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Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2012

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Student Directors' Report Board of Education Meeting - October 24, 2012

Carmen Jimenez and Pierre Salmeri, Student Directors'

On September 18th we had our first All City Council held Middle School General Meeting at our new location at 746 Grand, with 48 students. ACC Governing Board led an orientation to the ACC Mission and a workshop on "Our Vision for Leadership at My School".

Delegates from Westlake Middle School reported that the improvements in their school are fewer fights and the new and improved leadership class. The way these improvements happened has a lot to do with students living up to the "Westlake way". Mr. Bell and Mr. Karigaca have been doing a great job promoting this, and the students have been acting more professional. However, their remaining concerns are still bullying and using appropriate language. The upcoming events for them are sprit week and the Raiders visit.

On September 20th we also held our annual High School meeting also at our new location. We had 70 student leaders from Ralph J. Bunche, Skyline, McClymonds, Coliseum College Preparatory Academy, Dewey, Oakland High, Oakland Tech, and Fremont. ACC Governing Board led an orientation to ACC, and workshop on the ACC

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"Making A-G Real Campaign" and "Oakland Student Bill of Rights." Students also discussed turnout goals for our upcoming Youth Vote event at Castlemont on Oct 23rd, 3:30-7pm.

Delegates from Bunche said the improvements in their school are the food, the teachers and the programs. Their leadership class is correctly working on building relationships and holding school wide campaigns. The concerns they would like to work on are improving instruction and what is going on in the classroom. If they improve instruction, students will come to school. Upcoming events are the school BBQ.

Delegates from Skyline said that the improvements in their school are: 7th period added so students can catch up with credits, and Special Ed students have been enrolled in regular and AP classes. In addition, the cafeteria and snack bar have been giving better variety of food. Their leadership class has already had their school elections and have all 10 positions filled. They have also broken up leadership class into 3 classes with 130 students in all. The concerns they would like to work on are the need for new textbooks because many of them are old and ripped. The bathrooms and hygiene in bathrooms also continue to be an issue for students. Their upcoming events include: Back to School Rally/ Family Night, Titanpalooza, Silent Auction, Halloween Movie Night, Spirit Week, Winter Ball, and Homecoming.

Delegates from Fremont said that the new intervention center, called ASAP center, is a new improvement. Here, youth can get help the help they need. Additionally, many of their school cameras have been fixed. Leadership has also had 4 grade level assemblies. They also now have a peer academic support program in their leadership and they are also excited about homecoming week and they have a new mascot suit. Their upcoming events are: Whole school rally, Coffee with the Principal, Family Engagement Committee, Back to School Night, Homecoming, and Blood Drive.

On October 16th we held our 2nd Middle School Meeting at Frick Middle School where we had 43 delegates from West Oakland Middle, Frick, United for Success, Bret Harte, and Westlake Middle School. The ACC Governing Board led discussion and workshop on "What Makes Me a Leader" and "Issues and Choices". We would like to thank Frick Middle School Principal Mr. Gourdine, Frick After School Coordinator Ms. Chan, and Frick Community School Manager Ms. Lolly, for opening up their school, and for hosting. Delegates from West Oakland middle said the improvements in their school are the uniforms, the stricter policies, grades improving, a better school environment, better teachers and a decrease in bullying. These improvements happened because of the teachers, principal, and students support. The issues they would like to address are having another new teacher in the 6th grade, the lack of elective classes, lack of field trips, lack of security cameras, getting better food, lack of sports options, the condition of gym equipment, and getting better computers. There have been attempts to resolve some of the issues but there is not enough students working on these issues. Their upcoming events are spirit week, 8th grade formal pictures and they are having an open house for their clinic on November 1st.

Delegates from United for Success said the improvements in their school is the lunch line has gotten a little faster. This happened because they brought it to the attention of the principal. The issues they would like to address are the drug and alcohol use by students, and not enough money for extra-curricular activities. Also, there is no 8th grade algebra, there are too many kids in classes, and some students complain about the unhealthy lunches. The delegates don't believe the issues have ever been talked about with adults or with the principal. The upcoming event for them is the Halloween dance.

Delegates form Frick middle school said the improvements in their school are the students calming down, the school is a lot cleaner and the food is better. These improvements happened because of the staff giving students a set of rules and making sure they followed them. Their remaining concerns are being more organized when switching classes. The school site has tried to fix this problem by explaining what's happening and making announcements on what's going on. Their upcoming events are pajama jam for Halloween.

Delegates from Bret Harte said the improvements in their school are the afterschool programs, the student store, and homework club. These improvements happened because of the staff trying to find a way to reward the students who are doing positive things. They earn bobcat bucks when they are caught doing something positive. The concerns they would like to address are bullying, the lunch system, limited sports activities, and better communication between school, families, students and teachers. The school site has tried to resolve these problems by having campus security make sure nonstudents do not enter the campus. Their upcoming events are lights on after school, boys and men of color filed trip to San Jose, and honor roll celebration.

Delegates from Westlake Middle School said the improvements are the less fights and the dress code. These improvements happened because of the rule enforcement, taking responsibility and adults holding students accountable. Their remaining concern they would like to work on is bullying. The school site has tried to resolve these issues by conflict mediation and taking students to the bully movie. Their upcoming events are spirit week, food drive and mix it up day.

Our upcoming events are:

- ACC Youth Vote, Tuesday October 23, 3:30-7pm, at Castlemont
- ACC Middle School Meeting, Tuesday November 13, 10am-noon, at Westlake
- ACC High School Meeting, Thursday November 15, 1pm-3pm, at Oakland High
- MSE Student Fishbowl on Student Academic, Social, and Emotional Support, Thursday November 29th, 7pm-8:30pm, at Chabot Space and Science Center Rotunda