Dear District F Constituents, Parents, Staff, Students and Friends:

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays have been filled with joy.

On December 19, the teachers' union, CCEA, ratified a two year contract with CCSD. The contract will come to the board for ratification on our regular Board meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016.

This two year, $115 million contract includes a new salary schedule which has new teachers starting at $40,000 and provides increases to current teachers which will both help us in recruitment and in retaining teachers. There is also a step increase provided along with a cost of living increase of 2.25% for next year. There are professional development incentives, as well as incentives to work in schools with an at risk population. Teachers could receive retroactive pay as early as their February 25, 2016 paycheck, and then will begin receiving compensation according to the new Professional Salary Table on their March 10, 2016 paycheck. The bargaining agreement also provides the Teachers Health Trust with an additional $9 million so that teachers will have a quality medical benefits plan through WellHealth for the 2016 calendar year.

The January F-Troop meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 9:30 am, at Spring Valley High School. Chief Financial Officer, Jim McIntosh, will talk about the budget and the teachers' contract. Chief Student Achievement Officer, Mike Barton, will speak about grading practices. I hope to see you there.

F-TROOP meetings are open to everyone and all are welcome to attend. Meeting information for the 2015-16 school year is listed on the next page.

Happy New Year!

Carolyn
cedwards@interact.ccsd.net
702-873-3097
2015 – 2016 SCHOOL YEAR
DISTRICT F: F-TROOP MEETING DATE AND HOSTING SCHOOL

2015

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 9:30 a.m.
School: Southwest Behavior JSHS, Room 799
Address: 6480 Fairbanks Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 9:30 a.m.
School: Wilbur & Theresa Faiss Middle School, Library
Address: 9525 West Maule Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89148

Date/Time: *Friday, November 6, 2015, 9:30 a.m. *Please note: day of the week change*
School: Kenny C. Guinn Middle School, Library
Address: 4150 South Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Date/Time: Friday, December 11, 2015, 9:30 a.m. Please note: this is a brunch meeting.
Home: Carolyn Edwards
Address: 3275 South Tioga Way

2016

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
School: Spring Valley High School, Library
Address: 3750 South Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89147

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
School: C. H. Decker Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room
Address: 3580 South Redwood Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
School: Aldeane Comito Ries Elementary School, Library
Address: 9805 South Lindell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
School: Evelyn Stuckey Elementary School, Library
Address: 4905 Chartan Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 9:30 a.m.
School: Patricia A. Bendorf Elementary School, Library
Address: 3550 South Kevin Way, Las Vegas, Nevada 89147
Useful Links

Report a Bully
csd.net/students/bully/

Infinite Campus
csd.net/parents/infinite-campus.php

Student Enrollment
csd.net/parents/enrollment/

Transportation
csd.net/departments/transportation

Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP)
Math Resources are available online. rpdp.net/

freeMATHHELP
freemathhelp.com/algebra-help.html

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
smarterbalanced.org/

Immunizations – Southern Nevada Health District
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/

Homework Hotline
vegaspbs.org/homework-hotline/

Millennium Scholarship, Prepaid Tuition Program and More
nevadatreasurer.gov

CCSD TV
tv.ccsd.net/

School Board Meetings
csd.net/trustees/meeting-agendas/

Attendance Zone Advisory Commission (AZAC)

AZAC has scheduled two public input meetings as follows:

Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School, Cafeteria
9400 W. Gilmore Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89129

Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
J. E. Manch Elementary School, Cafeteria
4351 N. Lamont St.
Las Vegas, NV 89115

Time to Apply to Magnet Schools and Career and Technical Academies

The application process for students to apply to Magnet Schools and Career and Technical Academies has begun. Students must complete an application online at http://magnetapp.ccsd.net or mail their application to their first choice school. Applications must be received no later than 3 p.m. on February 2, 2016. Late applications will be accepted; they will not be included in the initial lottery.

Additional information about the application process may be found at http://magnet.ccsd.net/or by calling (702) 799-8492.

Magnet Fair

Performing arts, A/V technology, STEM, law, health sciences and culinary arts are just a few of the many program offerings available at CCSD Magnet Schools and Career & Technical Academies. Mark your calendars for the next Magnet Fair, slated for Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Western High School. All Magnet Schools and CTAs will be represented. For more information, visit magnet.CCSD.net.

English Language Learner Master Plan Town Hall Meetings (ELL)

The CCSD English Language Learner Division invites students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to attend a Town Hall Meeting to make suggestions regarding the final revisions to the English Language Learner Master Plan for success.

Schedule of Town Hall meetings:

Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Sierra Vista High School
8100 W. Robindale Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89113

Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Rancho High School
1900 Searles Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Valley High School
2839 S. Burnham Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89169

Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Legacy High School
150 W. Deer Springs Way
North Las Vegas, NV 89084

Visit us at ell.ccsd.net

Please contact ELLSupportRequests@ccsd.net with questions.

Trustee’s Parent and Constituent Meetings for January

Trustee Deanna Wright, District A
District A Parent Meeting (ACE)
Wednesday, January 13 at 10:00 a.m.
Mannion Middle School

Trustee Chris Garvey, District B
District B Parent Meeting
Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 a.m.
Eva Simmons Elementary School, Library

Trustee Linda E. Young, District C
The Village Meeting
Wednesday, January 20 at 9:00 a.m.
Richard C. Priest Elementary School, Library

Trustee Kevin Child, District D
District E Meet and Greet
Tuesday, January 12 at 9:15 a.m.
Schofield Middle School

Trustee Patricia Tew, District E
District E Parent Meeting
Wednesday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m.
Bonner Elementary School, Library

Trustee Carolyn Edwards, District F
F-Troop Meeting
Wednesday, January 27 at 9:30 a.m.
Spring Valley High School, Library

Trustee Erin Cranor, District G
District G Parent Meeting
Wednesday, January 27 at 9:30 a.m.
Vegas PBS

CCSD Board of Trustees’ Sex Education Advisory Committee

The CCSD Board of Trustees’ Sex Education Advisory Committee has a vacancy for a female student who is currently a junior attending a CCSD school during the 2015-2016 school year. Applications are available online at http://static.ccsd.net/ccsd/content/media-files/final-2015-sea-app-for-students-2015.pdf and must be returned to the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, 5100 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89146, or sent via FAX 702-799-1072, or by email to clkrtn@interact.ccsd.net. Deadline for submission is Friday, January 15, 2016. Information regarding the Sex Education Advisory Committee can be found at http://ccsd.net/trustees/sea-committee.php
The Clark County School District (the District) Board of School Trustees approved the Revised Amended Final Budget on Dec. 10 at the regular board meeting. The district is required by the state to file a Revised Amended Final Budget no later than Jan. 1, 2016. At the time the 2015-2016 Amended Final Budget was approved, several factors were unknown namely the Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) of students and beginning fund balances. ADE represents the district’s total number of pupils enrolled in and scheduled to attend school divided by the number of days school is in session for that quarter.

Senate Bill 508 (SB 508) changed the Distributive School Account (DSA) reporting to a quarterly ADE from the yearly 4th week enrollment (Official Count Day). The quarterly ADE reporting days are Oct. 1, Jan 1, April 1 and July 1. This change in reporting results in a change to DSA revenue appropriations. DSA budgeted revenue appropriations have been modified using an average of the four quarters of student ADE reporting for fiscal year 2016, resulting in a budgeted ADE of 309,359.80 for fiscal year 2016 compared to the weighted enrollment of 311,441.6 reported in Amended Final Budget, a difference of 2,081.8 pupils. Full ADE reported on October 1 of 316,311.1 is less than the projected enrollment of 322,902 utilized during the Amended Final Budget process.

There are three major funding assumptions that changed from the Amended Final Budget cycle. Those changes are: 1) total student enrollment (head count) changed to ADE resulting in fewer students and Distributive School Account (DSA) funds from the state of Nevada under the Nevada Plan were reduced as a consequence of this change by $13.6 million, 2) property tax revenues were adjusted downward by $10 million based on actual year-end fiscal year 2015 property tax revenues, and 3) ending fund balances are known and have been audited by the district’s third party auditor.

In addition to funding assumption changes, appropriation changes were made to address and accomplish the Board of School Trustees’ budgetary priorities directed at improving student achievement with a major focus on classroom instruction. Those changes include: 1) adjustments to staffing and instructional supplies based upon ADE enrollment changes, 2) employee salary appropriations for police officers due to wage schedule increases from the finalized collective bargaining agreement for 2014-2015 and employee benefit appropriations from a licensed employee group proposed insurance contribution increase, 3) transfer of 228 licensed FTEs to the Class Size Reduction Fund decreasing general operating expenditures, 4) final phase of a three-year process to convert Educational Computing Strategists (ECS) to Digital Coaches and Computer Technicians, 5) increase in school carryover appropriations, and 6) inclusion of FTEs for tuition-based extended day kindergarten teachers previously eliminated for the 18 schools remaining on extended day kindergarten.

Title I

Title I provides financial assistance to school districts and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

A school is eligible to receive Title I funding when the poverty level is at or above 40 percent of the school’s population. These statistics are typically captured in December and allocations are calculated based on the number of eligible students in the student body. During the 2015-2016 school year, 251 schools were eligible to receive Title I funds: 167 elementary schools, 47 middle schools, 27 high schools, 4 special schools, and 6 charter schools. A total of 167,956 students were identified as receiving free and reduced meals at the time the calculations were made.

Programs funded by Title I include:
- School Based Programs
- Parenting Centers & Programs
- Early Childhood and Prekindergarten
- Homeless Services, McKinney Vento Act
- Charter School Services
- Private School Supplemental Services
- Neglected and Delinquent Services

Please visit the Title I Web Site at ccasd.net/departments/title-i-services

Grants Development and Administration

December 2015 became a historic month for education with the President signing into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Earlier in the month, the House (359-64) and the Senate (85-12) overwhelmingly approving the legislation to replace the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

In the five years since its implementation, the prestigious Investing in Innovation grant has only granted 143 awards nationwide. Of that number, only 21 awards have been made to school districts. Clark County School District is one of these deserving districts. Investing in Innovation funds CCSD’s Pathways to STEM Initiative (PSI) and has transformed the aspirations of over 5,000 students at Clifford O. Findlay Middle School, Frank F. Garside Middle School, Robert O. Gibson Middle School, and Carroll M. Johnston Middle School. PSI allows all students at these schools to discover STEM through the Gateway to Technology curriculum in their middle school science classes. Students have the opportunity to participate in after-school STEM clubs and summer camps which use engaging project-based activities to extend their learning. Additionally, they have met STEM professionals and learned about preparing for a STEM career.

PSI allows students to experience learning that will have a lasting impact. For example, during the 2015 Summer Camp, students designed and created Father’s Day presents using 3D-printing technology. They also built and programmed robots, which they used to compete through an obstacle course. Interest in robotics has increased so much that Johnston Middle School, Gibson Middle School, and Garside Middle School have created robotics teams. Garside Middle School and Findlay Middle School have also established after-school drone clubs which will participate in competitions in April and May 2016.

PSI also benefits science teachers. The project funded intensive professional development and support for more than 36 teachers. These individuals are now certified to teach Gateway to Technology modules, and they developed enduring relationships with STEM professionals.

For further information, contact Deb Hegna, Director, Grants Development and Administration, at 702-799-3355.
Clark County School District police officers put in a lot of hours to ensure the safety of the district’s students and to create a dialogue between the department and the community it serves.

With the Adopt-A-Cop program, the CCSD Police Department hopes to amplify its reach with students. A quick stop is all that’s needed.

“Our mission is to go out and engage students in a positive way so kids see police as a role model,” said Officer Kevin Woodland. “We try to engage with them so they know we are human beings just like them and are approachable.”

The Adopt-A-Cop program was implemented to build positive relationships between law enforcement officers, Clark County School District and other community members. It is an integral part of policing and reflects a greater emphasis on partnerships with the communities.

Program events and activities will be coordinated between the school principal and the designated police officer. School principals and counselors work out which class the “adopted” officer is assigned to and will advise the officer of the goals, objectives and procedural requirements of the program.

During the adopted officer’s first trip, the officer will provide a review of their professional history and provide an overview of their job requirements emphasizing education, physical fitness, adherence to the law, societal values and moral behavior.

After the first meeting, the Adopt-A-Cop program requires each student to write a letter to their adopted police officer. The officer will respond by sending a letter to the class. In addition, the officer will also discuss the next class visits which are typically held every month.

The adopted officers do more than school visits; they also attend key school and community events along with meetings with parents and community leaders. They also help mentor at-risk students to serve as positive role models and suggest projects that can be utilized to further student success.

The future of Adopt-a-Cop looks bright. “The biggest thing with Adopt-a-Cop is going in during recess and playing with students so they see us as positive role models,” said Woodland. “We would like to expand the program by adding more officers so we can engage all students in a positive and fruitful way.”

**Celebrating Bilingualism**

Hola, bon dia, bonjour, xin-chao, guten tag! That is “Hello” in five different languages.

In the Clark County School District, our students can say “Hello” in 70 different languages. That is how many languages are spoken among our student population.

Thirty percent of our students come from households where a language other than English is spoken; of those 19 percent of our students speak a language other than English as their primary language. Those students are identified as English Language Learners. Our ELL students need additional assistance to get on track because like all students, they must meet all requirements for moving up a grade level and graduating – this includes testing in reading and writing in English.

I’ve had principals who have shadowed our ELL students and see through their eyes what it’s like to sit through a full day of instruction not knowing the language and in many cases not even being familiar with the culture. While this is initially a challenge for a student, it can also eventually serve as a strength given that students who are bilingual tend to develop better cognitive skills and find it easier to learn additional languages.

That is why we are developing an English Language Learner master plan that not only identifies the best way to teach our students English but helps foster a way to ensure our students preserve and take pride in their first language.

**Celebrating Bilingualism (continued)**

Last school year, 58 percent of ELL students did not graduate high school while only 26 percent graduated with their class. Additionally, there are some students who take several years longer than expected to exit ELL status.

Why some students struggle and why ELL students have such a high dropout rate are some of the questions we are trying to answer as we look for solutions to best serve this segment of our student population.

Last week, we held seven town hall meetings throughout the valley to engage with students, parents, staff and community members and get input on what the needs are and what solutions would be best.

Additionally, we have a survey online open to community members until Dec. 10 that will help us get better input as we develop this master plan.

You can access the survey and learn more about the master plan at ell.ccsd.net.

While only 19 percent of our student demographic identify as ELL, we must ensure we provide all our students in CCSD with the tools to thrive and reach their potential.

**2016 Graduation Schedule**

The Class of 2016’s graduation schedule has been posted. To view, please go to: http://static.ccsd.net/ccsd/content/media-files/graduation-schedule-2016.pdf

**Constituent Services**

Constituent Services was created to serve as a resource to assist parents, community members and school staff with resolving concerns. For questions and concerns call: 702-799-1016.

**Follow Us**

**Twitter**

The Clark County School District Board of Trustees official Twitter: 

Tweet CCSD_Trustees

Below is a list of feeds we provide so you don’t have to find them within the site. You may subscribe to each one from the feed itself.

Tweet CCSD @ClarkCountySch

Clark County School District Facebook
CCSD Human Resources
Human Capital Management Teams

The CCSD Human Resources (HR) Unit provides many central office services to schools and departments. This month we would like to highlight one of the departments in the HR Unit: the Human Capital Management (HCM) Teams. There are five (5) HCM Teams within the HR Unit who serve as strategic partners to 357 principals and over ten (10) divisions and their staff to address human capital needs including hiring, onboarding new hires, retention, operational planning, and assisting with recruitment as needed. The District employs approximately 40,000 employees and the HCM role includes managing, monitoring, and adjusting staffing for support staff employees and licensed employees (teachers) such as processing 2,364 licensed (teacher) internal transfers in 2014-2015 and processing 13,874 support staff requisitions to include internal transfers, new hires, etc.; resolving human capital issues; and processing contracts for teachers and pay for support staff employees to include 1,986 new teacher contracts and 1,443 new support staff hires in 2014-2015, and collaborating with other HR Unit departments through developing and implementing best practices related to selection, recruitment, induction, and retention.

The HCM teams also assist employees and applicants with navigating HR systems and technology applications. On an ongoing basis, they work to improve and refine practices and processes with the goal of providing both applicants and employees an excellent customer experience. Whether an employee’s question is related to human resources or not, the HCM teams consider themselves to be liaisons for all employees and applicants so that they receive timely answers to their questions and can navigate the CCSD organization and HR processes with ease. In alignment with the CCSD School Support Strategic Imperative, the HCM Teams offer direct support and resources for staff in schools so that their main focus can be on students in support of the Board’s vision: “All students progress in school and graduate prepared to succeed and contribute in a diverse global society.”

Google Apps for Education in CCSD

To assist schools in preparing their students for their future, the Innovative Learning Environments (ILE) division together with the Technology and Information Systems Services (TISS) division initiated a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) pilot for the 2015-2016 school year.

Google Apps for Education is a suite of free productivity tools designed to increase collaboration by allowing users to create, share, and edit files in real-time. It creates an environment where everyone is working within the same document that is automatically stored in the cloud and is compatible with a variety of operating systems.

The core applications include: Calendar, Classroom, Contacts, Drive, Gmail, Google Talk/Hangouts, Groups, and Sites. Other applications such as Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms and others reside within the Drive app. There are a variety of other applications, extensions and add-ons that can be added by the users to their account.

Participation in this pilot is currently not mandatory and on an opt-in basis for any school interested. The pilot schools are able to determine which core apps their students can access in addition to determining specific settings for these apps.

Two of the largest benefits of using GAFE are the cost and the access. Google Apps for Education is free and can be used with any computer, tablet or smartphone with a browser. Applications are also updated every time you login so you get the newest features as soon as they are ready and available. The data is owned by CCSD and its users.

Currently, there are over 200 schools participating in this pilot throughout the District with over 285,000 accounts currently in the GAFE domain. As more students and teachers utilize this tool, the increased collaboration that will follow will assist all students in being prepared for their future.

Legislative Update for January 2016

The Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District met this month. To view the meeting and all backup material, please visit https://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/78th2015/Committee/Studies/CCSDTechAdv/Other/11-December-2015/MeetingPage.cfm?ID=60&d=11-December-2015

The Interim Finance Committee held a meeting to provide oversight and ensure proper funding is accounted for throughout Nevada’s local and state government. For additional information on the Interim Finance Committee and to review their past and future meeting agendas, please visit https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Interim/78th2015/Agendas/IFC/IFC-121615-10662.pdf

The State Board of Education held a meeting this month to discuss several issues including teacher licensure, teacher pipeline issues, and the implementation of the recently passed legislative reforms. For additional information on the State Board of Education and to review past meeting agendas, please visit http://www.doe.nv.gov/State_Board_of_Educatio/n/

The Nevada Legislature met this month in a Special Session called by Governor Brian Sandoval. The purpose of the Special Session was to provide tax and workforce incentives to encourage a company called Faraday Future to build an electric car manufacturing facility in North Las Vegas. For information on the Special Session please visit https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/29th2015Special/