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Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2014

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Student Directors' Report Carmen Jimenez and Katebah Al-Olefi

November 19, 2014

Good Evening Students, Community, and Board,

We, as All City Council, have engaged in various events these past few weeks targeted to uplift student voice in decision-making spaces. The following is a list of some of the events that we have done:

- 1. All City Council hosted the 5th and final Youth Forum with Superintendent Wilson. As the culminating forum, we invited some of the students who participated in the past forums to return and also invited new students to ask follow up questions to the issues raised at the past 4 forums as well as questions on topics not related. Twenty-four students from Oakland Tech, Oakland High, MetWest, Skyline, Gateway to College, Fremont, CCPA, McClymonds, and Castlemont, participated in the interview as well as the behind the scenes production. This production was made possible by KDOL's Media Enterprise Alliance and in partnership with many of our Meaningful Student Engagement partners.
- 2. On November 8th, All City Council had the opportunity to participate in Grad Nation with other organizations such as African American Male Achievement Office. Grad Nation provided a platform for All City Council student leaders to communicate with different members of the community on how adults can be allies in increasing graduation rates for Oakland students. Twenty students from Oakland Tech, Oakland High, MetWest, Gateway to College, CCPA, McClymonds, Castlemont, Dewey, Life Academy, and Sojourner Truth participated in sharing their stories on what is working for students to feel prepared to graduate. Some of these youth participants were able to be on a panel and were able to give insight and information around the issues that many Oakland teens face and also what are some of the solutions to address these issues. In the afternoon, the All City Council student leaders had the opportunity to sit down with educators, School Board Members, parents, business leaders, and community members to explain to them what the All City Council campaign "Making A-G Real" was all about and how the strategies are all connected to the goal of increasing graduation rates for Oakland students. Additionally the students were able to collect

- pledges of support from the adults on how they can support the students in the district to become successful in their education.
- 3. All City Council was also able to participate in the state-wide Student Advisory Board on Education. All City Council Media Director, Ana Alvarado, was able to collaborate with student leaders from all over the state of California to create education policy at a state level. It was a great opportunity to gain skills on policy making and also just an overall great experience in creating new communication networks with students all over California. They had an opportunity to shape policies around standardized testing and challenging CAHSEE and SBAC as all or nothing tests for graduation, they endorsed the student engagement standards for LCAP and pushed the state to have a menu of best practices, they encouraged student engagement around the next generation science standards, and finally they presented a technology resolution which outlined a plan to increase the use of technology within schools. We believe that OUSD to should get behind student leaders by supporting their visions for change.
- 4. On November 12th, elections for the LCAP Student Advisory Committee were held at Lakeview. It was a historic moment for students to witness the election of our LCAP Student Advisors. Twenty-seven students attended representing six high schools: Fremont High, Oakland Tech, Oakland High, CCPA, Castlemont, and Sojourner Truth. Congratulations to the five students who were elected to the committee: Kasandra Macias from Skyline, Naudika Williams from Oakland High, Taiah Gipson from Street Academy, Luis Ramirez from Castlemont, and Cosmo from Sojourner Truth. We want to acknowledge that in order to get the LCAP student engagement standards institutionalized, it took the work of many students and their organizations such as Californians for Justice, Youth Together etc.
- 5. On November 18th we held our 3rd ACC Middle School General Meeting hosted by CCAP and Roots Middle School. Our middle school delegates further learned how to develop and follow through with their Action Project on their schools. We identified school issues and ways in which to engage our peers. We also did a skill building workshop to continue building the leadership skills of the delegates.

The prior events are only the beginning of exciting things coming up this month. We would like to invite our peers to the next All City Council High School Meeting, on December 20th at the Lakeview Campus. We will be doing research trainings, revising and voting on the constitution, and moving our campaign to the next phase. If you care about making change in your schools, come to one of these events. It is important that we exercise our voice as students.

Thank you