Winter Camp Served Hundreds of Students

Hundreds of students grades TK-12 attended the District's first-ever Winter Camp over the Winter Break. Funded by the Extended Learning Opportunities Program, fun learning opportunities were held on 11 days of the break.

Transportation and three meals a day were provided to participating students free of charge.

The most popular secondary option was a Driver Education Program with 50 students enrolled. Other enrichment programs included: boxing, STEAM, soccer, dance, art (painting), marine life education, ceramics and music to name a few. Field trips were also provided.

The following people received a shout out for their roles in making Winter Camp a success:

- Site Leads, Teaching Aides, Health Aides, PE Coaches, Custodial Staff at Roosevelt and SHS
- HR Department
- Child Nutrition Department
- Transportation Department
- Business Department
- Technology Department
- Fresno County Office of Education and Teaching Fellows Partners

Photos top to bottom:
Learning about marine life; ukelele class; young engineers
Community Day Class In Operation

Organization of Selma Unified’s own Community Day services continues. Students previously were referred to a Community Day School program in Fresno, operated by the Fresno County Office of Education, but they are not able to accept our students any more.

Community Day options provide an education for students who have been expelled, students referred by a school attendance review board or probation, and other youth at high risk. Community day schools have a low student-teacher ratio and provide a 360-minute minimum instructional day with challenging curriculum and individual instructional strategies to meet the students' learning abilities and needs. Additionally, community day school programs focus on the development of social skills, emotional development, and resiliency.

Students will have the chance to complete extra coursework to ensure they are on-track to graduate.

Student progress is regularly reviewed to determine if the student can return to the high school, or another Selma Unified educational option.

Delbert Ray is working with Dr. Scott Pickle to implement Community Day options. He shared these updates:
- The Community Day class is located on the Heartland Campus
- Operational details from a parent/student handbook to intake procedures are in-place
- Teacher and staff hired
- Jan. 9 was the first day of operation

Board Policy for Narcan Administration Considered

The Board of Trustees reviewed a proposed board policy that included rules about schools administering Narcan to students believed to be suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose.

Narcan can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose which saves lives. Persons who receive Narcan but are not overdosing on an opioid are not harmed by the medication.

The State of California is considering a bill requiring doses of Narcan to be available at public schools.

The policy was discussed and will return to a future meeting.
Parent Outreach to Aid in Daily Attendance Efforts

Dr. David Diehl, SUSD Director of Student & Community Services, described the District’s new tool for promoting student attendance. Educators know that attendance is one of the most important indicators of student success, and the District is continually undertaking efforts to ensure students are in school.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as when a student misses 10% or more of days enrolled in school (excused or unexcused absences).

Attention to Attendance (A2A) is an attendance monitoring and communication system that helps the District mail letters home to notify parents about their students’ missed days, and offer families options to ensure their child isn’t missing critical instruction.

Selma Unified principals and staff have been working very hard this year to make sure students attend school regularly. The A2A system will support their efforts.

The District offers tiered interventions which are a multitude of ways to support families to boost their students’ attendance.

The law requires students to be in school, and the District prefers to notify, reach out and support, rather than prosecute.

Other Board Actions

The board approved trainings for Selma Unified staff members on Restorative Justice and Math Mastery.

The board approved purchase of a modular building to serve as restroom facilities for the Community Day School.

The Board approved a contract with SGH for architectural services for walk-in freezers/coolers at Jackson Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary. Due to the increase in meal participation, additional storage is needed to house both fresh and frozen products. The current units are decades old.

The board approved a contract with Alan Mok Engineering for civil engineering services for the Maintenance Complex which will be moving to the property housing the transportation department.

The Board approved a contract with Snap On Industrial to purchase equipment to change, balance and monitor tires for all white and yellow fleet vehicles. The mechanics currently must drive in pairs to a tire service company where we pay for services. This purchase will reduce annual costs and travel time for the transportation employees.
Employee Action

New Hires/Transfers

Sonya Acevedo, Mental Health Clinician
Guadalupe Estrada, Health Care Assistant
Alexander Gonzalez, Mental Health Clinician
Daniela Herrera, Food Service Assistant I, ALMS
Valerie Jasso, Bus Driver
Binder Kaur, Food Service Assistant I, ALMS/Eric White Elementary
Virginia Lugo, Food Service Assistant I, Wilson Elementary
Ashley Manzanalez, LVN
Christina Rivera, Food Service Assistant II
Wilson Elementary
Ashley Sowden, Registered Behavior Technician
Jonathan Vargas, Campus Safety Officer II
Edmund Vieira, Community Day Program Teacher Heartland
Joelle Wade-Gonzalez, Bus Driver

Resignations

Monica Collins, 2nd Grade Terry Elementary
Annette De Pasquale, 8th Grade Block Abraham Lincoln Middle School
Maria (Delores) Escobedo, Administration Assistant
Wilson Elementary
Velia Juarez, Program Manager Roosevelt Elementary
Paul Mesa, PE Assistant
Michelle Nicholas, 2nd Grade Roosevelt Elementary
Susan Ramirez, Instructional Assistant RSP Roosevelt Elementary
Yvonne Riojas, Bus Driver
Marilyn Shepherd, District Superintendent
Linda Turpin, Principal Roosevelt Elementary
Eduardo Valdespino, Groundskeeper
Lawrence Viau, RSP Jackson Elementary
Sarah Weaver, Foods Service Assistant I

Other HR Actions

Increased Hours for RSP Instructional Assistants
This school year, Selma Unified has significantly expanded services to Special Education students. Currently, Selma Unified has 20 instructional assistants who support Resource Specialist Programs (RSP). The Board of Trustees approved increasing the hours for these instructional assistants from 5.75 hours daily to 7 hours per day. This increase in hours will provide additional services to RSP students including additional small group instruction and intervention.

Creation of Two New Custodial Positions
The Board of Trustees added two 5.75 hour additional custodial positions – one at Heartland Educational Options and one at ALMS. With the creation of the two positions, custodians who previously had work split shifts at two different school sites, will now spend the entire shift at one school site. The additional positions will assist the Operations Department and the school sites to ensure classrooms and facilities are cleaned, and assist with coverage if a custodian is unable to cover their shift due to vacation or illness.

Creation of Two New Mental Health Clinicians and Two New School Social Worker positions
The Board of Trustees approved the creation of two new Mental Health Clinician positions and two new School Social Worker positions. These positions will work at school sites across the District as there are more demands for mental health services for our students and families. Our Mental Health Clinicians work directly with our students to assist them with coping skills and to address individual mental health needs. Our School Social Workers assist school sites with attendance, make home visits, and assist in Tier II mental health/social skills interventions.

Board Briefs provides highlights from the school board meeting. This is not the official board record, and it doesn't include every item on the agenda. Official Board minutes are posted on the district website under “Board of Trustees”.