

'Do not go where the path may lead; go where there is no path and leave a trail.' Ralph Waldo Emerson

A shared vision is not an idea...it is rather, a force in people's hearts...at its simplest level, a shared vision is the answer to the question 'What do we want to create?' Peter Senge

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The "Sharing Leadership" Issue

Sept. 8, 2009

Board Report: What has hap- pened to our pro- gram, what is our direction forward.

On Tuesday night we will be asked to present to our Board of Trustees a brief report on how we have adapted to our loss of funding, and what may happen at SAS through the next few years. Together we have accomplished something significant; although hit in mid-year by an unexpected and significant cut in our funding, we were able to adapt in order to reduce a deficit expected to reach to \$500,000 or more to less than \$100,000 by June, 2009. But that completely used up our reserve, and there is some expectation that our funding may be cut even more through this year and next. So our Superintendent has asked us to give our board a sense of how we will respond to these continuing challenges. Certainly the primary message will be that, as a system, the adult school is resilient and able to adapt to change more quickly than high schools or the community college system. Indeed, our theme for the year, Reinvention, is completely consistent with what we know how to do in adult education. Our operational changes we've made so far exemplify that. Not that these changes are without great and painful impacts: the attendance for summer school was about 20% of what it was last year, our CLP program is cut by over 45% this fall, we've lost valuable classified employees and as many as 80 temporary teachers are no longer working with us. Make no mistake about it, our adaptability in this environment has come at a cost. But our board will also hear about our focus on learning and instruction, our ability to access new funding different from the ADA money we've lost, and they'll hear about a team that continues to work together to adapt, reinvent, and move from surviving to thriving. The board meeting will begin at 7:00 and the board will also hear from ROP which is also struggling to great reduced funding.

Calendar

Sept. 8 ACE Program begins.

Sept. 8 Presentation to SUHSD Board about the plans for 2010-2011 schoolyear. (See text to the left)

Sept. 17 Salinas Adult School Leadership Team, 4:00-6:00pm. (See description below)

Oct. 13 - Community Advisory Council

SAS Leadership Team

A new wrinkle in our operations this year is the Leadership Team. Like so many things we are trying (the well-received Welcome Center, Data Center, reduced class schedules, managed enrollment, online registration, no catalog) this is an experiment, a work in progress. The hope is that at Leadership Team meetings not only will our school improvement plan receive regular and searching attention, but that other issues will be raised and discussed that can have a positive impact on what our students experience, and the working conditions for teachers and staff. All are welcome to the meetings, and the following list is the formal membership. It is hoped that the teachers on the list act as conduits of information to others in their departments and, of course, that the classified staff's needs and interests will also be represented. The primary item on the agenda of this first meeting is how our professional development focus of "project-based learning" is kept alive and meaningful and how the required evaluation process, including peer collaboration, can reinforce this.

Assistant Director – Gina Muller
ESL teacher – Kathleen Slattery
ESD/CLP teacher – Kim Roy
Parent Ed teacher – Karen Estes
Coordinator – Yvonne Ricketts
Coordinator – Janne Bennick
Supervisory rep – Cecilia Anderson
SVFT – Bob Wilde
CSEA – Rosemary Perex