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Friday Update

1 message

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Reply-To: noreply@pps.net

To: echan@pps.net

February 3, 2023

Dear Families,

I hope everyone is having a good week. Wednesday was the official start of Black History Month. First of all, I want to thank our PTA Equity Committee for putting together a great list of resources for your families. If you did not see it, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) to check it out.

Although our staff incorporates the critical importance of celebrating and studying historical and present day figures in the black community throughout the year, this month is a time for our entire school community to recognize our students of color and their families as well as the incredible contributions of members of the black community around the country and world. A few other things taking place: Whole school assembly, with our choir performing, two new whole school read-alouds, ongoing classroom literature and historical study and in the spring, our 3-5 grade students will engage in a month long West African drumming residency.

Progress Reports: Due to prolonged outages with the district network, progress reports will not be coming home today as planned. We hope to send them home early next week. Thanks for your patience.

Unfortunately, I have been out sick for the last three days - I hope to return to school on Monday. While being gone is challenging, Britt Kuether, our AP, our counseling team, other support staff, and our teachers are incredibly supportive and strong. They are flexible, adaptive, and can quickly work together to support our students and staff when necessary. Our students and school community are very fortunate to have such a strong team.

Speaking of our community and our team, I do want to provide the latest information on staffing/budget. While it is not as drastic as last year, we are still seeing a net loss of 1.2 FTE. Alameda is predicted (based on data compiled by PPS and PSU) to see a decline in enrollment, from 541 to 517. I am already engaging with district leadership and staff regarding these projections and am working hard to ensure they are as accurate as possible. At this time I am being told, quite emphatically, that no adjustments to classroom teacher FTE will be made until the fall, if ever.

If you are interested in learning more about staffing/budget and want to ask questions or weigh in on the topic, please consider joining either (or both) of these opportunities:

Principal's Coffee - 2/10/23 at 8:45 AM in the Cafeteria

Virtual Meeting - 2/13/23 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM - [GOOGLE MEET](#)

Here are some more details, starting with some positives first:

- A newly created, full-time Instructional Coach Position has been added to all K-5 schools including Alameda. This position (which will be likely filled by an Alameda teacher) will have multiple roles, including supporting teachers, leading professional development, and

improving our overall implementation of curriculum and our tiered support system for students.

- .5 FTE (half-time) additional Learning Center teacher who will join Natalie Rangel.
- A one-time \$105,000 Improvement Grant (this comes from the remaining federal covid relief funds) to be used at the discretion of our school community. I will be working with the site council/community members and our staff to put forward a spending plan for these funds.
- All of our other staffing has stayed the same, including the arts, counseling, office staff, media/library, AND our Assistant Principal position!

And as for our challenges:

- Due to projected enrollment, as of now, we are going to lose TWO teacher positions, one in 1st grade and the other in 4th grade. This will give us a total of 18, K-5 classrooms for the 2023-2024 School Year - or 3 per grade level. We will continue to have our two CB classrooms as well. **Without any additional FTE, I anticipate class sizes to look like the following: K: 27; 1st: 28/29; 2nd: 27/28; 3rd: 30/31; 4th: 26; 5th: 33.** To help put this into context, the district staffing ratios are: K - 29:1; 1st - 30:1; 2nd-31:1; and 3rd-5th - 33:1.
- In addition, we lost .2 FTE of physical education, however, our students should continue to have 90 minutes of PE per week.

As you may have seen in communications from our Superintendent, the budget/staffing process is still evolving - at the PPS Board Room and in Salem - where our elected officials have the opportunity to fund schools appropriately. While the Governor's initial budget was a good starting point, we are still upwards of \$400 million short of where most experts believe we need to be to truly maintain our current level of service.

Over the coming weeks and months I will do my best to keep you informed on how our staffing will look for the 2023-2024 School Year. I hope each of us can look for opportunities to stay involved and to advocate on behalf of our students and families.

Save the Date-Wednesday, March 15th from 6-7pm for the Alameda Science Fair! All are welcome to participate or attend...please see [attached flyer](#) for more info and the registration link.

If you have not completed the [Successful School Survey](#), please take a few minutes to do so. This is a great time to share your views with district and school leadership.

I wish everyone a nice weekend. Sounds like the rains will make a return - stay dry and warm.

Regards,
[Matt](#)

