



Date: June 11, 2019

To: Board of Directors

Submitted By: Kevin Sved, CEO, James Dent, CAO, Heather Parsons, DCI

Subject: Organizational Priority: Develop and Pilot External Services to Scale Impact

Agenda Item Type: Informational

Objective(s):

- 1) The Board will be briefed on the status of our New Schools Venture Fund grant application
- 2) The Board will review the impact of our current 2018-19 partnerships (Cohort 1)
 - a) Wonderful Prep (Full Support)
 - b) Healdsburg Unified (Light Support)
- 3) The Board will become familiar with our interested partners for the next school year (Cohort 2)
- 4) The board will be briefed on our next steps

New Schools Venture Fund Update

The [New Schools Venture Fund](#) (NSVF), a nonprofit venture philanthropy fund that has invested over \$260 million in innovative schools over the past twenty years, recently offered the nation's top charter school management organizations and districts the opportunity to become model providers for partner organizations. This new and exciting strategy aims to bring best practices from high-performing charter and district organizations to partners across the K-12 educational sector.

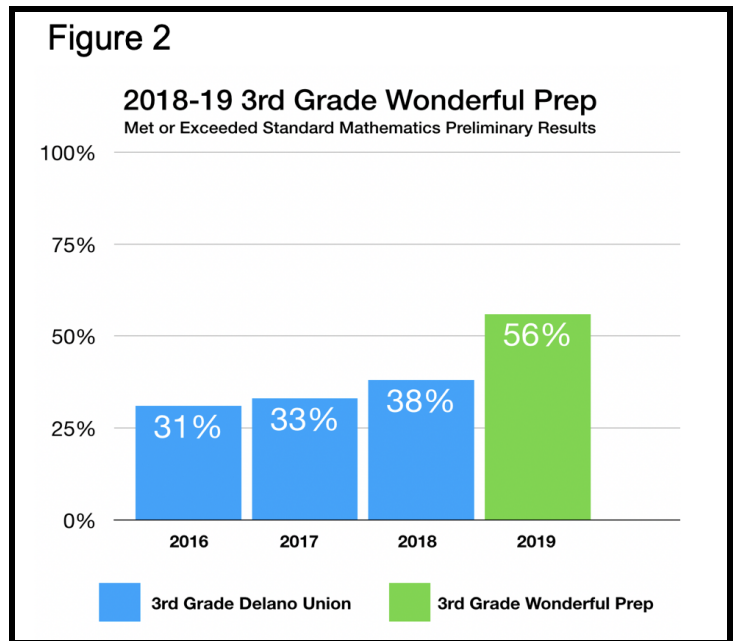
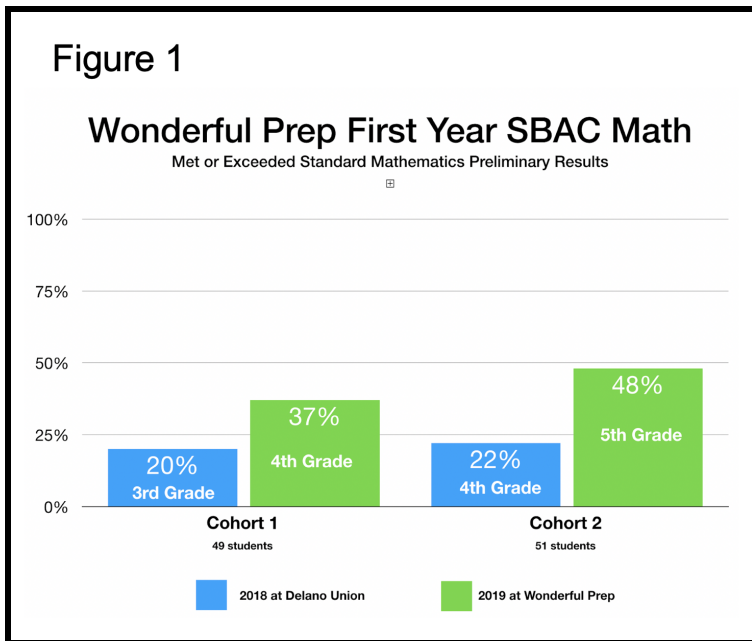
Navigator applied for the Stage 2 Model Provider grant from New Schools Venture Fund a few months back. Just this week we received word that NSVF is moving forward with a recommendation for a 12-month, \$275,000 investment in Navigator to implement the NS model in four schools for the coming school year. NSVF staff indicated that their next steps include completing internal documentation and aligning grant activities. The NSVF response is expected by the end of June. We are all incredibly excited that we are being recommended, and we will proceed with the necessary strategic planning to prepare and be ready to launch when the final news arrives.

Wonderful Prep Update

Navigator began providing external support to Wonderful Prep in July 2018 to implement the core elements of our program, including small group instruction, classroom culture training, data driven instruction, and leadership coaching, with an emphasis on supporting K-5 math. After a full school year of support, quantitative and qualitative data demonstrate the powerful impact that a formal collaboration with Navigator has had on student and teacher outcomes at Wonderful College Prep Academy (WCPA). Teachers and leaders attribute strong improvement in the school's academic program and culture to Navigator's core elements and training.

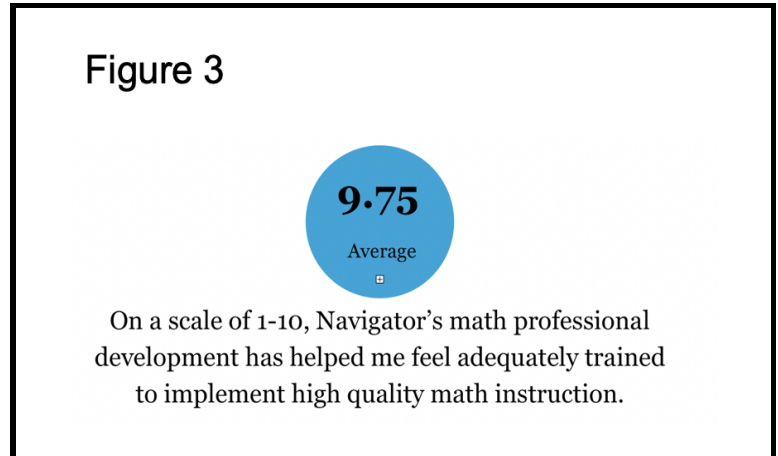
At the beginning of this year, WCPA made a commitment to implement components of the Navigator model, including the addition of small-group instruction and the adoption of school-wide behavior expectations. They applied our rigorous math assessment plan, including formative and summative tests, and they used the same programs we use for our interventions. WCPA implemented the same blended learning software with the same weekly goal structure used in our schools. Navigator spent a total of eight days on site, and the rate of improvement was impressive. Our DCI, Heather Parsons, began providing weekly coaching to the principal when we realized the ideal support model needed to be more frequent and proactive. On Navigator’s most recent visit, it was clear that the model was well on its way to showing exciting results. Classrooms were calm and rigorous, instructional strategies were being implemented across grade levels, and the implementation of Navigator coaching was evident across the school.

The preliminary SBAC reports we were waiting for arrived last week, and they were reaffirming. Figure 1 shows student growth for the same cohort of students when comparing their previous year’s scores at Delano Union to their current outcomes at Wonderful Prep. Their fourth graders exhibited a 17-point gain, and their 5th graders achieved a 26-point gain! Third grade is the first year students take the SBAC, so instead of a growth analysis, we have compared the data from this year’s third grade at Wonderful Prep to Delano Union’s third grade data for the past three years. As indicated in Figure 2, the Wonderful Prep third graders significantly outperformed the district’s averages .



Staff Impact

Navigator has not just focused on improving math instruction and building strong school and classroom culture. We have also actively developed the school leaders at WCPA to become effective instructional coaches, to lead data-driven schools, and to perform effective classroom walkthroughs. To date, Navigator has held over two dozen teacher and leader professional development sessions covering a wide-range of topics from classroom procedures and routines to building effective assessments and increasing instructional rigor. In each case, teacher surveys have shown high satisfaction rates with the quality and value of the trainings as illustrated in Figure 3 which reports data from the network's entire elementary math team.



Learnings

While our focus had been in mathematics, our visit in January helped us understand that there was inconsistency in the small group instruction in ELA classrooms. At our January visit, WCPA leadership used Navigator professional development materials to train ELA teachers in reading fluency in K-2 while 3-5 focused on guided reading and student discussion. At the same time, Navigator worked with the math team and continued the sequence of development planned for the year. It was the first time that WCPA used our training modules and both trainings were well received based on teacher evaluations. WCPA then requested that we begin supporting their reading program in addition to math this school year.

From this pilot we have learned that there needs to be a focus on both early literacy and math; if students are not reading at grade level by the time they enter third grade, their math scores will inevitably plateau.

Next Steps with Wonderful

We wholeheartedly believe that a complete and sustained implementation of our core elements requires a two year commitment. The new Superintendent of Wonderful Schools has just informed us that he will not be extending our partnership into the second year. He has stated that he needs time to take stock of the organization and its needs. The Superintendent has expressed interest in future collaboration.

Healdsburg Update

Since 2016, leaders and teachers from Healdsburg Unified have been frequent visitors to our existing sites. Inspired by Navigator, Healdsburg educators have transformed their classrooms to include small-group instruction, added televisions and iPads in classrooms to support learning, and are using much of our online ELA and math curriculum.

Last spring, Healdsburg requested a one-day, on-site training for all staff in the district. This event was held in August. The feedback from teachers and principals prompted district leadership to request a second day of district-wide professional development in October. They received their preliminary SBAC scores and were pleased to see their scores on an upward trend this year. This “light-touch” collaboration has produced excitement around a full support commitment.

Next Steps with Healdsburg

Navigator and Healdsburg have been working on our formal [Partnership Scope and Commitments for 2019-20](#) which will be presented to their board in a few weeks time. Once approved, we will then draw up an MOU with any revisions that came out of their meeting. Both Healdsburg elementary schools will enter Cohort 2, beginning in August.

Partnership Interest

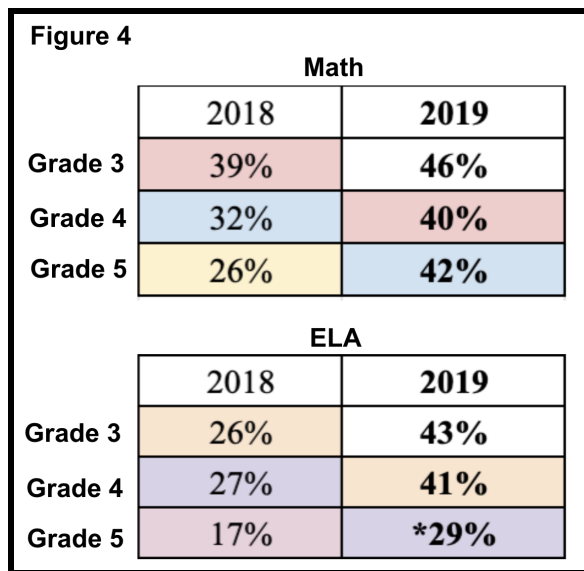
We have agreed to formally model provide for at least four schools, but no more than three organizations. If the Healdsburg Board of Directors approves our partnership, we will have space for two additional partners. There are several schools listed below who have expressed interest in being considered for Cohort 2.

- Promise Academy
- Hayward Collegiate
- Cerra Vista (Hollister School District)
- Oakland Military Academy

Once Navigator receives grant approval, we can then determine which two organizations will be offered support for the 2019-20 school year.

Additional “Light Touch” Collaborations

“Light Touch” collaborations have been fundamental in developing Navigator’s reputation in the greater educational community as a supportive organization. It has always been a part of our culture to provide resources, tours, and advice whenever possible. Through these light-touch collaborations we have built



important relationships with both traditional public schools and public charters. Our objectives with light-touch collaborations continue to be:

- To build bridges between public charter and traditional public schools
- To pilot theories of action in low-risk scenarios
- To provide leaders and teachers with professional development resources through www.navilearning.org,
- To develop relationships early that could grow over time into a larger scale support
- To empower external partners to make changes in their organizations

Next Steps:

1. Finalize our commitment with Healdsburg Unified
2. Continue engagement with our potential partners
3. Continue to build out the model provision assets in preparation for August