – YCOE, Woodland

Next Meeting & Suggested Topics

- 2014-15 Meetings – 2nd Friday every other month
(11/14, 1/9, 3/13, 5/8)