

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Agenda Item 8.2

Meeting Date: December 7, 2017

Subject: Graduation Task Force Update

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division:

Financial Considerations

Board of Education Executive Summary

Academic Office/Continuous Improvement

Graduation Task Force Update

December 7, 2017

I. Overview/History of Department or Program

The Sacramento City Unified School District recognizes that high school graduation is a pivotal milestone in the lives of its students and works diligently to ensure all students successfully complete the required course work and courses of study to graduate from the school district with the requisite skills for college and career readiness. The district's new Equity, Access, and Social Justice Guiding Principle underscores the importance of high school graduation and its significance in ensuring that all students are not just given an equal opportunity to graduate, but are able to do so with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options.

However, in recent years the SCUSD graduation rate trend has been uneven. For example, graduation rate was 79.9% for the 2012-13 school year, peaked at 85.8% for the 2013-2014 school year but declined back to 81.4% for the 2015-16 school year. This concerning pattern led Superintendent Aguilar to create the graduation taskforce which was announced on the first day of school, August 31st. The taskforce is comprised of a diverse coalition of people including SCUSD Board members, leaders of district parent advisory groups, collective bargaining partners, and members of various community-based organizations and partners.

Below is a list of the task force members.

First	Last	Agency
Darryl	White	Black Parallel School Board
Malissia	Bordeaux	Blacks Making a Difference
Michael	Minnick	SCUSD Board Member, Area 4
Mai	Vang	SCUSD Board Member, Area 5
Christina	Pritchett	SCUSD Board Member, Area 3(r)-1(,)-4()-10(A)-P4.84 2

	Canty	Legislative Director, State Assembly
Gretchen	Viglione	Parent Teacher Home Visit Project
Liz	Guillen	Public Advocates
Robbie	Abelon	Region Builders
Ashlin	Malouf	Sacramento ACT
Kim	Williams	Sacramento Building Healthy Communities, Hub Director

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David	Fisher	Sacramento City Teachers Association
Robert	Dugan	Sacramento Metro Chamber Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Economic Development
Angel Marie	Garcia	SCUSD's Community Advisory Committee Representative
Sarah	Nguyen	SCUSD Student Board Member
Michael	Fry	United Professional Educators
Jim	Keddy	Youth Forward

The task force convened on September 20th with the charge of developing a set of rigorous recommendations for the Superintendent by December 2017 that will guide district policy and practice and lead to improvements in graduation rates where all students are fully prepared for any postsecondary option they may choose. To date the committee has met eight times in preparation for the December 7th Board meeting.

Below is a summary of the task force meetings and key topics addressed

Meeting Date	Topics	Speakers
August 31, 2017	Call to Action	Superintendent and Board of Education
September 20, 2017	Dropout Crisis	Russell Rumberger, Ph.D, UC Santa Barbara, California Dropout Research Project Topil36.56 re q 167.56 298.5292.479 27.59 0..
October 3, 2017		

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November 8, 2017	Foster Youth English Learner Students Impact of Ds and Fs Work Teams	Flojaune G. Cofer, Ph.D, MPH, Public Health Advocates Vanessa Girard, Multilingual Education Director Darryl White, Black Parallel School Board
November 14, 2017	Work Teams / Recommendations	
November 28, 2017	Work Teams / Recommendations	

The task force will continue to meet through the remainder of the ~~2017~~ to further refine the

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The important takeaway is that high school graduation matters in multiple ways. High school graduates have a much higher chance of achieving their personal dreams than high school drop outs. The recommendations of the task force are grounded in this research and understanding and is driven by the district's Equity, Access, and Social Justice guiding principle which calls for students to have an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of choices from the widest array of options

III. Budget:

The budget for this item will be determined by the recommendations of the Graduation Taskforce.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

Improving graduation rate initiatives are outlined in the district's LCAP and includes items such as adding counselors at the secondary level, California College Guidance Initiative pilot and College Readiness Block grant initiatives. In addition, as the Graduation Task Force completes its work, several of their recommendations will be adopted during next year's budget process and LCAP revisions

V. Major Initiatives:

It is important to note that several initiatives are underway with district teams including principals, counselors, registrars and Serna center staff. These initiatives focus on a range of activities including graduation support (e.g. supporting students to get back on track to graduate), college exposure (e.g. targeted UC Merced homecoming trip) and additional efforts to encourage students to see the value of high school graduation. Additional activities will be identified as a part of the Graduation Task Force follow up.

The committee members utilized the framework from the research of Dr. Russel Rumberger as outlined in his seminal work *Dropping Out: Why Students Drop Out of High School and What Can Be Done About It* and the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences panel that produced the *Dropout Prevention Practice Guide* (2008 and 2017). The committee organized into three groups which focused on 6 critical areas outlined in this research literature namely:

- x Academics and Low Aspirations
- x Attendance and Mobility
- x Misbehavior and Retention

The draft recommendations are organized around these key areas and are attached with this board agenda item. Staff is continuing to review the recommendations in preparation for the December 7th board meeting and so draft recommendation language may be modified prior to the board meeting as appropriate.

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Sacramento City Unified School District
 Graduation Task Force
 Preliminary Recommendations as of November 28, 2017

Predictor	#	Recommendation
Academic Low Aspirations	1	District will identify a stakeholder task force to include all stakeholders, SOPE SEIU, Representatives from Human Resources, etc. to define a "Strong Culture of Teaching and Learning." They will also define criteria for what a quality school looks like, identify components of excellent teaching and learning and procure models of excellent teaching and learning to serve as a baseline to develop professional development (PD) improve teaching and learning districtwide. See attachment A. (LCAP, SPSA)
Academic Low Aspirations	2	District will identify and implement several staff (administrators, teachers, support staff, e development pathways e.g. web-based, collaborative time, etc) that allow school sites the ability to shape and identify training for staff to embrace the new culture. (may require negotiations)
Academic Low Aspirations	3	School Site Resources e.g. webbased paper etc) will be developed to assist sites in obtaining resources for their unique needs as they move in sync with a culture of strong teaching and learning.
Academic Low Aspirations	4	

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