

Bert Corona Charter High School  
Executive Administrator Report – Mr. Simonsen  
December 8, 2017

### **Mission**

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become life-long learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

### **Enrollment**

The current enrollment of Bert Corona High School is 207 as of Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>-

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	59
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	86
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	52
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade –	13
Total -	210

This number is 27 under projection for the approved FY 2017-2018 budget.

### **Staffing**

English teacher Megan Betry resigned in mid-November, citing health conditions due to stress. We are currently interviewing candidates for the position, and have had three interviews and one demo lesson. We hope to have the new team member in place by the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

### **Student Academic Performance/Growth**

BCCHS Students will be taking the NWEA MAPS assessments on December 12 and 13. The closure of school this week has pushed everything back at least one week, including periodic assessments. Final grades will now be closed January 14 rather than December 15 due to the closure and the three-week winter break. PSAT-NMSQT results are not yet available. I will include them in the January report. SBAC data will not be available for our school until this summer, after the first statistically significant cohort of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students takes the exam in May. Additional academic news is that we are shifting the course matrix to add an additional section of most courses, thereby reducing class sizes for most of the core content areas.

## **College News**

Five seniors re-took the SAT this past weekend in hopes of achieving better scores and impacting admissions potential. Five more students could have taken the test, but all of them forgot to bring their Student ID with them upon arrival at CSUN, and although their counselor was waiting for them and could speak for them, the CSUN SAT organizers refused to seat them due to their lack of an ID. It was a disappointing moment for sure, but this first class of 13 seniors have mostly committed to go to LA Mission College their first two years before attending a four-year school. That said, 10 of these students have applied to the CSU system, which has been inspiring to follow, as most of them are going to be first generation college students.

Also, LA Mission College will be offering Psychology as the next Dual Enrollment course on the BCCHS campus. The students who have been availing themselves of this opportunity since it was first offered in the spring semester of our opening year will be taking their fifth course. This will mean that, at the course's completion, they will already be **one quarter of the way** through completing the minimum 60 semester units needed for UC/CSU transfer, in the event they do not attend a 4-year university right out of school. This is an amazing accomplishment for our young people.

## **Professional Development**

In preparation for our oversight visit on January 10, our staff discussed the need to prepare our students for the conversations that the visiting team will pursue with them. Our students are very familiar with Standards Based Grading now, but they do not necessarily practice using all of the teaching and learning language that visitors expect to hear. We studied the past two oversight visit reports, and revisited our expectations for teaching hallmarks and evidence of learning, and committed to work specifically on discussing these things with our students in a way that prepares them to discuss this with visitors. It was apparent that our students' inconsistent ability to discuss their learning processes was impacting our results.

## **SAC**

Our School Advisory Council held it's second meeting in October. The meeting expectations and recording protocols were changed by Ms. King Berg and those changes are now reflected in a new recording document that includes protocols for stakeholder input and voting. See attached for minutes of most recent meeting (pre-changes).

## **CIF Sports**

We recently learned that the Associate phase of the CIF membership process is 18 months and not 12 months, which has taken some of the pressure off of our AD to get all of the inaugural league sport off of the ground in the first year. Having finished a successful girls volleyball season, we are about to embark on boys and girls basketball seasons. The fundraiser at La Sierenita raised \$2500 for uniforms, allowing us to purchase high-quality products for our kids. Many thanks to James Carroll and Yolanda Fuentes for making this happen, and to the ownership of La Sierenita for donating 100% of the ticket sales. It was an amazing gesture, and investment in BCCHS.

## **Climate and Culture**

The staffing model for YPICS schools is not yet fully realized at BCCHS due to under enrollment. This is impacting the availability of staff to absorb the transition stress of growing as an organization, both academically and socially. We need a Coordinator of Academics to help support staff in meeting the needs of a diverse student body, and we have an even more urgent need for a Coordinator of Culture and Climate to help non-Bert students (those who did not attend Bert Corona Middle) acclimate to being YPICS students. Specifically, Bert students tend to be fairly well adjusted when it comes to using conversation to work through conflict and disagreement, whereas our students from other schools still lean on violence to solve problems. We have some amazingly talented staff who are trying to offer their time and attention to helping out with this disturbing new facet of our school culture, but they are currently teachers and support staff with other roles, so the proactive approaches that they would like to be pursuing full time cannot yet be realized. I have some thoughts about next year's staffing model that I think could help with this, but at the moment, things are very tenuous with these newcomers. Specific praise to James Carroll and Maribel Palafox for using their excellent communication skills, experiences as a youth in Pacoima and Sylmar, and culturally responsive conflict resolution strategies to fill the gap. Ms. Fuentes and I are really a bit overwhelmed right now with the need in this area.