

Dear UDA families,

The last SAC meeting was Thursday, March 12, 2015. We covered the following items:

1. **Academic Calendar:** Dr. Taylor mentioned potential changes to the academic calendar in the future, especially concerning the start and end date of the school year, as SDUSD is moving to a start date of one week before Labor Day beginning in 2016-17. UDA has some flexibility about whether or not we align with the school district. This led to a question about whether UDA should continue to have a two-week spring break since district schools are moving to a one-week spring break. UDA is seeking parent input about these issues, particularly for the 2016-17 school year.
2. **Wednesday Afternoons:** Another issue regarding the academic calendar is the role of the Wednesday afternoon professional development time. The move to no classes on Wednesday afternoons was a surprise to many parents this year. Parents at SAC suggested that parents would appreciate a better understanding of the goals of this time and the activities that occur during it. The school will share its Wednesday professional growth calendar, which has been instrumental in guiding the WASC process, helping the school proficiently implement common core standards and moving towards a more cohesive model of project-based learning.
3. **WASC:** As noted in the recent email from UDA, the WASC site visit was positive. The WASC committee generally agreed with the strengths and areas of growth identified by all stakeholders during the process (good job again!). An additional growth area resulting from the WASC visiting committee was promoting positive student behavior. This growth area stemmed from survey comments and interviews by the students, parents, and faculty. As a result, UDA is exploring a more progressive, school-wide approach to promoting positive behaviors. Parents at the meeting expressed their support for collaborative teaching efforts by teachers across each grade level to ensure a more cohesive curriculum.
4. **LCAP and LCFF Budget Planning:** As we develop/adopt our LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan), UDA will recruit input from stakeholders (e.g. parents and staff) in how we allocate our funds to best serve our community and specific subgroups. To identify shared interests, Dr. Taylor led a brainstorming session with all attendees at this meeting (SAC plus a parent and staff visitor). She asked us to identify items that we would like added to UDA. Some of the items identified (if we had an “endless budget”) are listed below:
 - Additional and more affordable after school enrichment opportunities

- Additional curricular opportunities (project-training and math, English Learner and other curricular additions)
- Additional technology
- Additional supports for English Learners, intervention and special education
- Additional science and STEAM additions
- Additional Spanish programming
- Lunch (healthy, free/reduced)

More generally, we are interested in identifying ways that parents can provide input to the school, especially regarding important decisions. We are actively working on this challenge but we would be interested in hearing your suggestions about how to do this well.

Thank you,
Jeremy Long (SAC Chair)

Victoria González-Rivera (SAC Co-Chair)
Jeffrey Birchak (SAC Parent Representative)
Stan Jeffress (SAC Parent Representative)
Molly Gilbert (SAC Teacher Representative)
Colleen Marble (SAC Teacher Representative)
Kimberlee Orton (SAC Staff Representative)
Jenni Taylor (UDA Director)