BUSINESS SERVICES

- “So far, so good”. Communication will be very important if things get worse. People don’t want to be blind-sided
- Measure F: Spend dollars truly in best interests of children’s education. Focus on needed items leading to student comfort and success. Cdm needs more room for all the teams. Not enough gym space at CdM
- NHHS has long lunch lines. Need to make it easier for them. They have limited time to eat. Need more booths or something
- Feeling that CdM gets less than rest of District concerning facilities (lockers, etc.)
- What is appropriate for Costa Mesa High School may not be best for Corona del Mar High School. More CDM 7/8th grade students attend high school classes. Freshmen at CdM do well. Enclave will cut 7/8th grade off from academic opportunities
- Enclave may have positive aspects
- Consider placing theatre project before enclave
- Invite teachers and parents to discussions regarding the theatre to assure that the theatre will work for productions
- Look closely at what we do. Do things because of their benefit to students not because we have always done it
- Newport Mesa in better shape than most
- Some district wide feeling that CdM zone gets more than other
- If programs are not necessary in some zones do not make equity the deciding factor

COMMUNICATION

- Home District web page is too busy
- Too much information – sometimes
- When news is posted categorize; Elementary Ed, Secondary Ed, etc.
- Allow views to select areas of interest
- Chunk the news
- Expire dates are not being used – scroll…scroll…scroll
- Only 10% of emails being opened
- Documents that request information do not come back
- Parents are interested in only their child
- High School home pages have changed, title gives more information
- Post – Topic Box; 3 or 4 words
- Love School Loop, although it adds another layer of stress for students. Perhaps need more parent education on the many things that can be accessed
- Sometimes non English speaking parents have a tough time with School Loop. Maybe PTA could work with District on parent education for School Loop
- Would like to know name of School Loop liaison at District
- Focus more on schools and avoid being defensive. Be open, no run-around even if answer is bad news, that is okay
- Need more awareness at District level of school activities. Be supportive
• Be honest, forthcoming and communicative
• Does anyone listen? It is a communication issue. Bad stuff happens, but let’s get to next level
• Help school groups to be more effective. Work for results. Partner with groups to come together on larger issues…focus on students
• Prioritize things. “We’re working on this. You are 9th on the list”. Communication/public relations issue
• Costa Mesa residents see live School Board Meetings on Tuesday, Newport Beach does not. Can we get the meetings on the internet? Half of N-MUSD does not see it until two weeks later
• Solicit good news, be proactive about it
• Poor crisis management in public relations domain. Personnel issues need to be confidential, just explain this
• Key-determine need
• School Loop is fabulous
• Communication is key to the relationship
• School Loop training for K-6 teachers is needed. Blank emails will discourage use

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
• Analytical learning – why? – were there “ah-ha” moments when children were younger. Teachers pressed for analysis and asked children to make connections
• If we lose 20:1, fear we will get pushback. Try to maintain smaller class sizes as we go up through the grades
• Instructional Strategies/Best Practice: Interactive instruction is most powerful; Engages/hands on learning; Challenging-differentiated; PLC asks us to diagnose each child’s needs and meet them; Know the child; Teachers work together

HUMAN RESOURCES
• Hiring and retaining highly qualified teachers: How do you know teachers are doing a good job? Increase teacher communication with their student
• Are teachers evaluated on STAR/CST scores? This isn’t fair to teachers because it is only one test
• Hoping test scores are not “end all and be all”
• Give teachers more support and resources. Good teachers don’t thrive in punitive environment. Each teacher is different and unique
• Treat all staff professionally. Clear expectations. Elevate teachers to this point. Reward really great outcomes
• Parents talk. When there is a problem, need a trail to resolution. Avoid chatter. Don’t blackball teachers. Need pattern to communication
• Hire quality employees
• Train everyone well
• Hire teachers who “fit” into the site dynamic
• Principal must hire with site needs in mind
• Parent representative involved in interviews
LEARNING

- PLC: Collaboration makes better teachers; the world is about collaboration, teachers need to role model for students
- Teachers need to talk to each other so that assignments don’t “pile up”
- After school programs for students struggling are needed at secondary level. See more in elementary schools. Hope for more in secondary
- Leadership keeps all eyes on student learning
- Fiscal lessons for the future require math competence
- Thinking skills for students are important
- Emphasize the application of math to real life
- Preparation for vigorous curriculum must start in kindergarten
- K-6 must lay the foundation
- Basic facts
- Use 21st Century tools – calculator
- 21st Century skills depend upon communication
- Organization and responsibility equal success in school and life
- K-12 parents need to take more responsibility; team effort – student/parent/teacher
- Parents need support and resources
- Communication …key to relationships
- School cannot depend on parents
- Parents of older students model the ideal involvement level for parents
- Make sure learning, not just teaching is the goal
- Practice is important, ZAP Program is effective. Homework should not be rote. Needs to be interesting and focused on learning. Children learn differently, so homework should be differentiated
- Homework should be focused on a goal and reinforce the concepts/facts taught in class; balance between performance and mastery
- Web based homework, timely feedback. Web assigned, formative feedback
- Provide additional resources

SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Engage student and parent. Try to figure out relative weakness
- Relationships difficult in middle/high school; open communication is harder
- Teacher collaboration helps students and teachers. Best practices shared
- Emphasize learning. Examine grades regularly. Frequent evaluation needed. Employ various strategies and techniques to guarantee learning
- Want J curve, not Bell curve. More students get As because they are learning. Sharing among teachers; create challenges; recognize differences but share best practices. Decrease teacher isolation; increase teacher collaboration on shared goals.
- Focus on differentiation. PLCs → talking, sharing data more focus on differentiation and learning
- Principal leadership is huge in student achievement. Stable, focused leadership is key. Principal sets the tone
- Knowledge of current practices and subject matter are important for principals
- Principal/staff collaboration, do not neglect or underestimate great staff members, all input should be considered
- Some teachers take pride in giving bad grades
SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Current technology is important for special education classrooms
- Technology must align with student need
- Current staff development is responsive to teacher needs
- Watch nutrition. Sell less sugar to reduce “hyper” attitudes and actions
- Lunchtime – employees need to be welcoming and happy
- Need more education for all about “who is a special education student”. Emphasize that a special education student learns differently. Need to build friendships and acceptance
- Case manager with longevity with family builds relationships, lessens parental frustration and leads to increased student success
- Everyone on the team needs to be “on same page” and have some knowledge
- Wish we could reduce paperwork load. More time with students. New methods/systems?