

**YESS Program
LAC/Community Council
September 19, 2019 11:30 am**

Attendees:

Dave Koldewyn

Suki Cannon

Jason Rosvall

Cara Stephens

Stephanie Lupeamanu

Kimberlee Huam

Cindy Willis

Sione Vailahi

Trina Valdez

Nic Shellabarger

Ann Jones

Darcie Peterson

Lori Nadea

GSD Goals:

As an accredited school, we follow the goals set by the district as well as goals for our program.

Two goals set by the district for every school are:

Increase achievement for every student

Jason explained that this goal heavily relies on testing and PBG (Performance Based Grading) for each school. We are exploring what integration in YESS can look like entailing PBG.

Increase in parent and community engagement

This council meeting is the time for us to get feedback from all attendees as to our direction and what needs they have that we can address in our school settings. Jason asked for more feedback on budget items and programs that we are implementing at our sites. We will consider all recommendations when we are working on our grants.

Performance Based Grading (PBG):

This is a shift in how schools evaluate student. Extra credit and homework do not calculate into PBG formula. The focus is still drilling down to identifying competency versus subject completion. Students should be graduating with skills and not just a diploma. This is being pushed throughout the district and across the state. This new system will help with continuity in academics across the state.

YESS Vision:

In addition to following the goals set by the district, YESS also has specific goals for the students we serve.

Reading

YESS will continue to focus on reading progression at all our sites. We use the San Diego Quick Assessment to determine the reading level of each student and to help them progress. YESS has reading tutors at most sites and can provide tutoring to most students. We address reading as our priority.

Cindy Willis indicated that we pull out most students for tutoring so that there is no stigma attached to being pulled for our reading service. Data is showing remarkable progress with our students. Cindy also said that they are in the process of separating ELL student's data from the other students so they can get a better idea of how much improvement the students are experiencing. Reading Inventory is showing good progress. Some of our graduation data looks low because many students who come from other districts enroll for a short period of time at DT or at Youth Services. When students are released and if they don't return to their district, it shows as a drop out on our system.

Mindfulness

Our current efforts are to focus on Mindfulness to coordinate services with facility interventions. Mentors and staff are being trained to use this technique. YESS staff is being trained twice per quarter and mentors will receive individualized training four times during the year. The focus will be on helping students succeed as well as help the staff with tools for self-care and resiliency.

Nearpod

Near Pod is a platform for teachers to teach interactive lessons with built in assessment tools. It works with Google and Canvas. It has quizzes, polls and open-ended questions so teachers can assess the learning level of the class and individuals. It can be designed as student paced. Nearpod includes virtual field trips and a multitude of resources in many areas. It provides a large library of lesson plans and allows teachers and schools to design lesson plans and edit or customize existing plans. YESS is creating an internal data base of lessons for our teachers. This enables teachers to use the plans of other teachers within the program. Nearpod is endorsed by UEN and is widely used by districts across the state. Each student has their own code and can access Nearpod from home. Suki explained that we are holding monthly training with teachers through her TILT Team.

Website

Please check out the website for upcoming dates and recent activities. Anyone on the council is welcome to contribute articles for our blog. If there are personnel changes, please contact Suki.

Transition Units:

Jason passed out a flyer explaining the purpose and goals of each of our Transition Units. The feedback we have received indicates that we need to offer customized scheduling for students, credit recovery and assist students with skill sets as they transition to mainstream school settings.

Connections Campus

Model: Co-teaching design with students in mainstream classes for part of the day. Focus on returning to homeschool or matriculation into the Connections High campus. It is a full day program.

sStep Campus

Model: Single teacher with half day schedule. Focus on credit recovery, adult education and vocational preparation. MOSS Certifications access. Ideal setting for students who also possess jobs or are seeking employment.

Students are not required to attend these units and may return to their home schools at any time. These units are not equipped to deal with dangerous or volatile students. All units have access to a Social Worker.

Faculty Snapshots:

We have three new directors at Genesis, UNI GTC and Decker. We look forward to their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm. We are having students for shorter time periods and are subsequently trying to concentrate our efforts so that the time they spend in our schools is worthwhile to each student. Staffing provided by each facility is determined by agency policy and therefor needs to be in compliance for safety assurances. We look forward to working together on this issue.

Please email Jason if there is a certain issue that you would like to see addressed in this meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: December 12, 2019