



from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins

Supervisor Jacob Cuts the Ribbon at the Monte Vista Pool Reopening



Board Member Priscilla Schreiber and County Supervisor Dianne Jacob Cut the Ribbon at Monte Vista

Last week, **County Supervisor Dianne Jacob** was once again front and center in support of our East County high schools. The occasion was at Monte Vista High School, where she cut the ribbon marking the official reopening of the pool, made possible through her contribution toward resurfacing the pool deck. It is one more example of Supervisor Jacob's commitment to education, our schools and community. She is such a valuable asset to East County.

We extend our deepest thanks to the taxpayers and to Supervisor Jacob for her continuing efforts to fund a wide variety of projects in our District. Monarch swimmers, water polo players, and P.E. students will benefit from these renovations for years to come.

Foothills Council PTA Provides Leadership and Insight into Parent Engagement

Yesterday was Founders Day for the PTA. At their morning brunch, PTA leaders from throughout San Diego County met along with our Foothills Secondary Council Unit. We can all be very proud of the leadership of our parents and Foothills Secondary Council President Jennifer Fox. I have worked with a lot of PTAs over the years. Ours is special. They are supportive, active and advocates for children, teachers and administrators.



Foothills Council PTA President Jennifer Fox, El Capitan Principal Bill Sullivan, and El Capitan PTSA President Isabel Marocco at the Founders Day Brunch



Mount Miguel Principal Steve Coover, Community Liaison Joyce Moore and Mount Miguel Parents Enjoy the 9th District Founders Day Brunch

At the Thursday, February 21, Governing Board Meeting, we will outline recommendations for a Strategic Plan. A critical component of that Plan is how we engage our parents – not just meet with and inform them, but how we make our parents a critical part of what happens every day in the lives of their children, our schools and District. Discussions with PTA and parents throughout the District have identified several recommended action steps to address engagement of our parents including:

1. Family Resource Centers can be a tremendous support in helping parents take an active role in the education of their child by providing guidance, counseling and a connection to community resources. We are recommending that we support and **expand the current Family Resource Center program to all high schools.**
2. Parents shall be **notified at any point during a semester** when their child is not making normal academic progress. Specific school site procedures will address teacher and administrator responsibilities.
3. How our schools treat our parents, including telephone etiquette, office conduct, and teacher interaction is a very important element in parent satisfaction. We currently have a customer service program for classified staff. We want to **expand the customer service program to include all staff and make the program ongoing.** Ultimately, we want to develop a recognized "**culture of service**" in each office, school and classroom.
4. The District will implement a range of **expanded communication strategies** to engage teachers and staff with parents on an ongoing basis. This would include modernizing, expanding and making our communication more efficient. This would include a new interactive website and Parent Portal, up-to-date and regularly maintained teacher websites, increased use of the AlertNow communication system, expanded parent college and career information, a parent handbook and school site informational activities.
5. Establish a **24 hour school/District response policy** to all parent inquiries.

Our parents are eager to support our schools and District. The above procedures are designed to enhance regular communication with parents and to help meet their needs as a critical partner in the education of their child.