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2020 Statewide Ballot Includes Tax Fairness

The ballot measure, named the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act (CSLCFA), changes 1978's Proposition 13, which capped property tax rates at 1 percent of their 1976 value and limited inflation increases to 1 percent annually. The low rates are locked in until a property changes ownership, when it can be reassessed at current marked value. Proposition 13 devastated school funding, propelling California's rapid decline from near the top to near the bottom nationally in per-pupil funding.

Crafters of CSLCFA have taken care to guarantee existing protections for homeowners, and have carved out exemptions for agricultural property. If passed, the measure would provide an estimated \$11 billion a year for K-12 schools, community colleges and local services such as health clinics trauma care and emergency rooms.



CSLCFA is endorsed by CTA/NEA, Common Sense Kids Action, California Federation of Teachers, League of Women Voters in California, California State PTA, and SEIU California.

For more information go to SchoolsAndCommunitiesFirst.Org.

Pat Sifuentes-Vasquez Is the Teacher of the Year

Fifth Grade Bandini Elementary Teacher Pat Sifuentes-Vasquez has been named the Montebello Unified School District Teacher of the Year. Pat was awarded this honor Wednesday, May 8 at the District's Employee Recognition.

Her colleagues at the site say that Pat is "always contributing with other teachers." She is also, "very professional and comfortable in the classroom. She models good habits with students." In addition, "Pat promotes college and career readiness. She has a good rapport with students, parents, colleagues, and staff. She is always welcoming with parents, former Bandini students, and current students."

Pat is the site's GATE Advisor. She works the Saturday Academy and Saturday School. She is also teacher S.T.E.M. after school. Pat is known at her site for embracing AVID strategies.

Pat is also the Rotary Teacher of the Year. She will be celebrated at a luncheon Wednesday, May 15 at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello.



Over, please...

LCAP Advisory Committee Gearing Up for 2019-2020

5/6/19 LCAP Advisory Committee

MUSD is off to a fresh start. Armed with a fresh battalion of new faces and new plans, goals and services are in the works to lay new academic foundations for students. As usual, good intentions spring from optimism, and this optimism will pave the path to achievement—but this time, MUSD really means it, I think. (Hey-Teachers have to be optimists!) This time, MUSD aims for full implementation of the good intentions that are documented in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

The May 6th LCAP Advisory Committee reviewed expenditures and encumbrances for goals 1-4, and reviewed data and program updates for goals 2, 3, and 4. The committee's purpose is to promote transparency through clear budget expenditure tables, review narrative in the LCAP plan, and continually analyze measurable data. Specifically, for MUSD, ***LCAP Goal 2 is defined as closing the achievement gap for all students by promoting academic preparedness and career readiness.***

At the last LCAP meeting in February, the committee reviewed a typical MUSD student's academic journey. MUSD has maintained a high school graduation rate of 85.3%. Chronic Absenteeism has not increased but nor have the suspension rates. Overall, we are getting the majority of students through our school system with a diploma.

The question becomes, what does a diploma from MUSD mean?

Diplomas mean the average student will score 40 points below the standard in ELA and 78 points below the standard in Math, as measured by the SBAC, according to our 2018 data. 58.8% of graduating students are deemed "unprepared" for college and their career, as measured by the SBAC. A diploma seems more like a badge of courage in this light, and courage is where this new chapter of MUSD begins.

Major Topics of Consideration

What is going on with the halt in construction?

First, Let's talk about the actions tied to Bond money- D.O. describes the halt in district recabling as a "small hiccup." While construction has stopped, the new plan for MUSD is to get approval from the Division of State Architects (DSA). MUSD has hired architects. They will first go to schools that were labeled "complete", and make sure that construction is safe and legal. If the DSA approves the work, then MUSD will get everything else permitted appropriately, and the project will be completed. After permitting problems are sorted out, the DSA will look at how to work with our district more efficiently so this type of problem doesn't occur again.

What does this mean for the technology initiative?

The Chromebook initiative is moving forward. Lessons that do not depend on Wi-Fi will begin immediately, with teachers being trained in class usage for basic Chromebook skills. Basic computer literacy skills, word processing and presentation development (PowerPoint) will be on the menu for students and teachers. In the interim, we will be looking at internet options for students: using hot spots, or partnering with the city to help pay for internet (like Starbucks).

What's happening with student support services?

Target groups such as: foster youth, special education, economically disadvantaged, and English learners are scheduled to have more services available, both academic and mental health services will be expanded, and for teachers and oversight leaders, this looks like training, and **on-going** support. There is also a class size reduction goal, targeting TK-3rd grade. According to Dr. Martinez, class size reduction will depend on availability of space at each site, in other words, if there is an open and unused classroom at the site, it will be used to support student achievement via class size reduction.

When? When will any of these good intentions be implemented?

While a number of good ideas are in the "think tank" of MUSD's brain pool, there are no dates attached to the good intentions. The goal is to have clear deadlines for the goals and initiatives by June, 2019.

With certainty, I can absolutely say MUSD is funding all these programs and changes with plenty of good vibes and we are operating on a full tank of optimism. Does that count for something? I hope so, because it's the only thing we have plenty of. Well, that and the millions of dollars from unspent bond money.

The next LCAP meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2019. If you have questions, please contact the MTA office at 323-722-5005.