

Board Report - Aug 6

Community Schools, CTE and Expanded Learning Programs

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Summer Camp and Expanded Learning

The 2026 Expect More Success Summer Camp concluded on July 10 after a successful five-week program serving more than 180 students with approximately 35 staff members. This year's theme, "Where Every Student is a Champion," truly reflected what we hoped to accomplish: creating a summer filled with academic enrichment, recreation, relationship-building and hands-on learning.

Students participated in swimming, art, STEM activities, sports, special presentations and several field trips. Highlights included visits to Velocity Island Water Park, the Sacramento Zoo, local bowling trips, a Giants game and other community-based activities. The Sacramento Zoo trip alone included approximately 177 students and 30 staff members and chaperones. I am especially proud that we were able to offer experiences that many of our students may not otherwise have had the opportunity to enjoy.

Summer Camp also included the ELOP Shed Project, which provided paid work-based learning opportunities for student interns working alongside our construction teacher. Students developed construction, teamwork and workplace-readiness skills while completing a project that will directly benefit the district's expanded learning program. The finished shed may not be perfect, but it represents a valuable learning experience—and it will certainly withstand the weather!

At the conclusion of camp, staff organized curriculum, supplies, photographs and program materials while documenting recommendations for the 2027 program. We also developed a staff survey to gather honest feedback about communication, scheduling, supervision, activities and opportunities for improvement. Summer Camp was successful, but we know there are lessons to be learned, and that feedback will help us make next year's program even stronger.

ELOP/SPARK Program

August 6th marks the first day of our after-school program for the 2026–27 school year. Considerable work was completed over the summer to prepare for the launch, including updating the parent handbook, reviewing attendance expectations, preparing the EZChildTrack attendance system and revising program policies and procedures. As of last Wednesday we had over 145 signups.

Board Report - Aug 6

Staffing, classroom use, sign-out procedures, storage and shared-space arrangements have also been finalized. My goal is to begin the year with clearer expectations, stronger systems and more consistent communication among staff, families and school sites.

The district continues to invest ELOP funds in building long-term program capacity. As discussed at a previous Board meeting, planned investments include transportation, program equipment, instructional materials, technology, STEM and enrichment opportunities, and facilities improvements that will benefit students for many years.

We are also partnering with LIFT Enrichment to bring trained chefs to our schools to provide hands-on culinary programming for students. This is an exciting opportunity to connect enrichment with practical skills, creativity and learning during the school day.

Monthly ELOP leadership meetings and an annual calendar of student and family activities are being developed to improve communication, consistency and coordination throughout the program.

Career Technical Education and CTEIG

I completed and submitted the district's 2026–27 CTEIG application, with a potential award of more than \$450,000. During July, the Business Office and CTE administration began reviewing the remaining Round 10 and Round 11 budgets to ensure expenditures align with approved grant activities, pathway needs, student participation and measurable program outcomes.

A working CTEIG budget was developed, and additional guidance was requested from the California Department of Education regarding middle school CTE participation, integrated agriculture science courses, CTSO travel and the equitable allocation of funding among pathways.

A districtwide CTE budget meeting was held on August 4, followed by additional budget planning on August 5. CTE teachers and district staff reviewed Round 10 funds that must be expended by December 2026 and Round 11 funds available through June 2027.

We are also developing a standardized funding-request process so every approved pathway has an equitable opportunity to request funding based on documented student and program needs. I want our funding decisions to be transparent, responsible and focused on providing the greatest benefit to students.

Planning has also begun for continued participation in SkillsUSA and for strengthening work-based learning opportunities across the district's Agriculture, Automotive, Construction, Culinary, Child Development, Health, and Arts, Media and Entertainment pathways.

Board Report - Aug 6

California Community Schools Partnership Program

The district completed and submitted the required 2025–26 school-site Annual Progress Reports for the California Community Schools Partnership Program. The district-level Annual Progress Report was also submitted last week, and work continues on the Annual Expenditure Report, which is due in September.

A district Community Schools Advisory Committee meeting was held on June 18. Approximately 10 people attended and participated in conversations about program implementation, partnerships, student and family needs, and priorities for the coming school year. Based on feedback from the group, we plan to hold next year's final meeting before summer break so participants have sufficient notice and can better fit the meeting into their schedules.

Beginning in 2026–27, each school will hold site-level Community Schools meetings in September and again in February or March. Districtwide advisory meetings will be held in November and April. I believe this schedule will provide each school with the opportunity to address its individual needs while also creating regular districtwide opportunities for collaboration and shared planning.

The district is also preparing to send a team to the Community Schools EMPOWER Summit in Ontario from September 9–11. This professional development will help our team strengthen implementation of the four Community Schools pillars and bring back practical strategies for improving coordinated services, family engagement and community partnerships.

Wellness and Community Partnerships

The district continues to strengthen its partnership with North Valley Indian Health. A kickoff meeting was scheduled for July 29 to coordinate services for the 2026–27 school year, including on-campus behavioral health support, referrals, student and family outreach, and participation in district and school events.

The third Certified Wellness Coach Employer Support Grant deliverable was successfully submitted to HCAI on July 27. The district now supports three wellness coaches, and we continue working to coordinate their services with school counselors, site administrators and community-based mental health providers.

Monthly counselor and wellness coach meetings are being planned to strengthen communication and ensure students receive consistent support across our schools. We will also hold a minimum of two advisory meetings at each site, with districtwide coordination meetings scheduled for November and April.

Community and family engagement plans for the coming year include parent cafés, resource events, wellness activities, bilingual outreach and partnerships with local organizations. I look

Board Report - Aug 6

forward to working with our Community School liaisons to plan monthly events that are welcoming, useful and responsive to the needs of our families.

Looking Ahead

As we begin the 2026–27 school year, my priorities include:

- Finalizing the schedule for districtwide CCSPP advisory meetings.
- Sharing CTEIG budgets with all approved pathways.
- Successfully launching the updated SPARK/ELOP program and enrichment calendar.
- Strengthening coordination among counselors, wellness coaches and community partners.
- Planning monthly events with our Community School liaisons.
- Expanding student work-based learning and career-exploration opportunities.
- Increasing family participation in site and district Community Schools activities.
- Using Summer Camp feedback to improve planning, communication and programming for 2027.

It was a busy and productive summer. I am incredibly proud of the opportunities we provided for our students and deeply grateful to the employees and community partners who made them possible. I want to extend a huge thank-you to all the teachers, counselors and instructional aides who helped make Summer Camp such a positive and memorable experience. A special thank-you goes to Jen Porter and Gene Smith for their leadership, flexibility and countless hours of work throughout the program. I would also like to give a special shout-out to Shelby and Diana for sharing their knowledge—and for their patience with me—as I navigated the many reporting requirements and deadlines that come with June and July. I truly appreciate everyone's support and teamwork, and I am excited to build upon this work during the new school year.