

Friday Letter to the Board

October 7, 2022



10/11 Board Agenda

6.11 Food Service agreement

11.2 Enrollment Report for Month 1

16.1 Increasing the Southland (formerly Enviser) agreement for additional HVAC installations - HS, FR and ER offices.

16.2 Annual EPA (Prop 30 sales tax increase) report to allocate the funds to teacher salaries. Fyi a corresponding amount gets deducted from our LCFF base funding as part of the state's funding process.

16.3 El Rincon Booster Bylaws. We will also separately be bringing BP revisions and discussions about centralized funding, in order to address the issue of Boosters not having to pay for district daytime staff.

Security

Following up on the student's concerns expressed at the Board meeting - we found out that no one had reported anything so Dr. Cooper was going to follow up with students. From a Security stand-point, Mr. Ronchetti was interviewing staff and reviewing videos but it's hard to check with no details. His other general comments are below:

At the request of the high school administrators, security personnel routinely enter the restrooms to check for vandalism, maintenance issues, cleanliness,

fights, inappropriate behavior, and smoking. Security personnel do not search students without a request from an administrator, and only search in the presence of an administrator. Any time a search of a student is conducted, the searching officer is required to write a report outlining the reason for and results of the search. Our contract security personnel are not allowed to conduct searches of students. I am not aware of any instance where security personnel search students upon exiting the restroom.

On a separate issue, I am happy to announce that Mr. Ronchetti has arranged to get new uniforms for our officers, trying to get away from looking like police and instead being more approachable. We will do blue polo shirts with only a CCUSD logo, no additional badges or anything, along with tan khaki pants. We will also have the contract security officers wear the same outfit. This will happen as soon as we can get everything delivered. The nighttime officers will continue to wear the current uniforms, as they work in a different environment, with adults.

Facility Issues

Ceiling tiles: We started looking at options for the falling acoustic ceiling tiles last year. The Master Plan recommendation was to replace them all for \$600-700k but we made the decision not to go that route since they can only be attached by mastic/glue and would just start falling again in 5 years or so. We have examined the underlying ceilings, which are mostly unfinished drywall. The process got held up trying to find an acoustic, aesthetically pleasing solution for what to replace the tiles with. I actually started getting new quotes a couple weeks ago to just remove all the existing tiles and then deal with the underlying ceilings after that gets done. Work on this one is a challenge because of access to classrooms, but we'll get everything started on nights/weekends and continue on holiday breaks. I will share progress/pics as they start to work. Depending on the timing, I may bring this work contract to the Board as a Ratification if waiting for Action approval would cause a delay.

Others: The rusty HVAC equipment was replaced during the course of HVAC work in the years since the Master Plan photos were taken. The damage to the HS portables was repaired in 2020, right before COVID. I discussed the freezer issue in last week's Friday Letter. Some other bigger issues (like replacing all windows) really should wait for the bigger campus rebuild.

Information: It has become apparent that my communication about these issues needs to improve so Mr. Tran and I have decided to put a regular Information item on each Board meeting agenda (starting 10/25). We will prepare lists of projects with timelines and budgets to share and will also be posting everything on our website. So much work has been done and is being done but we don't usually talk about that in meetings unless something bad comes up.

Staff: Our “General Maintenance” position is one of the most valuable for getting odds and ends of repair jobs done that tend to come up in the state of our facilities conversations. We only have two at this time, with a posting for a third that we just recently authorized. I am now adding two more of those positions as permanent staff so we can do a better job keeping up with miscellaneous repairs.

Custodial: We have addressed the salary increase request through Negotiations; that will be coming to the Board from HR. In the meantime, Mike Korgan is bringing on a bunch of the contract workers on a daily basis since it is so difficult to get them last minute when we have absences. We are adding most of them to the evening shifts to assist with classroom cleaning specifically.

Restrooms: We are adding staff restrooms to the remodel list, starting with the HS ones.

CBAC Meeting 10/6

We had a good meeting this week, although three members could not attend. We discussed the UA budget report that I presented to the Board on 9/13 and I shared some draft MYP information that includes a positive outlook for our budget going forward.

We had a lengthy discussion of the “property exploration/potential housing” project, specifically about the proposed contract. Mr. Tran was in attendance and helped me address their concerns and questions, mostly the same ones brought up at the Board meeting. I think one of the critical questions to answer would be the source of the funding for this particular contract (if brought forward and approved). I would recommend using a Restricted Facility fund to avoid affecting the General Fund.