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Board Report for December 9, 2019

## **Academics**

Thanks to Max Garcia, our new College and Career Counselor, all Seniors who are eligible to apply to a Cal State University or University of California campus have submitted their applications by the updated December 1 deadline. The individual stories of the families who have walked with their children through the process are truly inspiring and uplifting, and give us pause to consider how fortunate we are to be in this line of work.

Gear Up returned to our campus, making students happy to see familiar faces. UCLA sent a tour bus for our students to visit campus and talk to students and professors. Very few students availed themselves of the opportunity, but those who did were impressed, and our math teacher Mr. Nestor Garcia, a UCLA Alum, went with our students. They enjoyed the visit and came back with good stories to tell regarding what they had learned about college life.

The YPICS academic team and the executive team have spent significant time discussing a recommitment to Project Based Learning in our schools. The HS is going to be using half of the upcoming January TPD day to do retraining and long-range planning for a PBL-based Presentation of Learning day for second semester. These events are always well attended and full of pride about student work, but POL have not happened at the high school for more than 2 years. Ms. King Berg has also arranged for staff from every campus to visit High Tech High in San Diego in order to do a deep dive into project-based learning within the confines of a school organization that is nationally known for its work in this area.

We are grateful for the return of Ms. Gonzalez as our Leadership Sponsor, our College and Career Readiness Teacher, and our SFA Teacher. We have missed her energy, enthusiasm, and strong leadership presence on campus. She is a person of immense influence in the lives of our students, and asks for excellence from them in all that they do. We are still trying to hire an English Teacher for the start of the second semester. I have been doing all of the programming since November 1, and it has been a challenge for both me and the students. I know the things I am asking of them are good and challenging, but it is impossible to foster a community like our full-time teachers do, since I am all over the place and relying on the substitute to implement so much of the planning. Fingers crossed we can make this happen soon.

One of our IEP students who is 18 and has a history of E.D. behaviors was notified in a 30 day placement IEP with Mr. Nutt and other staff that BCCHS is not a good placement for her, and is potentially facing a "Due Process" action if she does not agree to go to an NPS. The team referenced two instances of cutting at school. Her mother has sued LAUSD in the past.



## **Operations**

We are fortunate to receive the benefits of a \$100,000.00 school facilities improvement grant at Maclay Middle School. The money will be used to update the Multi Purpose Room at Maclay, which gets many hours of use from both schools (assemblies, dances, speakers, etc), and to install water fountains with water-bottle-filling capacity.

We have had a difficult time with the Maclay Plant Department attending to our custodial needs on a consistent basis. Unemptied trash, uncleaned restrooms, and food waste strewn about our campus by animals, are all regular occurrences on a weekly basis. We have asked and asked for changes. I am not sure what the next steps are to resolve these issues.

## **Climate and Culture**

We have been discussing the possibility of recruiting for and starting an 8-man tackle football team at BCCHS next year. Mr. Max Garcia has extensive tackle football coaching experience, and we have other YPICS community members who have experience in the game at the high school and college level. We have a facility with locker rooms, a field, and lights at Maclay, so all we need now is the knowledge that insurance will cover this endeavor, and the money to buy the gear and pay coaching stipends. Ms. Fuentes has already started an aggressive fundraising campaign within her circles, and Mr. Garcia has committed to staying at our school and following through on this very tantalizing prospect for students. It would do wonders for our climate and culture, as well as our recruitment of students on the whole (not just football players).

Ms. Fuentes and Ms. Castellon are doing a hero's job of picking up the climate and culture responsibilities now that Mr. Cruz is gone. They are working very hard to consistently and compassionately implement expectations on our campus. They are also making sure that the programming for student activities is happening smoothly so that the kids can have fun with their high school classmates even though we are experiencing the challenges of a middle school campus and a tight budget. Even when issues become serious enough to involve law enforcement, which they have on several occasions since the beginning of the school year, Ms. Fuentes and Ms. Castellon are thorough and attentive to every step of the process, including reintroducing students back into the school community after they are detained.

The issue of recurring drug possession and sales at our school is a red-flag. This issue needs to be addressed in a way that brings maximum community partnership leverage to bear, as public knowledge of the use and sale of drugs at our school will act as an immediate deterrent to the parents of students who are looking for a small, safe school as an alternative to a big high school where these problems are expected. (This is a repeat paragraph from last months report but is significant enough to add this time around as well).

One student was expelled this month, with weapons and drug possession providing the impetus for the expulsion proceeding.

## Summary

Reiterating some of the many reasons we have to celebrate this first semester of 2019-2020:

- Charter Reauthorization
- WASC Accreditation
- Gear Up Grant reinstatement
- UCLA College Trip
- SAT performance improvement - number of 900+ and 1000+ scores since 2017
- All eligible Seniors applied to UC and CSU campuses by December 1 deadline
- All eligible Seniors are currently engaged in the Common App application process
- Campus improvement grant for MPR and water fountains