

MDUSD Student District Advisory Council First Meeting

Executive Summary:

In an effort to adequately receive input from all students across the school district, I convened a group of 14 students in our newly-formed Student District on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021. As I explained at the last board meeting, the Student District Advisory Council is a cross-section of students from across the district in 6th through 12th grade created for the purpose of being an established entity within the district with the goal of advising the Student Board Member and the Superintendent. This group will play an integral role in being the vehicle by which to acquire student feedback for the LCAP.

Topics Covered:

- LCAP Student Feedback
- Mental Health
- Distance Learning

Schools that were represented at this first meeting:

- Pine Hollow Middle School
- Holbrook Language Academy
- Concord High School
- Northgate High School
- College Park High School

I am going to focus in the coming days on getting students from all of the middle and high schools in the school district to participate, including the alternative schools.

LCAP

What can MDUSD add, change or modify to better prepare students to be college and career ready?

What can MDUSD staff/ employees do to better support students with their academics and their social emotional learning?

How can MDUSD support the engagement and empowerment of students' families and the broader MDUSD community?

College and Career

- Holding FAFSA, UC app, CSU app, and Common App workshop to help seniors feel more comfortable in applying
- Proliferating more information on scholarships from 9th grade. There are small scholarships out there that people can begin accumulating as early as freshman year
- Increasing publicity and augmenting offerage of CTE and ROP classes (students suggested architecture and engineering)
- Integrating Drivers ed programs in schools

Student-Faculty Relationships/Engagement

- Having one-on-one time at the beginning of the year for students to introduce themselves to teachers. Allowing students to call teachers by their first names.
- Having a way for students to form a personal relationship with their counselors at the beginning of the year. Most of the time you have to set up a meeting and a lot of students feel they cannot really go to their counselors for support. This can be helpful when it comes to college concerns.
- Especially this year, because Zoom has limited social interactions because a lot of students are on mute with cameras off, teachers should set aside time for class discussions where students can get to know each other and interact more

Communication

- In general with Covid, communication needs to be improved. Some students did not even know they were supposed to sign up for the PSAT. Communication should improve because it is getting lost. Also, a lot of people do not know about this week's schedule.

Mental Health

- Implementing time out of a class period just to talk about our problems. I led a leadership class where we were only planning on talking for five minutes but ended up talking for an hour
- Including mental health under personal illness.
- As we transition out of distance learning next year, keeping the consolidated resources such as listing everything on Google Classroom and making assignments palatable for students to keep track of. We emphasize staying home when you're sick but it is impossible to miss a day of high school because you miss one day and you are very behind. Carrying that into in-person learning, consolidating all the assignments that are due in one place.

Racial Sensitivity

- Adopting a teaching tolerance rubric for teachers to follow, prioritizing cultural competency in the classroom