



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

January/February 2019 - Volume VIII - No 3

A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu

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A Revised California School Dashboard

In March 2017, the California Department of Education launched the California School Dashboard. The Dashboard affected all public school districts in California. This is the State's accountability and continuous improvement system. The system includes the eight State priorities that define a quality education from a broader perspective than a single test score. The State used an accountability evaluation rubric to analyze state and local performance standards.

The California School Dashboard provides multiple measures of student performance and a more complete picture of students' educational experience. The Dashboard includes academic indicators, progress of

English learners, college and career indicators, high school graduation rate, suspension rate, and chronic absenteeism. A few of these measures are still a work in progress at the State level. The academic indicator for measuring progress of student achievement is the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) in English Language Arts and Math for grades 3rd through 11th.

There are a number of revisions to the California School Dashboard including how graduation rates are calculated and how a high school student is determined to be college and career ready. Chronic absenteeism is now calculated for each school and the District. We have included information regarding these changes on our District's website at: <http://www.abcusd.us>

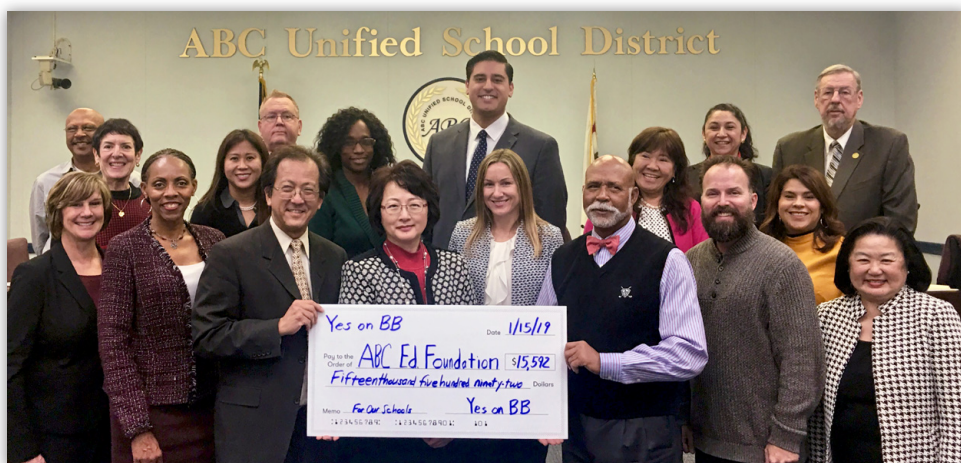
On January 15, 2019, we presented information regarding our District's outcomes on the California School Dashboard at the Board of Education Meeting. We invited staff from Furgeson ES, Ross MS, and Gahr HS to share their Dashboard results and areas of improvement. To check out our District's results and individual school results in ABC Unified School District, please go to the California Department of Education web site for the California Accountability Model and School Dashboard at <http://www.caschooldashboard.org/> ▶



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Members of the Measure BB Committee and the Board of Education join in donating a check to the ABC Education Foundation.

Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent of ABCUSD, has been selected as "Superintendent of the Year" by Education Dive: K12. The 2018 Dive Awards recognize the industry's top disruptors and innovators. These executives, companies, trends and breakthroughs are transforming the industry and shaping the future. Education Dive: K12 solicited suggestions for title nominees from its 151,000 readers. Winners were chosen by the editors of Education Dive: K12 based on resonance and industry impact. Please find the link for more information below: <https://www.educationdive.com/news/superintendent-of-the-year-mary-sieu-abc-unified-school-district/539043/> ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Furgeson Elementary School Open MIC Program

On Tuesday, December 4 at Furgeson Academy of Communication and Technology, fourth grade student writers share their stories in their first Open MIC Program. The fourth grade students did a fabulous job expressing their stories in English and Spanish since many are in the Dual Language Immersion Program. Equally as important were the student technologists who were taping and recording these stories to be broadcasted later to the school. It was indeed a Writing Celebration! ▶



Furgeson ES Open MIC - 4th grade students read the stories they created. Principal Alejandro Gutierrez and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu congratulate the students for sharing their stories.



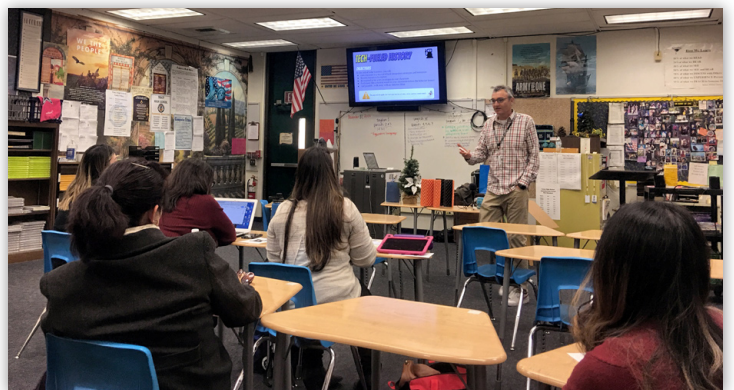
Furgeson ES Open MIC Student Technologists

4th Annual Technology Symposium

On December 11th, we held our 4th Annual Technology Symposium at Tracy HS. The Symposium was provided by our own teachers and staff members to showcase the various tech tools available and how to use them in the classroom. The IT Department is to be commended for all the work in setting up this professional learning opportunity to hundreds of teachers over the past four years. ▶



(l-r) Dr. Colin Sprigg, Dr. Mary Sieu, Pam Julian, Irene Orozco, Joe Machado, David Franklin, and Steven Silpa



Chad Laines, Fedde MS teacher, shared his tech tools.

Gahr HS Marching Gladiators



On November 10, 2018, the Gahr HS Marching Gladiators competed in the California State Band Championship Semi-Finals and won 1st Place in Division 5A with a score of 92.850! Gahr HS moved on to compete in the California State Band Championship Finals on Saturday, November 17th at Huntington Beach High School. They won 1st Place again for their 6th consecutive year! Congratulations Gahr HS Marching Gladiators! ▶

2018-19 Prep Academy for SAT/ACT (PASA)

ABCUSD's Prep Academy for SAT/ACT (PASA) is now in its 3rd year of implementation! Held on four of our high school campuses (Artesia, Cerritos, Gahr, and Whitney High Schools), PASA supports 11th grade students, specifically English learners, low socio-economically disadvantaged, homeless, and foster youth. This program is offered at no cost to the students. ABCUSD has partnered with Kaplan Test Prep (Cerritos, Gahr, and Whitney High Schools) and Tutor Zone (Artesia High School) to provide our students with world-class curriculum that will help better prepare these students for college required entrance exams. Classes are set to begin January 2019! ▶

AVID Foundations Path Training, K-2

Jean Palacios, ABC AVID staff developer, and second grade teacher at Palms ES, trained (14) K-2 teachers on the Foundations K-2 strand, which is required by every AVID elementary teacher. Teachers from Furgeson, Melbourne, Palms, and Willow Elementary Schools, engaged in energetic collaboration as WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading) instructional strategies were presented and practiced. This training was held on November 1 and 2 at Palms ES. Some of the words teachers used at the end of the two-day training to describe their feelings were: rejuvenated, empowered, competent, confident, and tired but inspired. It was great to have this training within our District. ▶

Next Generation Scientists (NGS) Field Trip

ABC Videographer Steven Silpa filmed the first NGS Club field trip this year to Cerritos College on November 28. Mr. Silpa captured the overall flow and feel of the trip. Students from all six of the District's middle schools participated in hands-on experiments. Three more field trips are scheduled for this year including: Cerritos HS - January 16; Cypress College - May 11; and a culminating event at Whitney HS on May 2. Please see the link below: <https://vimeo.com/305781104/f83fd90e74> ▶



Special Education Department



The California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN) is a cross-agency network developed to support the understanding and use of evidence-based practices for individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in the State of California. The Annual CAPTAIN Summit held December 3 through December 5, started with a presentation by the California Department of Education Director of the Special Education Division Kristin Wright. The Director of Special Education Roshelle Chavez and School Psychologist Elden Carpenter presented the great work ABCUSD is doing to implement Evidence-Based Practices in autism. The attendees were representatives from the Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's), Regional Centers, and Family Resource Centers in Southern California. One of the activities highlighted was the CAPTAIN Regional Training held on November 5. Both Mrs. Chavez and Mr. Carpenter were on the leadership team which coordinated and presented this event. The audience included teachers, agencies, and parents from our local region which includes 37 school districts. ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Golden Bell Awards

ABCUSD won two Golden Bell Awards from the California School Boards Association in December. The Nixon Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) also received a \$1,000 sponsor check from the Principal's Exchange. ►



Dr. Debra Duardo, LACOE Superintendent; Melinda Ortiz, Director of School Services; Jeremy Draper, Nixon Academy Head Watch D.O.G.S.; and Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent



The Yellow Bus Tech Tour and Nixon Academy's Watch D.O.G.S. Programs win the Golden Bell Awards at the CSBA Conference held in San Francisco.

Whitney HS MUN

The Whitney HS Model United Nations competed at the UC San Diego Model UN conference on Saturday, October 27 returning home with multiple awards and recognition for their students, including the "Outstanding Delegation" Award for a large school. This was Whitney HS's first outing of the year and they were very happy to have made such a good start. Highlights of the upcoming year include the 17th Annual Conference that Whitney HS is hosting on January 26 for schools all over Southern California, and competitions in Chicago and New York in March of 2019.



On Saturday, January 26, the Whitney HS Model United Nations held its 17th Annual MUN Conference on the campus of Whitney HS. Nearly 400 student delegates from all over Southern California came to the Whitney HS campus to debate, caucus, and create real-world solutions to the challenges currently facing Africa, the conference's theme. Some schools traveled from as far as Ventura, Oceanside, and the High Desert to be with us. Carmenita and Tetzlaff Middle Schools also participated in the event. The Whitney MUN Independent Study ran the Conference under the capable leadership of Sonali Joshi, closely assisted by fellow seniors Nikita Satish, Ananya Narayanan, and juniors Meghan Lee and Rhea Raman. Social studies teacher Megan Nicholson and English teacher Victoria Hulett (former MUN student at Cerritos HS) facilitated in food and logistics. Parent volunteers were invaluable for registration, advisor services, and other needs.

The Whitney MUN will be traveling to Chicago for the University of Chicago's annual conference in early February, and to New York City for the National High School Model United Nations Conference in March. ►

Community Involvement

Lakewood Celebrates

Bragg ES Student Winners of the City of Lakewood's Bookmark Contest. ▶



Back row (l-r): Jeff Heilig, Bragg ES Principal; Jeff Wood, Lakewood City Councilman; Sophia Tse, Board of Education Clerk; Dr. Valencia Mayfield II, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services; Dr Mary Sieu, Superintendent; and Dr. Olga Rios, VP-Board of Education

Dream It Be It

On Wednesday, November 28th, Tracy HS staff, along with Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos Club members, partnered to provide an all-day Dream It Be It (DIBI) program. The purpose of DIBI is to provide girls with role models and career education to live their dreams. Thirty girls from Tracy HS and ABCUSD's Bridges program participated in this exciting and informative program. The day began with a motivational speaker, who overcame a number of obstacles in her college and career journey. After the speaker, mentor Soroptimists provided the girls with curriculum, activities, and information needed to lead successful lives focused on achieving their goals. The topics truly set a foundation for the girls to reach their full potential, live their dreams, and overcome difficulties that hinder progression towards reaching their goals. ABCUSD is thankful for their partnership with the Soroptimist International of Artesia-Cerritos and looks forward to our continued work together. ▶



NOTICE OF COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT

MEASURE BB CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ABC Unified School District is accepting applications from residents within the District who are active members of the following:

1. Parent or Guardian of a student in the District, or
2. Parent or Guardian of a student in the District and active in a parent-teacher organization, such as P.T.A. or a school site council, or
3. Bona-fide Taxpayers' Association, or
4. Business Organization, or
5. Senior Citizens' Organization, or
6. Two at-large members of the community

and may wish to serve on the Measure BB Citizens' Oversight Committee.

For more information, please log on to the District website: www.abcusd.us, or call the Superintendent's Office at (562) 926-5566, ext. 21162.

Applications are due on February 15, 2019 by 4:30 p.m.



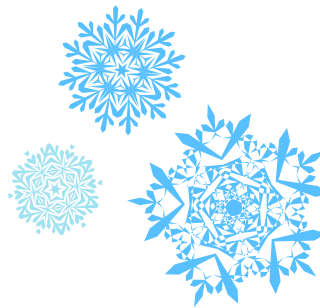


Board Members

Ernie Nishii - President
Dr. Olga Rios - Vice President
Sophia Tse - Clerk
Chris Apodaca - Member
Maynard Law - Member
Leticia Mendoza - Member
Soo Yoo - Member

Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



ABC Unified School District's **District Digest** is published
bimonthly by the Superintendent's Office.
Call 562-926-5566 to join the District's email list.