

Council of Councils Meeting
November 03, 2010
Tundi Goldstein, Parent Representative, WES

Linda del Cueto, LD1 Superintendent

The District has developed a simplified system to allow employees in the same job classification and pay rate to switch assignments in order to work closer to home. Alleviates traffic, longer commutes, etc.

Out of all of local district 1, totaling 141 schools, only 1, Vista Middle School tested below 600 API and therefore there are plans for it to fall under the public choices jurisdiction for school improvement plan. A bid is under way for various non profit organizations to submit their plan on how they intend to best operate and improve this school.

Tom Waldman, Chief of Staff, Tamar Galatzan School Board office

Existing bond money due to under budget work completed on school facility improvements. Funds earmarked as 'facility facelifts' beginning with focus on high schools to clean up, paint, repair. Tamar however disappointed that so few Valley schools being included. Taft is one school included. She has asked James Sohn, Chief Facility Dir to reconsider list and include other Valley schools that require improvements.

New high school at Balboa and Devonshire to open next fall. @ non profit org submitting plans to run the school are LAUSD and UTLA on the one hand, and Granada Hills HS on the other. Applications are due Dec 1st for this new 1,200 seat school which will yield overcrowding mostly to Kennedy, Monroe, Cleveland.

Last year Cortines issued \$85K per all non-title 1 schools to supplement budgets. The hope is that he will repeat this again for next year. These funds were suggested to be spent on library, aide, supplies. ***How did Woodlake spend this money previously and how does it intend to spend if awarded a 2nd time? Provides for supplementing understaffing fulfillment and ideally would continue the same as this need never goes away but the budget does.*

Microsoft Settlement phase II rollout to occur in Spring 2011. Approx \$30M for all of LAUSD. ***How did Woodlake spend the first doling of funds and what does it intend to spend it on for the remaining funds allocated? {How much money was issued to WES for this the first time?} Previous allotment of funds was spent on document readers and technology rolling cart components. Additional funds would help to provide more of the same toward better outfitting all the classroom needs.*

New calendar across the board. Voting will take place for this January 2011, but likely that all schools will adopt the new school calendar which has already taken effect this year for high schools. School would commence mid-August with semester I completed prior to winter break. Semester II would begin after the 3 week break and conclude first week June. A one-time reduced summer period would result for all families [who were not affected last summer with this calendar at the high school level].

Guest Speaker: Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, Talented and Gifted Program Coordinator LD1

How to teach gifted, special needs, English learners and mainstream students all in the same class? Differentiated teaching, as instructed by GATE program instruction, which all teachers @ Woodlake have received. Important to identify in those gifted children, the key is to set goals and realize progress, not get over-involved [and stressed] so that they let go and can complete the task.

A gifted child is not a small adult.

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Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, Talent Gifted Program Coord LD1

69,000 students are identified gifted in LD1. Largest district of such students in the nation.

7 categories to fall under the gifted/talented program:

Intellectual ability - Usually this testing is done at 2nd grade although lausd does allow it be done as early as kindergarten. Testing is done with a school Gate psychologist and only administered one time.

Retesting can occur is requested by the parents and approved by the school/lausd guidelines.

High achievement and Specific Ability are CST test score related and begin at fourth grade.

Remaining 4 categories, visual arts ability, performing arts ability, creative ability and leadership ability are based on specific evidence identified by the teacher[s].

This year ALL 2nd grade students will be tested for high achievement under the nationally standardized OSLAT-8 testing, involving verbal and non-verbal abilities. This is NOT intellectual ability testing and as such does not qualify a student to be considered for highly gifted designation. A pilot testing of such was administered last year and Superintendent Cortines was impressed by the results of how many students were identified gifted that he is recommending this be done again this year, across the board. There is no guarantee however that this will occur annually from now on at the 2nd grade level. That still remains to be determined.

Clustering is a district wide requirement. Under AB2313 at the elementary school level, gifted students must be clustered t 5-8 per classroom [and 15-25 per secondary schools]. The purpose is to group like-minded students together but not create an elitist group. There are 4 models of clustering, Woodlake operates under Model 2, Full-day.

All schools receive \$15/per student for each identified gifted students. At Woodlake we have approx 104 students. It would suit each school if they can afford to send at least 1 teacher per grade level. Mr McGee intends to have approx 14 teachers and himself attend the upcoming GATE Conference on Dec 11, 2010 @ Pasadena Conv Cntr [open to anyone, fee \$95/pp, see www.centralcities.org].

SAS – School for Advanced Studies. SAS is an alternative to gifted magnets and offer quality differentiated instruction. Woodlake is an SAS school. It received this recognition approx 12 years ago. ALL schools will be required to re-apply for SAS accreditation this Spring 2011 to ensure they still qualify as such. If you wish to have a child attend an SAS school, you may apply throughout the district, usually in May, but keep in mind that SAS programs do not provide transportation as do gifted/magnet schools [like under the Choices forms, which will be issued soon and due back Dec 17, 2010].

For more information please go to www.lausd.net/gate