

# Coronado Unified Schools State of the District

February 2015



## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#1

- Remained the highest SD County unified school district; API of **897** (2013 latest data)
- Maintained APIs over 900 for 3 of 4 school sites. Reflected a 3-year average (2011-2013 Growth API). The State goal is 800.

## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#1

- Implemented Year 2 of teacher/administrator evaluation system. 70% of teacher's evaluation based on observations; 30% based on SMART goal data.
- Supported opening of Pathways Charter School to develop hybrid learning model for CHS.
- Implemented Year 1 of Crown Preschool as a fee-based preschool program at ECDC. We now have two classrooms with a full inclusion model.

## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#1

- Restructured entire EL program for 2014-15 to include EL Resource Teachers for each site using federal Title III fund and LCFF Supplemental funds.
- Produced 6 training days for all staff focusing on the State Standards and the new SBAC assessments.
- Provided sustained and systemic professional development in standards based literacy for elementary teachers and in mathematics for secondary teachers.

## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#1

- Provided Personalized Education (PEP) to 45% of all students. Palm Academy is model for CUSD.
- Put into effect a digital science textbook at CMS using free Open Educational Resources and Haiku.
- Implemented flipped classroom strategies in several classrooms to increase individualized learning and provide appropriate content support.

## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#2

- Awarded \$600,000 from a competitive grant under the California Career Pathways Trust to CoSA; awarded Carl Perkins Grant to expand network of AME programs in CA. CoSA is a demonstration school to help meet the goals of the Perkins Leadership contract.
- Implemented Year 2 of *Project STEPS*, a \$1.6 million DoDEA grant to provide intervention, assessment, and STEAM instruction for all students. This is our second highly successful federal grant, but it ends this year.

## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#3

- Increased communication via 9 new websites, including video portal *www.CoronadoTV.me* for all schools.
- Implemented *Haiku Learning Management System* for all teachers, students, and parents.
- Put into service *SchoolConnects* communication software.
- Put into practice social media (Facebook and Twitter) as a consistent source of providing and receiving information.
- Published the *Coronado Communique* every Friday to over 4500 shareholders each week.

## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#4

- Partnered with City to increase programs that strengthen the relationship between district counseling services and the community's safety and security. JPA formed and funding allocated for social adjustment/clinical counseling services.
- Continued to promote character education throughout the community via Board resolution, City Council Resolution, PTOs, CSF, C of C, Rotary Club, Optimist Club, etc.
- Strengthened strong relationship with Coronado SAFE using the Six Pillars of Character as foundation for all learning.

## Accomplishments and Successes

Goal  
#5

- Boosted use of MAP as formative assessment for grades 2-9 in English and math as foundation to PEP.
- Increased AP test participation to the highest ever with high pass rate. AP Spanish Literature had pass rate of 98%.
- Successfully delivered field test of new state digital assessment via district broadband, wireless, and personal computer systems.
- Put into action new survey for students, parents, and teachers as a means of receiving feedback in order to improve district services.

...graduate students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in higher education, careers, society, and life with the confidence not only to dream, but to determine their futures.

*Quality Education for Life*

Harsh reality  
is always better  
than false hope.

*Lord Grantham*

## The Campaign for Passage of Proposition E

Goal  
#2

- Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) changed everything
- LCFF guarantees that CUSD will remain dead last in per pupil funding as compared to other districts for years to come
- Even with the Governor's recent prediction of a revenue increase, our district will receive far less than most other districts
- **Failure to pass Prop E means years of under-funding**

## CA Does Not Fund Our Schools Sufficiently

Goal  
#2

- By almost any measure, California ranks near or at the bottom for public schools funding compared to other states
  - CA schools rely more on state funding and less on local property taxes – much different from other states
  - CA has more students per teacher or school staff than the rest of the US
  - CA has 3X more students per district administrator than the US average
  - CA's children come from low-income families, which is disproportionate to the US average
  - CA has the lowest share of children with English speaking parents in the nation

## Proposition E Warnings Have Come True

Goal  
#2

- A staggering \$2.3 million cuts were made in June for this year.
- Employees constantly struggle to provide expected services but with little hope of doing so.
- Other districts have used the LCFF funds to increase salaries.
- We have lost valuable & skilled teachers to higher paying districts.
- The heavy burden of constant discussion over the lack of funds has caused low morale among all shareholders.

Yet with all of this, Coronado schools continued to flourish with academic success—even during the worst recession in CA history.

*Quality Education for Life*

## Our Employees Have Not Received a Pay Increase for Over 8 Years

- The School Board forecast correctly and planned correctly, but those decisions cut district services to the bone.
- Employees earned less as a result of furloughs.
- Our ability to retain, progress, and replace is hindered as other districts increase their pay schedules.
- Costly to replace workers because of the productivity losses when someone leaves a job, the costs of hiring and training a new employee, and the slower productivity until the new employee gets up to speed in their new job.



No business can cut to the bone and still deliver the same level of services... We are now officially cut to the bone; I cannot recommend any more significant cutbacks...

*Quality Education for Life*

Excerpt from the Superintendent's Statement to the Governing Board on the Current Wellbeing of the District and a Proposal of Financial Strategy for the Future (October 8, 2014)

## Accept the Fact that We Cannot Change Our Financial Fate in the Near Future

- Prop E utilized a multiyear plan to fill the structural deficit; this “**Bridge to Basic Aid**” takes 10 years.
- Follow this same multiyear plan along with Financial Philosophy BP 3050. It is the same budget plan without the bond backfill.
- Accept the fact that we are a **low wealth district** and will receive less money than the statewide average until 2025.
- A **Qualified Budget** draws a line in the sand, openly and honestly telling the community where we stand financially.

## A Multiyear Plan— Spending Reductions

- Site based budgeting improved our skills at saving.
- Principals and staff members have found creative ways to save and improve working conditions.
- This provides little more than a small percentage of our need.
- End of the rope in being able to make meaningful cuts.

## A Multiyear Plan— Revenue Enhancement

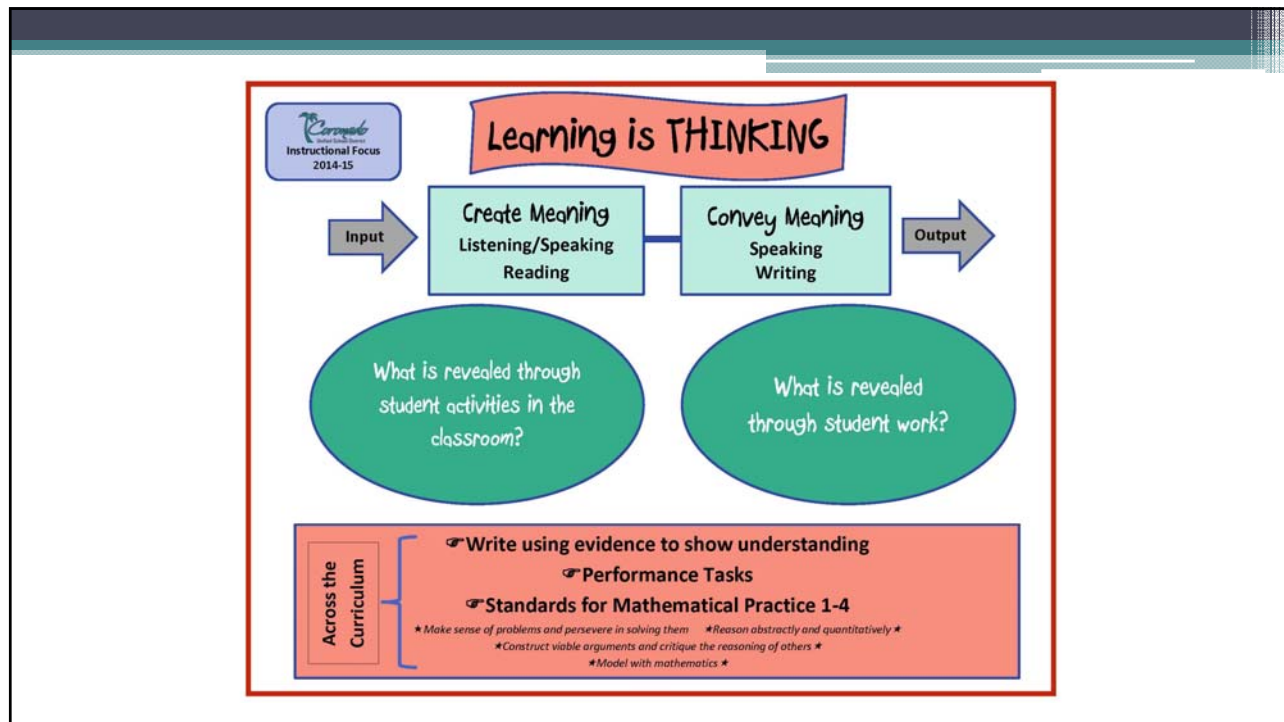
- Use the 2% Pass Through (PT) as General Fund revenue.
- Net available PT funds are \$1.6 million in 16-17, growing by \$100,000 annually.
- After balancing the budget and making the annual COPS payment, the Board should authorize a portion of the PT annual net income for salary increases for all employees.

## A Multiyear Plan— Accrual of Long Term Debt

- If we use the PT funds, we will not be replenishing Fund 40.
- Lower expectations of the Long Range Facilities Maintenance Management Plan.
- There will still be money in Fund 40 for emergency repairs.
- Create a facility debt for the community in 2030.
- Maintain our educational standards at all costs.

## Keep Calm and Carry On...

- CA taxation favors boom/bust phenomenon for school finance.
- Resist the fear of the economic situation; invest in our children.
- Sustaining educational programs is our primary financial goal; operating within our financial means is our methodology.
- Separate from the wild swings of CA's economic cycles.
- Adhere to Financial Philosophy of Governing Board Policy 3050.



- Strong and supportive teacher-student relationships
- A general attitude towards growth for student learning and teacher professional learning
- A general shift towards more conceptual understanding vs. rote memorization/retell/regurgitation of facts
- A general increase in rigor and perseverance
- Mostly motivated students; more reflection and goal setting in journals, PEPs, and in assignments
- Mostly engaged and excited teaching staff, and evidence of some teachers feeling liberated to try new instructional approaches without fear

- Social/emotional needs of students are considered most of the time
- An increased awareness and shift towards ensuring the needs of special populations are met, including English Learners and Reclassified Fluent English Proficient students, military-connected students, students who are below proficient for any reason, students with disabilities
- Better “wait time” to allow for student processing/thinking
- Few classroom management issues
- Fewer traditional rows; more table groups to facilitate collaboration and communication
- More application of content to real life

- More authentic student work, especially in math, writing, and visual art
- More modeling and writing in math
- More value placed on different approaches to thinking
- More teacher response to student thinking to drive next steps for instruction
- Some evidence of the struggle of thinking in more “sloppy work” (posted work does not have to be “perfect”)
- More students showing evidence of comprehension of their texts, both orally and in writing, to support their thinking or “claim”

- A great deal of non-fiction text reading throughout the grades, and plenty of literature as well
- An increase in co-teaching and inclusion for students with unique needs
- More creativity in lessons and student assignments
- More student autonomy and ownership of the classroom climate, environment, and learning in general
- More student talk, less teacher talk; more students explaining their thinking both orally and in writing
- More collaborative group work and student voice

- More student choice in how to demonstrate understanding
- More writing across the curriculum, especially in PE and science
- More project-based instruction with rubrics so students know where they are headed to achieve mastery
- An increase in flexible options for students, personalization, and some elimination of “rote” work when students demonstrate mastery
- Technology as a resource in every classroom; technology as integral to the learning process in many classrooms
- More playing and experimentation to build conceptual understanding

## Ensuring the academic needs of ALL students are met

### **All school sites have common focus areas for their 15-16 Strategic Planning session:**

- State Standards implementation
- Increase flexibilities and opportunities for students
- Social/emotional support
- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

## New Board Goals for 2015-2016

1. Integrate **personalized learning** with assessment methods that will prepare all students for academic and vocational success.
2. **Communicate** openly, freely, and accurately to engage and involve all shareholders.
3. Maintain **safe and supportive schools** where students and staff thrive