

Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



Indian Education Alliance Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Campo Education Center

12:30-2:30 pm

Roster: Kaila Castello – La Posta Councilwoman

Julie Dome – La Posta Education Support

Kiana Arruda – Southern Indian Health Council SIHC/BGC Kumeyaay Nation Director of Youth Programs

Lynne Ray Smith – SIHC Tribal Liaison

Tanya Cuero – Campo Tribal Member/ Education Center

Rayleene Elliott – Manzanita Education Coordinator

Debra Cuero – Education Center Director

Patrick Keeley – MEUSD Superintendent

Phil Yoon – Campo Advocate

Laura J. Hall – San Diego State University Department of Special Education

Anthony Sandoval – La Posta Tribal Police Deputy

Nawid Abrary – UCSD Early Access Opportunity Program (EAOP)

Cami Hill – La Posta Tribal member

James Hill – La Posta Tribal Councilman

Staci Block – San Diego County Office of Education MEGA – LV Executive Leadership Coach

Beatriz Moreno – UCSD EAOP

Ann Pierce – Campo Advocate

Cheryl Lugo – Clover Flat Elementary School Principal

Holly Pawlicki – Campo Elementary School Principal

David Rios – Mountain Empire High School Principal

Cherie Foraker – MEUSD Coordinator of Community Schools

Sheri Miller – MEUSD Literacy/ Expanded Learning TOSA

Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



Bill Dobson – Motivated Youth Academy Director
 Amanda Neves – Manzanita Tribal TANF
 Sarina Laff - My Academy Teacher
 Bob Jones - Campo Community Advocate
 Alexia Adkins - Manzanita Education Center Coordinator/ Tribal Member
 Heather Supulveda - Manzanita Tribal TANF
 Janet Esquivias - Campo Tribal Member/ Education Center
 Eduardo Estrella - Campo Tribal Member/ Education Center
 Gary Brannon - Mountain Empire Junior High School Principal
 Shama Lyons - Descanso Elementary School Principal
 Peter Krahling - Mountain Empire High School Counselor
 Rebecca Blackwood - Manzanita Tribal Member
 Kylie Bell - Manzanita Tribal Member/ MEHS Alum
 Riley Bell - Manzanita Tribal Member/ MEHS Student

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions		Meeting Minutes taken by Cherie Foraker and Amy Conforth Call to order: 12:50 pm
Announcements and Agenda Review	Amy Conforth <i>Director of Education and Instructional Services, MEUSD</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sign-in sheet completed - Review of packet that includes meeting minutes from Oct. meeting. No corrections or additions. - 1st Motion to approve meeting - Julie Dome - 2nd - Beatriz Moreno - All in favor - Amy Conforth motioned to edit agenda to add board policy 1410 added under district report - 1st motion - Bill Dobson - 2nd - Peter Krahling

Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All in favor
<p>UCSD: Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)</p>	<p>Beatriz Lopez Moreno <i>UCSD College Programs Specialist Academic Dean, SRP 1</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the rescheduled presentation from the prior meeting. - Introducing Early Academic Outreach Program EAOP - Beatriz Provided short background to describe her passion for this program. She is a 1st generation college graduate and her father was a powerful support. - Beatriz proceeded through the transfer route starting at Southwest CC. She participated in EOP and received great support. - Beatriz served as a homeschool teacher at Elite Charter, and sub taught for MEUSD, and has served in education for 23 years. - EAOP has offices at UCSD main campus and extension at Imperial Valley. - She is working with partnership with not only MEHS but also MEJHS. - EAOP est. 1976. Helps students from 6th to 12th grades. - EAOP works with different programs and has a strong partnership with AmeriCorps. - Offers 1-1 advising, workshops, and special events for students. - Big events: Comienza con un sueño, adelante mujer, UC prep, and Summer Residential Program (weeklong program for students to stay on UCSD campus and attend classes. - UC Native American Resource - provided QR code. All Native Americans can go to UC tuition free. - Brought and distributed resources with essential material for planning for college going students. - Question: Campo Ed planning a college date and would like to coordinate with Beatriz. - Heather Sepulveda asked what sites EAOP is going to. Beatriz Moreno goes to all campuses in MEUSD - They have been to MEHS, MEJHS, and Campo ES. - Going to have 15 MEHS students participate in a drone competition.
<p>Program Data Overview - School Presentations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reading Data -</p>	<p>MEUSD School Administrators/Counselors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Today's agenda was built through questions asked after the last meeting. Data was pulled and separated by district site. - Holly Pawlicki is speaking regarding Campo ES data.

Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



<p>Elementary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Data - All Sites <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance Data - All Sites <input type="checkbox"/> Progress toward Graduation - High School <input type="checkbox"/> MEJH Report 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading scores comparing 22-23 and 23-24. - Can see improvement in reading scores and is attributed to Literacy TOSA, professional development, and all focus on Science of Reading. - Amy Conforth identified a chart that provides specific American Indian students and explained the breakdown of those students and their data are pulled day by day. - What is the reading specialist doing to ensure this growth? They are working with the curriculum and support general education teachers to use the curriculum. Then the specialist will pull students individually or in small groups to have individualized interventions to help students grow with ready skills. - Pawlicki identified attendance as a continuing challenge for CES so they are focused on enrichments on Fridays so that students are motivated to attend Mondays and Fridays. - Seeing improvement in attendance with the focus of enrichments and individual interventions. - Students with IEP at CES, All students identified as moderate to severe disabilities are served at Campo. - Amy Conforth is presenting on Clover Flat ES since principal Lugo is at a Special Education Conference. Reviewed that looking at reading scale and making sure to recognize that students in younger grades for top score needs to be compared to bottom score on the next grade level to ensure that they are keeping progress with reading ability and literacy. Also showed the American Indian student information chart. - Attendance is challenging at CFES as well. Weather days are very difficult and MEUSD is actively trying to get the monster van with big tires and plow to be able to get students to school on weather days. They are trying to increase enrichment on Mondays and Fridays as well. - CFES did see an increase in chronic absenteeism this year compared to last year. - Julie Dome asked if there are interventions that the district can work with the tribes to ensure that students are recovering attendance. Amy Conforth answered that yes the district is happy to work with the tribes. We also need to know more about why there are attendance issues.
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Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discussed medical and dental issues because there are days where the students have to be out all day because of either waiting to be seen by a doctor or waiting for a medical van ride back home after everyone who used the ride share is ready to return home.- Amy Conforth discussed that these issues can be discussed at a SART meeting, but the school sites can work with families.- Shama Lyons discussed looking at 10 % missed days in the time period of the school year or if there are multiple days in a short amount of time then the school personnel want to work with families. Schools are open to having these conversations.- Rebecca Blackwood discussed that all tribal parents have access to ed centers that can be helpful with bridging and providing resources for parents.- Continued discussion of a benefit of having a Title 6 liaison if they are the point person to connect with families and provide information and resources with tribal families and MEUSD schools.- Amy Conforth discussed working with Community schools to provide the contacts for each school with the secretary of school sites.- Rebecca Blackwood also stated that she would like to see a repeat of all school staff receiving information from the tribal chair.- All AI students with an IEP equate to 20 students.- Descanso ES slide is inaccurate from Amy Conforth so Shama Lyons is going to present her data without it presented. Amy Conforth will update slides and share.- DES has 1 AI Student and 8 secondary AI students.- Ms. Lyons presented her data from the system. Showing that students changed a bit and will not directly represent AI students as it is not hand pulled by individual students.- Stated that the greens and blue lines we want to see increase year to year.- Stated that 5th grade students experienced multiple long term subs last year as the teacher went out on leave so she is excited to see how they grow this year with their 6th grade teacher.- Chronic absenteeism is down 2 % from last year. Site goal is 95% or higher and they are tracking attendance rates. They have the Mondays and Fridays issues with a poor attendance trend and increasing enrichments for Mondays and
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Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



		<p>Fridays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 8 AI students but could be a total of 17 AI students according to SIS data.- DES goal is to address reading literacy early so that all students in 3rd grade and beyond are reading at or above grade level.- Gary Brannon reporting on MEJHS data.- Recognized a rough start to the school year with the combining of both middle schools into a single junior high school (MEJHS) at a new school site, and there have been multiple behavior concerns and focus on building student social interaction skills.- Data included 27 suspensions in Aug & Sept, 13 in Oct., 10 in Nov., 8 in Dec. Included students who had multiple suspensions. Some students were in multiple fights. According to students, issues were mainly females who had prior issues, had issues from Social Media, or had issues with students that have not had good socialization skills from being isolated and continued homeschooling. Some fights between males were due to heightened aggression. All related to poor socialization skills. Had to establish a 1 direction hallway as there are 300 students in the hallways. The 2nd most common violation are vape pens. Seeing THC pens and Nicotine pens. Vaping is a serious issue. Students will call it "zeroing out when they take a hit on vape and then exhale through hoodie to prevent vape signs." Discussed the issue of companies directly marketing to kids. Have once per month events to prevent drug or alcohol use. There are elementary students in 4th and 5th grades that are caught with vape pens in our district.- Staff working hard to increase junior high student connection and socialization to prevent overt aggressions and increasing positive interactions.- Attendance is a challenge at JHS and HS. Attendance habits are solidified by 4th grade so it is important for students to have great attendance all the way through school.- Holding many enrichments for good attendance. 2 or less absences for Dec and Jan will get pancake breakfast. The data challenge is that the state looks at all absences the same.- 63 students with IEPs at JHS. 4 AI students with IEP.- Lenny (SIHC Counseling Support) and his group come every other week to meet
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Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



		<p>with students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed transition meetings for students with IEPs when they are moving to the next school for the next grade. - There are students who get assessments that were not identified before JHS. - Brannon would love to have visitors if anyone wants to visit JHS. He asked to please call him when someone is upset with social media postings because many of them are inaccurate. - Beatriz thanked MEJHS for all they do and volunteered to help with pancake breakfast. - Mountain Empire HS report from Peter Krahlung, counselor for MEHS, provided data specific to MEHS students and how the achievement has changed over time. - 46% American Indian (AI) students have failed 2 or more core classes. - Discussed the difficulty to identify really off track students since MEHS is on block schedule so students have more time to recover credits. - AI student attendance rate 83% so this is a chronic absent rate. - 13% AI have IEP (5/39) so this rate has decreased from prior years. - Struggling with AI students with attendance. - With COVID attendance caused many issues. - Academic rigor and attendance rigor is a focus to ensure that students are getting back into the rigorous work and attendance. - Julie asked if this is all grade levels who have failed courses. Krahlung pointed out that there are many failures throughout the school. Block schedule has given students much opportunity to stumble but stay at MEHS and recover courses. - Debbie asked how many seniors are AI - Krahlung stated there are 9 AI students. -
<p>District Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Recruitment <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Studies <input type="checkbox"/> Early Literacy Nights <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded Learning 	<p>Amy Conforth <i>Director of Education and Instructional Services, MEUSD</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amy Conforth provides a district report. - Teacher recruitment question - Currently we have 5 open teacher positions. Have upcoming events: Partner with SDCOE for Level Up events so that SDCOE will advertise our open positions. Partner with SDCOE to connect teachers with Early Ed Teacher Dev grants. - Teachers who had to take courses could take courses for no fees and were paid

Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



<p>Planning</p>		<p>to take it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Instituting 2 Toddler Preschool sites coming in April 2024.- This will support teachers who struggle to find childcare to work.- Job fairs at National University and SDCOE Spring Job Fair. These have resulted in multiple hires.- Work with outside hiring agencies. Currently looking for teachers who want to come from overseas.- Work with local universities and have teachers do student teaching work with internship opportunities.- Reviewed Ethnic Studies curriculum creation. Ethnic Studies will become a graduation requirement by 29-30.- ES has 4 foundation disciplines that include African American, Chicana/Latina, Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander. Themes: Identity, History and Movement, Systems of Power, and ...- Reviewed the Portrait of a Graduate work and many themes connected to Ethnic Studies foci.- Looking longterm how we will trickle ES down to JH and ES so that all students benefit from the cultural competency built all the way through school work.- Shared the ES Timeline and that this will go on the website.- In Feb teachers will have a release day to develop a pacing guide and develop scope and sequence.- Planning on piloting the course next year prior to state requirements.- We want to listen to tribal elders to understand what Kumeyaay members can lead us in this development.- Krahling added that Becky Baker wants to be connected to tribes to have them lead this development.- The curriculum guide is going to be used to develop the curriculum.- Review of Literacy from school sites. To further the literacy work we have Sheri Miller as our District Literacy TOSA and she is leading this work through the Project ARISE grant that is working with our sites and is developing individualized professional learning to meet the needs of students at schools.- Sheri Miller is working with HS and JHS to develop their sites in understanding of the curriculum of working on this literacy work. MEUSD wants to partner with Ed
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Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



		<p>Centers to teach all centers on the curriculum used so Sheri Miller will come out and train all individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Miller is also hosting two Early Literacy Nights at MEUSD and asks to co-plan an evening event at ed centers for tribal families convenience. - Her flier is in a packet. - Additional offering from expanded learning programs that we have camps during Spring Break. 3rd grade swim camp at YMCA. Will be having summer programs for all levels. - Going to focus on all grades to identify and connect with students and families to connect with students that are struggling academically or with attendance to ensure they know they need to participate in summer programs. - Want to add to the list of partners with tribes. Share funds to fund their programs. Will connect with the Expanded learning team. - Board Policy 1410 update draft shared in packets. Update language of Title 7 to Title 6. - Need to take an updated board policy to the MEUSD Board for the Feb. meeting. Amy Conforth needs to edit draft suggestions before Jan. 31st. - Amy Conforth reviewed that there are options for other members to attend the equity conference for free. - MEUSD is sending the 4th grade teachers to attend as a team. - Reviewed the flyers.
<p>Tribal Leadership Updates</p>	<p><i>Campo</i> <i>La Posta</i> <i>Manzanita</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership Updates: - La Posta - Ed Support had a great Fall, recaptured older students who were off track to graduate and with My Academy work he is within weeks of graduating now. They have increased interest in education now which is positive. Increase concurrent college students. 4 tribal students are going to graduate this year. Looking forward to a college trip to Seattle and stopping and seeing every college and interest on the way. Tribal Universities and Colleges will be the next trip. - Manzanita working on My Academy classes. Title VI person discussion from Rebecca Blackwood discussed that she is working on specific AI numbers. At Campo there are 30 confirmed and 22 more identified, ... - She discussed there are many students that are identified as native but need to

Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



		<p>fill out paperwork to 506E forms which will double the funding if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campo - still hosting ASP 3 pm - - MYA here T/W/Th - Networking to Suycan and Viejas and attending the college night. - The San Diego Foundation has an application for scholarships. - Take advantage of all SDCOE offerings so that you can participate in the Equity conference next week. - Eduardo handles tech and education programs for Campo. Lots of PD for early childhood education. Doing Parent cafes.
<p>Professional Development Coordination</p>	<p>Dr. Phil Yoon <i>Campo Education Center</i></p>	<p>Just finished a study that surveyed youth, elders, and leaders to find out how they all felt the schools are doing with serving AI culturally but there is a lack of knowledge about the AI community. Discussed how offensive projects may be because of ignorance of understanding the culture. Teachers would like more professional development but they are worried that it would add to teachers duties without taking any off. Development needs to have cultural relevancy and be ongoing. Phil is looking at community involvement.</p> <p>4 phases recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical trauma - historical violence/boarding schools/bounties for murder 2. Kumeyaay Culture - Respect for elders/others in community/ members are there for eachother/ Art, music, games, and include Kumeyaay language in schools 3. Trauma Informed and Culture Responsive practices and connecting this to instruction practices. 4. School-Community Liaison for each school that connects to each reservation. Equip this person to be able to connect with teachers and community members. Have joint liaison training so that they can support each other and share information. <p>Phil wrote a book that is a teacher's guide to working with Kumeyaay that he will give to MEUSD so that we can start building bridges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amy Conforth commented that we need to schedule time to review opportunities and planning. Connect with three tribes. Professional Learning is 1 component of our strategic visioning for moving forward. - These suggestions can align with the community schools framework.

Mountain Empire Unified School District
Education and Instructional Services Department



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MEUSD no longer goes to the sheriff's station for SARB. - Amy Conforth recognized Dr. Phil Yoon.
Community Schools Grant Updates	Cherie Foraker <i>Coordinator of Community Schools, MEUSD</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of current progress and making connections districtwide for the Mountain Empire district-wide resource guide so that everyone has access to resource contacts for any need. - Current work on applying for remaining four school sites applying for CCSP Cohort 3 application which will be submitted by Feb. 9th deadline. - Discussed using the data that principles, counselors, and director shared during the Program data review and highlighted the need for community input to guide the Community Schools work. - Discussed how current focus in meeting identified needs of students. - Current winter coat drive and Family Institute Modules are opportunities to partner with the district and meet student needs and learn new skills.
Public Comment		None
Next Meeting: March 14, 2024		<p>Asked for any hosts for the next meeting. Julie Dome volunteered to host next meeting at La Posta, and Becky Blackwood volunteered to host the last meeting at Manzanita.</p> <p>Amy Conforth asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>1st motion: Dr. Phil Yoon</p> <p>2nd motion: Dr. Gary Brannon</p> <p>Adjourned: 3:20 pm</p>