



Date: August 16, 2019

To: Board Members

From: Kevin Sved

Re: CEO Update

Dear Trustees,

We launched Watsonville Prep this week! Thank you so much for your support and partnership in helping to make this a reality for students and families in Watsonville! Overall, things have gone very well, especially considering that we didn't receive the keys until the afternoon of August 1. Our ITOM team worked long hours to get the rooms ready for students, as did our teachers and staff. Andi has provided steady and strong leadership. I am very grateful that we have her as our Founding WPS Principal. It was a big team effort, with many support office staff helping to make sure that operations and academics started strong. We planned WPS to open one day before GPS and HPS to allow a concerted effort, and many staff from GPS and HPS joined to support the students and learn the Navigator way. The energy was extremely positive and we have every reason to believe that a healthy school culture is being born. While our enrollment numbers before the start of school exceeded our target of 180, actual attendance in our first three days of school was about 10% short as we averaged 159. We are working diligently to add families from the waiting list so that we reach our target in the next week or so. Kirsten provides an update in the Growth Priority memo with more details and we look forward to sharing more information about the opening during the Board meeting.

GPS and HPS had smooth opening days on Wednesday, and are both off to strong starts. The main challenge on the first day of school is that most parents want to walk their children in, making a bad parking situation much worse. At HPS, we have mitigated the regular grind of the morning drop off challenges by scheduling school to start at 7:30a this year, which provides a 30 minute cushion before R.O. Hardin starts. Our target enrollment at GPS and HPS is 540, and we started with enrollment of 536 at GPS and 541 at HPS.

While we are starting a new academic year, we are also analyzing the results from 2018-19 and using that information to improve our performance in 2019-20. In the academic priority memo, James and Sharon reflect on the preliminary SBAC results and discuss the work going forward to address the gaps and implement intervention programs. Kirsten provides a report on the 2019 spring survey results, and work underway to improve school and organizational culture. I look forward to discussing my role in these efforts and hearing your feedback on how I can strengthen my performance during the CEO evaluation.

Another item in the packet is Heather's update on the dissemination priority. A key highlight is the receipt of a second grant from NewSchools Venture Fund to support this work. (You'll have to read her report to see how much it is...it's more than double last year's grant of \$78,000.)

We are also excited to share the Board Dashboard. After iterating many times with the Board and Governance Committee last year, this latest version addresses all of the key metrics on one page. We hope to reach consensus on the tool so that we can start providing regular dashboard updates at each meeting.

A major agenda item will be to discuss a potential long-term facilities solution for WPS. It is not typical for a charter school to be able to secure a long-term private facility so early in the school's development because track records have not yet been established. Another challenge is that while the school is small, it is difficult to pay for the limited space it needs while still securing the space it will need over the long-term. With the strong success of GPS and HPS, and support from our partners at Pacific Charter School Development (PCSD) and Charter School Growth Fund, a deal seems within reach on a long-term solution for WPS. I look forward to discussing the opportunity in open session, where we are planning to introduce James Huegas from PCSD and the owners of the building at 407 Main, Neva and William "Bill" Hansen. In closed session, we will discuss the project and potential lease and provide guidance on how to proceed with negotiations.

Lastly, the materials from the Governance Committee propose board goals for 2019-20. I believe these align well with the 2019-20 organizational priorities. These organizational priorities and related criteria for success, as discussed and approved during the June meeting, are on the following page. I look forward to working with you in 2019-20 to win on the Board goals and organizational priorities, and move Navigator further along our mission:

***Navigator Schools equips students to become learners and leaders in high school, college, and beyond. We develop top-tier teams of educators who continuously improve and innovate schools that deliver phenomenal outcomes for all students, regardless of their circumstances.***

## 2019-20 Organizational Priorities

### **1) Implement highly effective academic intervention programs to ensure strong results at WPS and existing schools.**

#### Criteria for Success

- A) Intervention programs for math, English Language Arts (ELA), and behavior will be implemented according to the timelines established (in development to be shared during August Board meeting)
- B) At least 50% of students in grades 4-8 at performance levels 1 and 2 in English Language Arts (ELA) will move up at least 1 level on the SBAC.
- C) At least 50% of students in grades 4-8 at performance levels 1 and 2 in mathematics will move up at least 1 level on the SBAC.
- D) Measurable growth targets for students (to be developed) will be reached by at least 50% of students receiving intervention services.

### **2) Establish a viable pathway for continued growth in the changing political climate, while preserving current charters.**

#### Criteria for Success

- A. WPS will be instructionally sound and operationally sound by the start of school.
- B. Staff will submit a plan for developing and strengthening relationships in Gilroy, Hollister, and Watsonville to the Board for approval no later than October 2019, with measurable objectives to be delivered during 2019-20 school year
- C. Staff will submit a detailed plan to launch School 4 to the Board for approval during 2019-20. The plan will describe measurable objectives to be achieved over the course of 2019-20. Proposed revisions to the greenlighting process will be shared with the Board in August 2019.
- D. Staff will submit a plan to support long-term facilities for HPS to the Board for approval by June 2020.

### **3) Deliver effective model provision support to partner schools.**

#### Criteria for Success

- A. Deliver quality support as evidenced by stakeholder feedback, classroom observation rubrics, and other measures to be determined.
- B. Improved results at partner schools (MAP, SBAC, other interim assessments and data sources.)
- C. All dissemination efforts are fully funded by philanthropy and partner fees.