

Superintendent Advisory Council

Ongoing Questions and Answers

Questions 4.22.19

Questions:

1. Grant writer vs. other staffing positions? What value does this type of person bring to the organization?

A Grant Writer would bring value to the district. There are many grant opportunities that are available to school districts. The challenge is to find the time to review and identify those that fit with the needs of the district and/or schools. Additionally, once a grant opportunity is identified it takes time to gather the data required to complete the application process. Time is a commodity that many staff members do not have enough of to complete the grant writing process within the given timelines. A Grant Writer would be an asset to the district but may not be the priority at this time.

Questions 4.8.19

Questions:

2. Desperate need for trees and shade at Desert Vista and Peralta Trail I have skin cancer and it is a concern of mine to spend 30 minutes in morning, afternoon and lunch time in the sun with NO trees/shade for kids.

Elementary students in grade K-5 are required by law to have a minimum of two 15-minute unstructured recesses. In addition, elementary students have a minimum of two 35-45 minute P.E. classes per week. AJUSD agrees that there is a need for additional shade structures and trees within their schools.

[Click Here](#) to read an article submitted by a Supt.AC member

3. Not only does the community need to be educated on how money is spent and the results of that money being spent – but the community needs to clearly understand how AJUSD compared to other districts should seriously concern our AJ residents if they had clearer understanding of district in equality.

AJUSD has worked diligently over the past two years to develop and implement a three year strategic plan that focuses on academic excellence, community engagement, culture of continuous improvement, and examine and evaluate systems (financial accountability). To demonstrate the commitment that the district has for moving the district forward in these areas it has intentionally increased documented presentations focused on student learning and financial transparency. Additionally, Governing Board agendas are aligned to the four identified goals to ensure that the district remains focused on moving the district towards the identified targets.

2018-2019 Internal and External Communication

- 314 Facebook posts
- 50 press releases (all published)
- Newsletters
 - 10 employee newsletters to date (another one in May)
 - 3 community newsletters (another one in June)

4. What is the strategy to increase investment in the quality of education interest to AJ voters?

AJUSD has struggled over the past 10 years to offer competitive wages and provide teachers with curricular resources that are aligned to current academic standards. It is imperative that parents and community members understand that to turn around the current trajectory of AJUSD an investment in the children of this district must be made sooner than later.

5. **What was the margin of lost in the last election?**

Paul Ulan will share past election results on April 29, 2019.

6. **Similar to the assessment of facilities that ADM Group and Valley Schools are working on, who is working on identifying needs for an override? What are some of these general needs and what will costs be?**

ADM and Valley Schools have looked at capital override needs, such as transportation, furniture, and most importantly school safety.

AJUSD district leadership have identified M&O needs focused on class size limits, student programming, student supports, and competitive salaries. These needs will be presented at the Supt.AC meeting on April 22, 2019.

7. **How do we add needs to the list of building enhancements? I do not have a music friendly room (orch) Choir could use some sound reflecting devices. Band room sound deflectors has been painted over muting sound. Music Dept. needs help!**

The facility review ADM facilitated included classroom remodeling which includes music and other fine arts classrooms.

8. **Any thoughts of reopening Gold Canyon Elem.? How might that test with Gold Canyon voters?**

AJUSD completed a demography study in Spring 2019 to determine the current 0-18 population within the school district and future growth. The data demonstrated that there is not a need for an elementary school to open in Gold Canyon at this time or in the relatively near future. Gold Canyon Elementary School is currently listed for sale.