

Superintendent's Update

Board of Education Meeting

March 8, 2022

Meeting No. 17



Excelling Together with Endless Pathways for Success!



Board of Education Priorities



Maximize Student Achievement

- Close the digital and equity gap.
- Offer robust in-person and independent study learning programs.
- Accelerate learning and improve attendance and engagement.

Foster a Positive Culture of Learning

- Ensure equitable teaching and learning opportunities led by excellence.
- Support culturally relevant curriculum that emphasizes inclusion.
- Increase school connectedness for students, parents, and families.

Ensure the Health and Safety of Students and Employees

- Strengthen mental health support and programs.
- Ensure best practices for safe and healthy learning environments.
- Support physical, social, and emotional wellbeing.

Maintain District Financial Responsibility

- Ensure the fiscal health of the District.
- Implement a fiscal plan to preserve the District resources.
- Plan for the District's future educational and facility needs.

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COLLEGE, CAREER, LIFE READY GRADUATES

ACADEMIC RIGOR

- High Expectations
- Pathways, Choices & Personalization
- Cultural Competence



SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Inclusion
- Mental & Physical Wellness
- Sense of Belonging

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRIORITIES



Topics

- Public Health Updates – Indoor Masks
 - Public Health and GUSD
- Superintendent’s Message for Students and Supportive Lessons
- Talking Points for Parents
- Student Voice Panel
- Organizing for Success – Department “Roadshows”



Public Health Update

- February 28
 - California Department of Public Health updates guidance that indoor masks at schools will move from “Mandatory” to “Highly Recommended” after March 11
 - Los Angeles Department of Public Health announced that they would align to CDPH regarding indoor masking at schools
- March 1
 - Governor signed an executive order to align workplace safety rules to current CDPH guidance - educators and support staff in TK-12 settings will not be required to wear masks while indoors after March 11





GUSD Update

- Continue to have decline in positive cases and positivity rate
- Administered 4,742 Rapid and PCR tests the week of February 28 with 25 positive tests (18 Rapid, 7 PCR)
- 0.4% positivity rate (down from 0.8% the week of Feb 21)



Superintendent's Message to Students and Supportive Lessons

Key considerations:

- What is most helpful for our school communities?
- What supports will teachers appreciate?
- What will children and families need?
- How can we reassure everyone in our community?

Resources & Features

- Department of Public Health documents
- Helpful talking points for the week of return
- Acronym for quick understanding
- Conversation strategies for managing big feelings
- Ideas for PBIS/SEL/Restorative Practices
- Additional readings, websites, podcasts, activities for extended conversation in class or at home.

Masking Guidance & Resources to Support GUSD Educators

Helpful Talking Points

- It's important to understand that each person is making the choice that feels best for them. Try to understand and respect that choice, just as you would want your own decisions to be respected.
- Some people will choose to continue wearing masks and others won't. That's ok.
- You do not have to explain or defend your decision to anyone.
- If anyone is troubling you over your choice, tell an adult right away so that we can intervene with support.
- Some things you might say to those who ask why you choose to wear a mask:
 - Because I don't like getting sick.
 - I need to protect people in my life that I care a lot about.
 - I want to wear a mask.
 - Wearing a mask is reassuring to me.
 - It helps me keep my focus on school.
- Some things you might say to those who ask why you aren't wearing a mask:
 - I feel safe going without a mask right now.
 - I am happy to be getting this small slice of normal back.
 - It's my choice to stop wearing a mask.
 - I appreciate you respecting my decision not to wear a mask.
 - It helps me communicate with others more clearly.

- Changes Made by the California Department of Public Health on February 28, 2022:
- Effective March 1, 2022, the requirement that unvaccinated individuals mask in indoor public settings will move to a strong recommendation that all persons, regardless of vaccine status, continue indoor masking.
 - Universal masking shall remain required in specified high-risk settings.
 - After March 11, 2022, the universal masking requirement for K-12 and Childcare settings will terminate. CDPH strongly recommends that individuals in these settings continue to mask in indoor settings when the universal masking requirement lifts.
 - "Masking will continue to be an important layer of protection along with the continued recommendations around vaccinations, testing and ventilation, to keep schools a safe environment, even as case rates and hospitalizations decline."

In GUSD we face things together

Free to make our own choices
Accept others' decisions
Communicate with respect
Ensure the health & safety of everyone

Talking Points for Parents

- **Explain to your child what has changed and what has remained the same**

Help them by explaining the changing status of the pandemic.

Inform your child about the current mask guidance and ask your child how they feel about the changes.

- **Offer your child choices**

Ask for your child's input and provide choices within limitations.

Discuss with your child why they may or may not want to continue masking.

Have continued dialogue with your child about the importance of respecting the opinion of others and remind your child to be respectful.

- **Provide helpful talking points to your child**

Help your child create sample language and script as to why they choose to wear a mask or why they choose not to wear a mask.

Let your child know that they do not have to defend or explain their decision to anyone.

Discuss with your child the importance of being aware of other people's feelings and reasons why other people may choose to mask or not mask.



Student Voice Panel - March 1, 2022





Organizing for Success – “Department Roadshows”

- District departments met with site leaders to start strategic planning for 2022-23 school year
- Principals rotated to stations set up around the Board Room with opportunities for conversations with Department Leaders
- March 1, 2, and 3
- Principals were able to receive important information from multiple departments in one setting as well as ask questions about the upcoming school year

Departments and Topics

Facilities and Support Operations	Space Availability and Maintenance
Child Development and Child Care	Child Care Enrollment for 2022-23
Equity, Access and Family Engagement	Categorical Budget Allocations and Carry-Over for 2022-23
Financial Services	Budget Allocations for 2022-23
Special Education	Special Education Services and Staffing for 2022-23
Innovation, Intrusion, Assessment and Accountability	Data Resources/Tools to Drive the Decision-Making Process
Human Resources	Staffing for 2022-23 and Summer School for 2022





Questions?