
All City Council Student Union's Student Director Report
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Good evening board members, Superintendent, staff, students, families and community,

The All City Council Student Union Governing Board is excited to share with you all what we have been up to and what we are planning in the next couple of weeks.

On February 4th, we held the fifth All City Council Student Union general meeting for middle school students, hosted by Life Academy student leadership. During this meeting 25-30 middle school student delegates and adult allies showed up from WOMS, Edna Brewer, Westlake, BretHart, Life Academy, and Melrose Leadership Academy. The students took part in working on the theme for their upcoming 23rd Annual Middle School Ethnic Conference, which also marks the 50th anniversary of ethnic studies. Students continue to work on the theme and the types of workshops that will be held. We also want to thank our network superintendent from middle schools, Mark Triplett, who presented to students about the upcoming budget cuts. Students had time to process and think about what their questions, concerns, and priorities for what they need to succeed academically.

Each meeting, we receive school reports from the delegates. We then compile those reports to present at the board meetings. The following is a list of concerns and opportunities at the school sites. During our February Middle School All City Council general meeting this past week we were able to obtain four reports from the upcoming middle schools Westlake, Edna Brewer, WOMS and Life academy. Some improvements delegates from Westlake mentioned are their music, drama and choir are sponsoring the play "The Wiz" as a schoolwide opportunity for everyone to participate. They were also able to create grade level agreements with administration. Edna Brewer's current remaining concerns are vandalism, litter and students cutting class too often. Their student leadership are very excited to organize harm restorative circles by RJ peer leaders. Some upcoming events our delegates from WOMS mentioned are graduation. Their improvements of the facilities is that it's currently looking better, cleaner and not many fights have been happening. Last but not least, Life Academy students are thrilled to receive more science materials. Students are concerned about their bathrooms looking very messy and their school lunch not improving. Delegates highlighted that they are very excited for their day of solidarity that will be happening really soon. Thank you again Life Academy student leadership for hosting!

For other upcoming ACC events, we are excited to announce our All City Council Student Union meeting for High School students is coming up on Thursday, February 27th and will be hosted by our Castlemont leadership students. We would like to invite 3-4 student leaders from each of our high schools along with their school sites' leadership teacher or student engagement staff to accompany the students. Please RSVP by February 21st <https://tinyurl.com/ACCHSMtgFeb2020> Also coming up is the highly anticipated Oakland Middle School Ethnic Studies Conference - taking place March 24th at Mills College. This conference is open to all OUSD middle school students. Please sign up!

In reference to the budget cuts, we want to take a moment to thank our Superintendent, Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell and her team for meeting with our All City Council Student Union's Governing Board to share updates on the OUSD budget cuts. The components to the presentation included a framing overview by our Superintendent that reviewed the mission and vision of OUSD as well as a restatement of the local and state wide challenges that are resulting in the budget cuts. These challenges presented included: "Flat/declining enrollment, high cost of living, operational inefficiencies impacting cost and quality, and financial management". Our state wide challenges presented included: "mandatory contributions to the state retirement systems that continues to increase, special education costs that continue to outpace state funding, and inadequate funding to k-12 schools for the foreseeable future and a possible recession". The superintendent went ahead and provided us with the areas that are protected to serve the whole child; "early literacy, academic counseling, newcomer student support, arts and music teachers, libraries and sports". We also reviewed some slides that detailed the number of positions that are being looked at for cuts for each central office department. With the allocated time, we only had time to share some initial questions and shared some of our concerns, however there was not enough time to obtain answers nor to engage in a meaningful discussion. We agreed to send a follow up communication and set up a follow up meeting to give students time to process, generate meaningful questions, feedback and ideas. We also reminded the team about our hard work from last year where we collected over 1000 student-designed and student-administered surveys that lead to our 4 student budget priorities: 1) Student Leadership Support, this includes Restorative Justice and the programs that provide targeted support to our African American, LatinX students, and API and Middle Eastern students; Teacher Quality: Recruitment and Retention of teachers of color and investments in training and supporting positive student and adult Relationships; 3) mental health, nutrition, specifically after school super and quality food, as well as wellness support programs; and 4) College and Career supports, and this includes the expansion and quality of credit recovery options. These are priorities we carry highly and will continue to advocate for because our students name these to be the ones that have been most impactful in preparing them towards graduating and preparing them for their life after high school.

As representative leaders we are engaging the rest of our delegates to collect questions, feedback, concerns, and ideas on how to best support the next steps in the difficult upbringings OUSD is faced with. At the next board meeting, we will share a detailed report with responses from students. We want to state that we understand cuts have to be made however we hope we start with those furthest away from working directly with students. For now, our biggest question is around what criteria is being used to make decisions around budget cuts and what is the plan to protect the quality of the programs and services that will be impacted by the cuts. As students, we are concerned about the impacts of any financial instability to our education and we recognize that there is an attack on public education nationwide and even globally. We also know that there is much work we have to do here in our hometown, in our schools and in this board to get to a better place. We need to take a real look at how we are spending the districts money that students generate because cuts and any impractical ways of spending will hurt us the most and the needs of our low income students of color. Our commitment as Student Directors is to continue to bring the voices of students to the forefront. We want to encourage students to share ideas, concerns, and questions. Unfortunately, we feel conflicted about inviting students to attend these public meetings because we don't want their voices to be silenced nor their safety to be put in jeopardy, similar to what we've experienced as student directors in these meetings. Our ask to our entire community, from school board to teachers, to parents, is to not forget why we are all here - to put Students First. There are so many ways to put students first but some include not interrupting or questioning when we try to get our point across and recognizing us as more than youth, as leaders who should be given the space to express our thoughts, ideas, and most importantly solutions to the problems we face everyday because this is our lived experience.

For flyers, permission slips or more information on any of the announcements above please contact All City Council Student Union via instagram @allcitycouncilousd. Or email us at s_denilson.gariboignacio@ousd.org and s_mica.smithdahl@ousd.org or our meaningful student engagement staff, Aurora Lopez at Aurora.Lopez@ousd.org

Thank you.