



# Modesto City Schools

## Parent & Community LCAP Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

6-7:30 p.m.

Grace M. Davis High School • Little Theater  
1200 W. Rumble Road, Modesto, CA 95350

1. **How can schools help struggling students?**
  - Offer both social and academic support to students
    - Establish an online portal for students to receive support
    - Allow for more social/emotional engagement and access
    - Have administrators and teachers reach out to students
    - Provide more information on what students need to go to a 4-year college after high school
    - Hire more bilingual counselors who meet more regularly with students
    - Increase the number of college and psychological counselors
    - Find ways to connect students with counselors, teachers and administrators through restorative justice
    - Provide social support for family problems through connecting with Family Resource Centers in the school site neighborhood and collaborating with nonprofits
  - Grow cultural awareness within the district
    - Develop and fund culturally diverse programs – including BSU
    - Establish an ethnic studies class
    - Provide cultural awareness/sensitivity training
    - Support teachers that help students to have a diverse experience
    - Increase diversity in staff (i.e. implement SB 48)
    - Use curriculum that provides positive role models for all
  - Increase staffing in classrooms and classroom support staff
    - Hire more paraprofessionals or roving support staff
    - Look at professional development materials (i.e. Dr. Ginsberg)
    - Decrease class sizes for all grades

- More support/aides for Kindergarten teachers (Spanish and English support; provide aides who know the material)
- Build stronger relationships with parents
  - Provide more one to one time for parents to meet with teachers K-12 (mainly in higher grades to go over materials)
  - Increase trust between parents, schools and students
- Provide adequately funded programs after-school, during school that increase belonging and support (i.e. mentorships, enrichment, clubs)
  - Effectively advertise the programs offered
  - Continue to increase student participation in school activities
  - Grow peer mentorship
  - Re-visit eligibility requests for extra-curricular activities
  - Offer K-12 tutoring
- Modify the IEP process
  - Give diagnoses for dyslexia and dysgraphia, and support students through the IEP process and Special Ed
  - Shorten time frame from SST to IEP (sometimes more than 6 months)
- Modify curriculum to expand learning
  - Increase hands-on learning
  - Motivate students through fun activities
  - Establish a flipped classroom, where lectures are viewed at home and class time is devoted to projects and assignments
  - Provide more 1 to 1 learning opportunities
  - Offer study skills as a course
- Expand the nutrition program
- Increase course access, including visual and performing arts, as per the Ed Code
- Provide more individualized computer software programs that are driven by student success (ELA tech)
- Establish a longer school day, with more time at elementary schools and more periods added at the junior high and high school level
- Reduce bus distance to assist students getting to school
- Open Transitional Kindergarten to all
- Begin intervention very early on
- Build a pipeline between grade levels, K-12 and sites
- Build relationships school-wide

## **2. What can schools do to get parents involved?**

- Send parents surveys to conduct a needs assessment
- Improve events geared towards parents and guardians
  - Organize activities for parents to attend after school
  - Provide/present information that parents want to hear
  - Provide transportation, translation, babysitting, food at events
  - Establish language programs
  - Alternate PTA and site council meetings between morning and afternoon/evening
  - Host weekly parent meetings with educational, social topics to build trust and relationships
  - Host coffee with the counselors, administrators, teachers, etc.
  - “Education Day” at the park or “Saturday with MCS”
  - Provide open meetings every month for parents (small groups)
- Grow communication between parents and school sites
  - Communication from school sites about what is going on
  - Conduct better marketing
  - Improve communication and connection to daily classroom activity
  - Provide better communication in a timely manner
  - Send email/mail notice of meetings, not just what is given to students
  - Provide culturally specific training for parents regarding Common Core
  - Teachers commit to contacting a certain number of parents each month
- Improve online access to information
  - Provide online access to grades and attendance with training nights for the online programs
  - Provide robust websites with information for parents (i.e. downloads, complete calendar items...)
- Expand the Student, Parent & Community Support Services department
- Engage parents in multiple ways at their students’ school
- Staff friendly, culturally diverse people at the counter
  - Increase positive contact with parents
- Provide incentives to students to engage their parents

### **3. What can schools do to prepare students for life after high school?**

- Increase budget for career tech education and career-based electives at all grade levels
  - Increase staffing for vocational/career/tech-ed courses
  - Create career-oriented days/fairs at all grade levels
  - Offer life skills classes (i.e. business, home economics)
  - Place an early emphasis on careers
  - Grow career academies and exploration of different majors
  - Bring the community into the classroom
  - Expand music
  - Support STEAM programs
- Foster business/school/community relationships
- Establish community service and service learning projects
- Establish civic engagement projects
- Focus on cultural awareness and raising self-esteem
- Address all aspects of learning (i.e. oral, auditory, tactile, etc.)
- Improve technological knowledge (i.e. coding, using the internet)
- Teach cyber safety and how to prepare students for online research
- Provide real life examples that tie to the curriculum
- Increase summer enrichment opportunities, including more hands-on activities and clubs
- Enhance after school programs
- More counselors for junior high, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 10<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Create an environment where students feel comfortable and safe advocating for themselves
- Help students, parents and community understand the “value of education”
- Empower students

### **4. What are we doing that’s working?**

- Improving graduation and college rate
- Improving reclassification rate
- Offering various programs
  - PIQUE (Parent Institute)
  - Partially-funded BSU programs
  - Language Institute
  - Robotics (this should be expanded to all high schools)

- AVID (this should be expanded to all schools)
- TRIO
- Offering STEM courses
- Providing success skills and support classes
- Providing field trips and sixth grade outdoor education
- Music ensembles
- Offering mentoring at sites
- Starting collaboration process with key partners
- Drafted Restorative Justice
- Facilitating parent meetings (including meetings like this one)
- Fremont Open Plan (this should be modeled)
- Giving away computers and incentives
- Giving access to college presentations

## **5. What are we doing that's not working?**

- Using failing technology in the classroom
- Inadequate marketing and advertising
- Using Common Core standards with inadequate curriculum or training (i.e. no books in math)
- Keeping high counselor caseloads
- Lack of collaboration across schools, socially and for extra-curricular activities, and with colleges
  - Need to improve sharing between schools what is working to address specific student/cultures/population needs
- Lack of cultural sensitivity training for students and staff
- Discontinuing programs that are working (i.e. police officers)
- Providing inadequate training (i.e. for campus security, new technology)
- Providing inequitable programs and opportunities
- Music is not delivered to kids in their learning environment
- Lack of sufficient site improvements; older schools deserve attention
- Inadequate exploration of alternative education programs (i.e. dual immersion, visual learning)
- Inadequate funding for music instruments
- Inadequate funding for clubs
- Lack of vice principal role at all K-6 sites
- Giving homework over the summer
- Lack of resources and communication for parents

- Classes on cyber safety and technology
- Lack of communication for “Fs” in course
- Not making parents aware of programs offered
- Lack of classified staff training and support
- Only providing AVID as the elective for junior high students; students are lost once they are back in core classes
- Teachers do not receive messages
- Inadequate time after school for teachers to meet with parents K-12
  - Should be expanded to 5-6 p.m., minimum days, early mornings
- Inadequate Internet access on campus
- Inadequate amount of sidewalks in some neighborhoods
- Inadequate mold safety inside and out of buildings
- Inadequate lights at Modesto High School
- Inadequate focus on bullying and anxiety
- Inability for staff to articulate and communicate between sites and grade levels
- Lack of an adequate math program for struggling high school students
- Inadequate distribution of students evenly across district schools

### **Miscellaneous**

- Provide comprehensive recycling programs
- Provide web access for all instructional material
- Convert junior high schools to middle schools (6, 7, 8)
- Offer a middle school United Nations program
- Keep 6<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor education
- Offer daily tech support on Panasonics at the elementary level
- Offer the IB program at the middle school level
- Hire roving art teachers
- Raise the quality of food: create salad bars, hire a cook at all cafeterias, stop bringing in junk food
- Establish locker rooms that are open after school
- Change library hours to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all schools
- Establish an online downloadable library
- Provide full AP offerings at all high schools
- Hold the student LCAP meeting in January, not December
- Establish high quality journalism and speech and debate at all schools

- Address the substitute shortage (possibly pay subs more)
- Fully fund sports programs
- Offer affordable busing options
- Build tracks at junior highs and elementary schools
- Build shade structures at all schools
- Provide enough lockers for all students in high school
- Fully fund class supplies; \$100 per class of 35 kids for the year does not suffice
- Update the ELA curriculum for Common Core
- Provide 1 to 1 devices (not Panasonics) for students with updated curriculum on the device
- Provide SAT preparedness classes
- Offer STEM classes at all junior high and high schools
- All kids are not cookie cutter – stop trying to standardize everything
- Individualized instruction focused on growth