



Date: June 9, 2020

To: Navigator Schools Board of Directors

From: James Dent, CAO and Heather Parsons, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Subject: Dissemination Update

### **Objectives**

- 1) The Board is updated on a new grant award
- 2) The Board is updated on current partnership status
- 3) The Board is briefed on recommended next steps for dissemination as we look to 2020-21, the second year of the board-approved two-year dissemination pilot

### **Grant Update**

Navigator received a grant from the New Schools Venture Fund in the amount of \$175,000 in May, 2020 with the intent to continue to increase our impact through dissemination. The grant award is for one year and will sustain dissemination efforts through the 2020-21 school year. Funding received for dissemination efforts have allowed Navigator to pay for salaries that are benefiting our partner schools as well as Navigator's in many ways, including improved materials and coaching.

### **Current Partnership Work**

We continue to work with:

- Cerra Vista (Hollister)
- Gem Prep Nampa (Idaho)
- Healdsburg Unified School District
  - Healdsburg Charter
  - Healdsburg Elementary

During this COVID crisis we have reached out to and have been working with our current partners in whatever capacity that they feel helpful. We have offered flexible agendas that include collaboration on distance learning models, curriculum, technology, and coaching. Our top priority at this time is to continue building relationships and community with our partners and offer relevant and caring discussions.

### **Next Steps**

1. We have begun strategic planning with our partners for the 2020-21 school year. We are engaged with leadership teams to establish summer training activities for leaders and teachers at our partners' sites.
2. The Cerra Vista principal, Gabriela Armenta, has accepted a position of Director of Curriculum and Instruction for a neighboring district. We are sad to see her leave and she has expressed interest in bringing components of our middle school model to her new district. Her replacement, Colleen Meyers, was once a finalist for a leadership position at HPS. She is moving from the San Benito County Office of Education to Cerra

Vista. Over the years she has partnered with Navigator to bring our coaching training to the SCCOE. We anticipate a continued strong relationship with Cerra Vista but are giving some space for the transition to occur.

### **Partnership Development for 2020-21**

The following organizations have requested support for the 2020-21:

- Hayward Collegiate (Hayward)
- Yu-Ming Charter School (Oakland)
- Wonderful Prep School (2 schools - Delano)
- Healdsburg Unified (2 schools - Healdsburg)

Additionally, a charter management organization, Gem Prep in Idaho, has requested a partnership in which we provide coaching, support and training to the organization's principal manager, as opposed to supporting the principals directly. This approach has interesting benefits as it could increase capacity at a more senior level in the organization which could strengthen sustainability of Navigator model implementation while also potentially increasing the number of principals and students impacted.

While many of the organizations will be significantly subsidized by the New Schools Venture Fund Grant, Wonderful Prep is intending to pay full-price for Navigator's services in the amount of \$80,000 for support at their two elementary schools.

### **Recommendation**

Navigator staff recommends that we directly support the four partners and six schools listed above for the 2020-21 school year. We additionally recommend that we explore the learning opportunity that the Gem Prep affords us to begin expanding our services to upper management of an organization. We would consider the Gem Prep a "light touch" partnership for 2020-21.

We believe that the reorganization of our academic team, namely shifting Melissa Alatorre Alnas to Navigator's Principal Manager, has allowed us to increase capacity at both our sites and within our dissemination team. Crystal Toriumi will be lead on dissemination and Melissa will be lead support for our principals. James Dent will supervise both of them as we strengthen our internal capacity.