

Board Meeting Highlights - April 18, 2017

The Educational Showcase this month highlighted the innovative practices underway at Bacich and Kent. District Innovation and Technology Integration Specialist Michael Bessonette shared a video collage of the wide variety of engaging activities students are experiencing that utilize coding, design, digital arts, and more. Third grader Leo Centeno and 4th grader Tessa Marshall shared projects in which they used Scratch Jr. and Google Maps. Middle schoolers Sam Lieberman and Miranda Wabl (5th grade), Juliet Frankus (6th grade), Jack White (7th grade), and Dante Luis (8th grade) demonstrated creations that utilized Google Classroom, WeVideo, Scratch, 3-D printing, and an Arduino-powered rotating solar panel. Kent teachers Peter Goetz and Jeff Deboi specifically showcased the Enterprise program and Maker space.

The Board concluded its discussion regarding Measure D building plans at Kent. A series of meetings in March focused on the fact that our current enrollment trends are inconsistent with the enrollment predicted in the KSD 2013 Demographic Study. While our enrollment varies moderately from year to year, the gap between actual enrollment and what was predicted in 2013 is almost 200 students. It is, therefore, no longer necessary to move 4th grade to Kent, the need for an 8-classroom building to accommodate this move is eliminated, and community taxpayers save \$8 million dollars in bond issuance. All other building projects will continue at Kent including building a new music classroom, modernizing all classrooms, and relocating the administrative offices to the front of the campus in order to improve campus security. This adjustment to our plan will leave resources available to future Boards to respond to unanticipated enrollment surges.

There are no changes to the building projects and modernization scheduled at Bacich.

A more complete summary of the recent decisions taken by the Board and a full description of the Measure D projects currently planned for both Bacich and Kent will be available in the near future.

Liz Schott shared a summary of notes from the Strategic Plan Tune-Up meeting in late March. This input, coupled with the data from our recent parent survey, community meetings, and the California School Dashboard, will provide fodder for the administrative team to craft strategic goals and initiatives that will inform our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). The last opportunity for input on the 2017-18 LCAP is May 1, from 7-8 p.m. in the Kent Library.