

September 13, 2016

### **Board Meeting Highlights**

At this month's Board meeting, Director of Student Services Virginia DiGirolamo gave a presentation detailing the panoply of services Kentfield School District provides its students. Student needs related to health, emotions, academic challenges, learning and other disabilities, English acquisition, and character development are addressed in our schools. Whether a student arrives in one of our classrooms with an identified need, or something arises in the course of his/her education with us, we have robust systems in place to work in collaboration with parents to ensure the greatest possible chance of success for that child. If you have any concerns about your Bacich or Kent student, please contact your teacher or Principal, and see how well this support system works.

Exciting professional development is taking place in our district this year. One initiative is designed to build capacity among our teachers who have volunteered for leadership roles with their peers. Each grade level and each curriculum area at Bacich and Kent have lead teachers whose job it is to meet with their constituent groups and with administration to share decision-making and information and ensure that all voices are heard. We have invited experts from West Ed to come work with teacher leaders on (a) clarifying the vision for their grade level or curriculum work, (b) how to use effective planning and monitoring practices, (c) how to engage colleagues during meetings, and (d) how to address team challenges.

The other area of work is in culturally responsive teaching for deeper learning. A team of six teachers and administrators from Bacich is attending this four-session series at the Sonoma County Office of Education where they are examining content and instruction through the lens of culturally responsive teaching and learning. The series is facilitated by Zaretta Hammond, author of *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*.