



The Superintendent's Update

August 2011

NEWS FROM KELLY

Welcome back! The 2011-2012 school year is underway and what an excellent start it has been! Thank you to our entire CUSD community for working together to ensure we got off on the right track.

I have fantastic news in four crucial areas: Student Achievement, Employee Rehire Lists, District Budget Status and Student Enrollment.

Student Achievement: As I mentioned in my welcome back email, CUSD looks to have achieved substantial growth in the area of student achievement. While I must stress that these are our own calculations and completely unofficial, it does appear that for the first time CUSD as a District will score above the state-established goal of 800. This is a *direct result* of the hard work of teachers, staff, students and families across the district. If our estimates are accurate (Mike Morris and Jennifer Bevers are good, so I have every reason to believe they will be close!), CUSD will have eight schools that achieved double-digit growth and eleven schools over the 800 mark. These results occurred as a result of our district-wide commitment to student academic achievement and I thank every employee for the excellence demonstrated every day when it comes to educating/helping our students. Great job!

Employee Rehire Lists: It is with great pleasure and tremendous relief to be able to share that all employees that were at one time on the CUSD rehire list have now been offered positions and those who desired to be, are now re-employed. While we lost some excellent employees who took jobs elsewhere, the majority are back in our district working with our students. We as a District, and certainly those individuals who endured layoffs, survived some of the starkest financial times to ever face our country, our state and our community.

District Budget Status: It is with pride in our community and our District, that I can state that CUSD is no longer in the category of "negative budget certification" status. However, the financial future of our state and therefore our District is still uncertain, which is why we continue to carefully preserve cash. There is a definite concern that should the economy not rebound, California will be hit with midyear budget reductions. By proceeding with caution, CUSD hopes to preserve its ability to survive possible midyear reductions and reduce chances of having to face layoffs.

Student Enrollment: And finally on the good news front, at first glance it appears we have turned around our declining enrollment trend! While we have consistently lost students in each of the previous eight years, our initial enrollment reports shows level enrollment and perhaps even slight growth. Our Kindergarten numbers are definitely on the upswing. I attribute this to our focus on excellence in education and dedication to not only our students but our community—and again, I thank you, the CUSD community for making this change happen.

CUSD Goals: We are off to a great start, to continue our upward trend, it is important to keep focused on our goals for the year:

- 1. To provide every student with the opportunity to attain increasing levels of individual achievement that prepares them for success in the 21st Century**
- 2. To provide a safe, healthy, and engaging environment for learning to take place**
- 3. To build effective partnerships with our constituents**
- 4. To monitor and adjust our district budget to ensure solvency and to ensure local control of our schools**

I would also like to remind staff of my expectations for all of Chico Unified School District. The intention is for the expectations to reflect both the goals adopted by the Board of Education as well as the direction of the District as we continue to all work together to address needs and desires of the Chico community.

CUSD EXPECTATIONS

In Support of The Board Adopted Goals, CUSD Staff Will:

- Remember that the most fundamental and important relationship in the teaching/learning process is that between the teacher and the student
- Demonstrate that *all* students are *our* students
 - Be responsible, individually and collectively, for each child's success
 - Ensure that we meet the needs of all students
- Provide positive learning environments, in and out of the classroom
- Demonstrate that students and families are our first priority:
 - Focus on teacher-parent and school-family communications
 - Inform parents about their child's progress on a regular basis
 - Return calls or emails from parents promptly
- Fully Implement Professional Learning Communities:
 - Focus instruction and collaboration on the following four questions:
 - What do we want students to know?
 - How do we know if students know it?
 - How do we respond when students do not know it?
 - How do we extend learning and provide enrichment when students do know it?
 - Collaborate with peers to improve teaching and learning
 - During weekly collaboration time
 - During department meetings, grade-level meetings, and other established site-level times
 - Teach to the adopted standards, utilizing state- and board-adopted instructional materials
 - Administer district- and site-level common assessments
 - Adjust instruction to improve learning, based on the results of data from common assessments

Again, thank you for the great start, keep up the great work, and I will see you soon, as I continue to visit school sites. If you have a question, concern or better yet, a great idea to share, please feel free to call, email, or drop by the office. Here's to a great school year! -- Kelly

REMINDER! DON'T MISS THE C3 (CSEA, CUTA, CUMA) BBQ: The (mostly) Annual C3 BBQ will be held on Friday, August 26, 2011, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the outdoor covered eating area at the Elks Lodge. There will be free food and beverages as well as friends and fun for all. Please join us!

NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

Opportunities to Serve: CUSD has an ongoing need for staff, parents and community members to serve on District committees. We have a wide variety of committees including School Safety, Nutrition & Wellness, Budget and Communication, English Language Learners Advisory Council to name just a few. If you are interested in serving on a CUSD committee or know a parent or community member who would be an asset to such committees, please email the name and contact information to Marsha McLean at mmclean@chicousd.org.

T-DAP: Tdap booster information is posted on the Butte County Public Health website at: <http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/>

Lessons Learned From Our Students: As we take on the challenges of the new school year, keep in mind how truly fortunate we are to be able to be here in our classes, teaching and learning, and keep in our hearts those that want to be, but cannot...at least not yet.

Hannah, a student at Shasta Elementary School, attended the first day of school like every other student in her class, despite the fact that the very next day she would undergo major surgery. On Thursday, she had surgery at Stanford to remove a large tumor from her chest. Per Hannah's mom on the Care Page website, "The original plan was to go in through Hannah's neck, with the possibility of cutting the sternum partially if she needed more room to remove the tumor. However, once they got in there and saw how big it was, the decision was made immediately to open the sternum just like an open heart surgery with a saw and rib spreaders. Even with all that open access, it was very difficult to remove. It was so big that it had wedged itself from the clavicle to the bottom of the sternum. It was pushing on her organs but only seemed to be involved with the left thymus; thus, they removed the thymus to make sure to get all of the tumor. The surgeons used titanium wire to repair the sternum where it will remain forever. Hannah will have a scar like a heart patient with a story to boot. When the surgeon was trying to describe how big the tumor was, Patrick suggested something the size of a 'haggis'; the surgeon thought for a minute and said, "I was thinking of sausage, but that is too small. Haggis is about right." Hannah is in recovery. We are waiting to see her; should be about 15 minutes or so more. We will update again later. Thank you for all the prayers and well wishes."

Thank you to Larry Spini for sharing the story of this inspirational student.

First Day of School: Kudos to all of the schools for providing a warm and welcoming start to the 2011-2012 School Year!



NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES:

Kip Hansen Retires: Congratulations to **Kip Hansen**, CUSD Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation! Kip has announced his retirement as well as plans to move to the East Coast. Kip does not ease into things—when he goes for change, he goes for it in a big way! We are happy for you Kip and appreciate his 22 years of experience in CUSD. Kip worked in a wide variety of areas, from Custodian to Director, and his knowledge and leadership will be missed. Again, congratulations Kip Hansen!

We have opened the CUSD Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation position and hope to have a new director named by the middle of August. In the interim, **Randy Salado** will be temporarily filling the position of Director of MOT. Mr. Salado has a strong background in Maintenance and Operations as well as business. Thank you Randy for agreeing to take on this position and thank you to all of our outstanding MOT employees as they work together through this period of transition.

Health Club Discounts: One of CUSD's 2011-2012 District Wide Goals is to provide a safe, healthy, engaging environment for learning to take place. Just as we want our students to be healthy, we also want to do all we can to assist staff members in their health and fitness efforts. If you are considering joining a gym or health club, please inform them you are employed with CUSD as many provide discounts to educators.

CUSD IN THE NEWS OVER THE SUMMER

Enterprise Record

[CARD gets look at revenue-smaller budget](#)

[CUSD lunches to get leaner, greener](#)

[Letter: Sports funding plan a group effort](#)

[Editorial: Hits and misses](#)

[In any language, graduation means joy for **Chico High School** seniors](#)

[CUSD fiscal health called 'precarious'](#)
[Butte County educators, chief financial officer see hope, concerns ...](#)
[Schools adopt budget in spite of 'gimmick fraught' state finances](#)
[Bill leaves educators feeling violated](#)
[Chico schools look for hints of trouble](#)
[More than \\$100000 in scholarships awarded to **Chico** high **school** seniors](#)
[Green **School** could face losing charter - **Chico** Enterprise Record](#)
[Board hears different views of Green **School**](#)
[Incendiary devices found on Pleasant Valley High campus](#)
[Crude fire bombs found at Pleasant Valley](#)
[Local high **school** sports survive, but with changes](#)
[Solar power will pinch parking at high schools in **Chico** for now](#)
[CUSD chief sees good year ahead - Chico Enterprise Record](#)
[School District Finds Way to Save \\$2000 Per Home Football Game](#)

Chico News & Review

[Farewell to Vig](#)
[Reverse makeover](#)
[Chef on board](#)
[Saving high school sports](#)
[New charter blossoms](#)
[Playing the field](#)
[A busload of knowledge](#)
[Recycling responsibly](#)
[Letters for August 11, 2011](#)

KHSL

[CUSD Board Passes 2011-2012 Budget](#)

Other

[YouTube - Butte County ROP-Fashion Design, Merchandising, and sales](#)
Butte County ROP & **Chico Unified School District's** CTE Course highlighted in a
Promo spot. Created by Pleasant Valley high School "House of BLUE" Video ...
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYEt7LLRcNI

[Failure not Acceptable](#)
[New America Media](#)

CALIFORNIA CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

An important and required reminder regarding California Child Abuse Reporting requirements:

- District Policy 5141.4 and the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (11164-11174.3) obligate District employees who are mandated reporters to report all known or suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect to the appropriate authorities. In Butte County, Child Abuse and Neglect is reported to Child Protective Services at 879-3731 or 1-800-400-0902. Additionally, reports can be filed with:

Chico Police Department
1460 Humboldt Road
Chico, CA 95928
530-897-4911

Butte County Sheriff's Office
33 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA. 95965
530-538-7321

- *Mandated reporters* include but are not limited to teachers; instructional aides; teacher's aides or assistants; classified employees; certificated pupil personnel employees; administrative officers or supervisors of child attendance; administrators and employees of a licensed day care facility; Head Start teachers; district police or security officers; and administrators, presenters or counselors of a child abuse prevention program. (Penal Code 11165.7)
- Mandated reporters shall not investigate any suspected incidents but rather shall cooperate with agencies responsible for reporting, investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse and neglect.
- *Reasonable suspicion* means that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing when appropriate on his/her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect. (Penal Code 11166)
- *Child abuse or neglect* includes the following: (Penal Code 11165.5, 11165.6)
 - A physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person
 - Sexual abuse of a child as defined in Penal Code 11165.1
 - Neglect as defined in Penal Code 11165.2
 - Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of a child as defined in Penal Code 11165.3
 - Unlawful corporal punishment or injury resulting in a traumatic condition as defined in Penal Code 11165.4
- *Child abuse or neglect* does not include:
 - A mutual affray between minors (Penal Code 11165.6)
 - An injury caused by reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his/her employment (Penal Code 11165.6) (*cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department*)
 - The exercise by a teacher, vice principal, principal or other certificated employee of the same degree of physical control over a student that a parent/guardian would be privileged to exercise, not exceeding the amount of physical control reasonably necessary to maintain order, protect property, protect the health and safety of students, or maintain proper and appropriate conditions conducive to learning (Education Code 44807)

- An amount of force that is reasonable and necessary for a school employee to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to persons or damage to property, to protect himself/herself, or to obtain weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the student (Education Code 49001)
- Physical pain or discomfort caused by athletic competition or other such recreational activity voluntarily engaged in by the student (Education Code 49001)
- Parents/guardians may contact the Superintendent or designee to obtain procedures for filing a complaint against a district employee or other person whom they suspect has engaged in abuse of a child at a school site.
- Child Abuse Reporting Forms are available from the school office manager or Principal at your school.
- The reporting duties are individual and cannot be delegated to another person. (Penal Code 11166)
- Employees who work with dependent adults shall be notified of legal responsibilities and reporting procedures pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 15630-15637.
- A mandated reporter who reports a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect shall not be held civilly or criminally liable for making a report. Any other person making a report shall not incur civil or criminal liability unless it can be proven that he/she knowingly made a false report or made a report with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the report. (Penal Code 11172)
- If a mandated reporter fails to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment. (Penal Code 11166)
- No employee shall be subject to any sanction by the district for making a report. (Penal Code 11166)

Additional information regarding CUSD's Child Abuse and Neglect Policy and Procedure is available at the following link:

http://staffroom.chicousd.org/staffroom/documents/5000_BP_AR_Principal_Review/AR_5141_4_Child_Abuse_Prevention_and_Reporting.pdf

Please contact the Principal, counselor, school psychologist or the school nurse at your school for additional information. I can be reached at 891-3000, ext. 135 should you have questions regarding this notification or the District's Policy.

Thank you for all that you do for our students,
Dave Scott, Director, Student Services