



Superintendent's Report
January 26, 2020

Great work is happening throughout the organization. This report is meant to highlight several of the functional areas with updates for the Board of Directors:

Academic Services

- Aviva Ebner, Assistant Superintendent & Chief Academic Officer
- Academic Services Division Update Agenda
 - Counseling Services Updates
 - Online Learning Updates
 - Options Learning Updates
 - Special Education Updates

Financial Services

- Lisa Fishman, Assistant Superintendent & Chief Financial Officer
- Financial Services Division Update Agenda
 - Finance Updates
 - Operations Updates
 - Vendor Relations Updates

Information Services

- Mae Van Vooren, Assistant Superintendent & Chief Information Officer
- Information Services Division Update Agenda
 - Admissions Updates
 - IT Updates
 - Assessment Updates
 - Engagement Updates
 - Community Relations Updates

Human Resources

- Sophia Trivino, Chief of Staff
 - We are working with the Los Angeles County Office of Education to provide *California MTSS* online training to our MTSS Committee. There are five (5) modules in this training, totaling 26 hours. The training itself was developed by the Orange County Office of Education.
 - We have been invited to participate in a virtual professional learning community (VPLC) by Texas A&M University. Staff who participate will receive a \$200 stipend from Texas A&M, along with a Lenovo tablet. We

have 35 staff signed up to participate. The seven (7) sessions are targeted to enrich instructional capacity and increase awareness of educational challenges that scholars and teachers are faced with around the country.

- The San Diego County Office of Education is offering Leading Edge Flex Certification. We previously shared that a number of staff have earned the Leading Edge Blended and Online Teacher Certification. The Flex program is a virtual, self-guided pathway (Leading Edge Administrator, Leading Edge Flex Digital Educator, and The Professional Learning Leader). As this is the first cohort, SDCOE is offering Compass a scholarship of \$200 per employee who participates, meaning the cost will be \$150 per employee. Our goal is for all instructional staff to earn their Leading Edge certification within the next year, and we are encouraging staff to participate in this first cohort of the Flex pathway.
- Organizational changes have transpired since the last meeting. *See enclosed worksheet.*

Executive

- I have started a professional learning network (PLN) of nonclassroom-based charter school vendor relations leaders. We meet monthly, with the goal of aligning our practices in support of our scholars.
- I attended the California Charter Schools Leadership Update Conference in Anaheim with our Compass delegation in early December. In the “Leadership Update Presentation” session, we heard updates from Erik Premack. In the “Consensus Based Budgeting Process” session, we heard about a new way of budgeting, which includes all staff throughout the process. I had the honor of facilitating the “Nonclassroom-Based Charter Affinity Group,” where we discussed coming together as a movement, and telling our story. In the “How Growth-Based Teacher Evaluations Make School a Better Place” session, we learned about processes to improve the teacher evaluation process. In the “Charter Finance Update 2019” session, we heard from Erik Premack on predictions for the upcoming year as they relate to the state budget. In the “Out-of-the-Box Nonclassroom-based Charter Schools Update” session, we talked about the new laws, why they came about, and what may be coming down the pipeline.
- I am honored to serve as a co-guest-editor for the Journal of Online Learning Research and their special issue focused on scholars with disabilities. This special issue is slated to publish later this year.
- Our team, led by Oscar De Jesus, Project Administrator, completed the WASC Initial Visit School Description for CCS of Yolo, for our initial accreditation. The WASC Visiting Committee will visit our Central Office on Monday, February 24, to review the description. *See enclosed WASC Initial Visit School Description.*
- We hosted a 2020-21 Planning Retreat with our Leadership Team on Monday, December 9 at our Central Office. This all-day in-person retreat covered our 2020-21 calendar, state testing, LCAP updates, our master agreement process, mini-conference, review committee updates, and staff morale.

- I hosted Coffee with Compass on Tuesday, December 10, at Milano Coffee & Cafe in San Diego, Thursday, December 17 at Steady Eddy's Coffee House in Winters, and on Tuesday, January 14 at Molinos Coffee in Riverside. These are monthly opportunities for scholars, learning coaches, and staff to connect over coffee or tea. The next Coffee with Compass is this upcoming Tuesday, January 28 at Barclays Coffee & Tea in Northridge.
- I attended the AVID National Conference in Dallas with our Compass delegation in mid-December. In the "District Director Symposium" sessions, I attended workshops on both "Digital Badging" and "Curriculum Updates." There is a badge for AVID scholars, which should show soft skills gained through AVID (critical reasoning, creative problem-solving, collaboration, and basic digital fluency). There are also badges for staff who attend various Summer Institute strands. The two (2) new AVID curriculums being released next year are AVID Tutorial and STEM Middle School. In the "AVID + Tallo" session, we learned more about the free app and the many successes AVID scholars are having using the tool. There is also a five (5)-week curriculum to help deploy the Tallo app in schools. In the "Leveraging the Power of a Schoolwide Instructional Framework" session, we talked about the need for instructional frameworks, and the need to collaborate the create such frameworks. We also talked about the need for our work to at least be AVID informed. In the "AVID Excel: Accelerating Academic Success for Long-Term English Language Learners!" session, we learned more about AVID Excel and its work to support EL scholars. Nationally, 96.4% of AVID Excel scholars are recommended for college prep courses in high school. In the "AVIDizing the Special Education Classroom: Having a Learning Disability Does Not Mean You Can't Be an AVID Scholar!" session, we heard from a school on how they are applying AVID in SDI/SAI time. And in the "The Ripple Effects of Service Learning: How to Engage Scholars in a Project That Will Impact Their Future!" session, we learned about ways to incorporate service learning into the AVID elective, while also involving the entire school community.
- I hosted our second Superintendent's Town Hall for our Online Learning Program on Monday, December 16, and for our Options Learning Program on Wednesday, December 18. These are held quarterly, where I share updates with our families and open up Q&A. The town halls are recorded and shared with all of our families so everyone has access to the information presented (the Q&A section is not recorded). *See enclosed presentations.*
- I hosted our first Coffee with Compass last Thursday, November 14, at Butler's Coffee in Palmdale. These are monthly opportunities for scholars, learning coaches, and staff to connect over coffee or tea. The next Coffee with Compass is tomorrow, Friday, November 22 at Hidden House Coffee in Santa Ana.
- I attended the Winters Joint USD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, December 19. WJUSD is our Compass Charter Schools of Yolo authorizer.
- Our team, led by Oscar De Jesus, Project Administrator, completed the WASC Mid-Cycle Progress Report for CCS of San Diego. The WASC Visiting Committee will visit our Central Office on Monday, February 24, to review the progress report. *See enclosed WASC Mid-Cycle Visit Report.*

- I attended the Mountain Empire USD Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, January 14. MEUSD is our Compass Charter Schools of San Diego authorizer.
- As part of our contract with CSMC, they provide support on the development of our LCAPs. We held our initial planning meeting on Wednesday, January 15 and will be meeting on a regular basis as we prepare our 2020-21 LCAPs for the March Board Meeting, which includes both a public hearing and workshop.
- I have started a professional learning network (PLN) of nonclassroom-based charter school special education leaders. We meet monthly, with the goal of aligning our practices in support of our scholars.
- In an effort to engage more with our staff, I started two (2) new virtual programs: a monthly Virtual 'BYOL' Lunch (to be held the fourth Wednesday of the month) and a monthly Virtual Coffee with the Superintendent (to be held the last Friday of the month). Both programs are one-hour in length, and open to all staff as their schedules allow.
- Mae Van Vooren, Assistant Superintendent & Chief Information Officer, and I attended the APLUS+ Regional Meeting in mid-January. The conversations centered around vendor relations, community partnerships best practices, and use of public funds best practices. I will be attending an APLUS+ Advisory Council Retreat, Sunday, February 1 and Monday, February 2, where we will be talking in-depth about both community partnerships (vendor relations) and personalized learning use of public funds.
- I have started a professional learning network (PLN) of nonclassroom-based charter school English learner leaders. We meet monthly, with the goal of aligning our practices in support of our scholars.
- We are hosting a Mini-Conference this Thursday and Friday, January 30 and 31, in San Diego. This in-person training is part of our CSI programming, where we are focusing PD on improving our graduation rates. We have partnered with Altitude Learning, AVID, and CUE for all of our conference sessions. *See enclosed agenda.*

A lot of great work is taking place, thanks to our dedicated staff, to continue to improve the educational experience we provide our scholars. My thanks to our team for everything they do each and every day.

Respectfully Submitted,



J.J. Lewis
Superintendent & CEO