

**March 4, 2008**

SLAC

Present: Carolyn Whisler, Jon Steenhoven, Barry Bussewitz, Lyn Van Tighem, Amanda Kvalheim

**Presentation: Dave Rose, Campus Safety**

Please refer to handout: **Safety Measures in Petaluma City Schools**, outlining the safety measures that are in place in our schools. These include: each school's Safe School Plan, the new automatic phone dialer to contact all parents and staff in the event of an emergency, the Healthy Kids Survey, California Education Code to set guidelines for discipline, BEST (Building Effective Schools Together) Program, Internet Safety Standards, Caring School Communities, DARE Program (Elementary), Project Alert (Junior High), Toward No Drugs (High School). The Project Success grant has allowed us to have a Project Success counselor on each high school campus that helps with interventions and referrals. Other programs in place at the individual sites are: Small Learning Communities, Counselors, Safe Schools Counselors, Project Tuff, Mentor Me. Threat Assessment is handled by our Safe Schools Counselor, working with other public service entities, who determines the level of risk that a particular student may impose and refer that student to appropriate people and/or agencies. PCS uses the 40 Developmental Assets as an intervention strategy. The Petaluma Youth Network is a group of community people and organizations who work with young people to form a vision as to how to better support our youth and their success.

Other partnerships include the Sonoma County Office of Education Clean and Sober Classroom, the Court and Community School Classroom, the Adolescent Expansion Program, the Parent Support Group for parents of Teems, The Parent Project and the Tobacco Diversion Services.

On our junior high and high school campuses we have campus supervisors and School Resource Officers (Petaluma Police Department). We also have a relationship with the Sonoma County Court and Probation Department, and routinely communicate with them regarding student matters.

Please refer to second handout: **Petaluma City Schools Suspension/Expulsion Data:** It appears that we had a slight rise in the number of suspensions last year; part of this is due to the way the data was previously recorded. We now have a consistent way to record this data. We have a process in place to address discipline in a clear and consistent manner. When a student is suspended, the individual teachers have the option to provide work for the student to make up. Sometimes in-house suspension will be put in place instead of home suspension, where classroom assignments can be worked on. The number of students who have been suspended this year is significantly lower than it has been over the past years.

Meaningful and engaging curriculum and instruction and the increasing level of support available have contributed to the decrease of student suspensions. The percentage of students graduating after four years of high school has also continued to increase.

The Board revised its Mission, Vision and Goals to reflect the values and input received from across the community in 2004. Each school site uses this document to develop their individual school plans.

Three contributing factors that have also helped focus instruction in the classroom are: Differentiation of instruction at the individual classrooms; identifying Power Standards; and using local assessments to identify student needs to help better inform instruction.

The number of expulsions in the district has also significantly decreased, due to the same factors.

The district has applied for a K-12 Counseling Grant, which would provide a full-time counselor on every site. This person would provide support to students, families, teachers, and administrators. Currently we have two counselors who provide services to all six elementary schools. Also, the district is applying for another grant that would provide \$1.5 million, which could include funding for the counselors should the other grant not be funded. This also includes two of our feeder districts, Old Adobe and Waugh Districts. Both of these districts have exemplary programs in place (counseling and after school programs) which will be incorporated for use into Petaluma City Schools through this grant. This grant would include working with the Police Department, Mental Health, and Probation Departments. This would allow funding for a new probation officer to be brought to our campuses, and allow funding for a licensed social worker from Sonoma County Mental Health to have an office in Petaluma.

SCHOOL	
Lyn Van Tighem McNear	The Poetry Celebration was last month. Students wrote during recess time. There were 62 participants, and some of their creations are being submitted to the national anthology and will be incorporated into their book. Both a 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> grade student went to the regional spelling bee and did well. The Governor's Fitness Challenge is starting this month, and students are encouraged to track physical activity. Next week the younger grades will have their performing arts event.
Carolyn Whisler Casa Grande	They have applied for a \$1.2 million grant to continue Smaller Learning Communities. The Visual and Performing Arts cluster had a field trip to San Francisco to the de Jung Museum.. It was very enriching to experience this with the teacher. The Academic Decathlon Team is going to the state championship this weekend. Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams made it to the SCL playoffs. The Lions Food Festival to support project grad is this Saturday; tickets are \$35. There is a Boosters' fundraiser on April 18 <sup>th</sup> at Beyond the Glory from 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Amanda Kvalheim Petaluma High	No official report. The Site Council wants each department to report to them on how they are doing in their individual departments.