I. INTRODUCTION (20 Minutes)

- Welcome to our first-ever San Rafael City Schools Town Hall! We will be conducting this event in both English and Spanish.
- Jim Hogeboom, Superintendent, I am here with
- Maika Llorens Gulati, Board President AND ALSO a parent of a San Rafael Senior

(PAUSE) (Jim)
- We are in our third week and Day 14 of no school; our last day of school was on March 13
- Purpose of this Town Hall - 4 Parts:
  ○ Share our accomplishments and what has been happening
  ○ Share recent updates and information
  ○ Answer questions from the survey
  ○ We’ll open it up for Q&A (manage expectations for ?s)
    - Know that we will be posting all of this information to our website by tomorrow, including a list of FAQs
    - Also know that this is a time of great uncertainty as conditions change daily and sometimes hourly. Our purpose today is to share our best thinking at this time and that we will not have all of the answers.

(PAUSE) (Jim)
- Survey sent this week --- we received 841 responses so far and about half were in Spanish and the other half in English; THANK YOU FOR THE FEEDBACK! The District will review and use this feedback and suggestions to work toward the best service for our community-- we need your help and we value your
suggestions and idea-- we certainly don’t have all the answers and your feedback helps us to make better decisions

(PAUSE)

Comments

Jim: I want to acknowledge the pain, suffering and anxiety that we are experiencing here in San Rafael, in our nation and throughout our world. While our district is focused on continuing the teaching and learning for our 7,400 students, we know that many of our families are ill, have lost their jobs, and are struggling to meet their basic needs. When people are dying and struggling to survive, it puts everything in perspective. This is an incredibly difficult time for all of us, one that we have never before encountered. Unfortunately, we know that things are going to get worse before they get better. Our hearts go out to all of you in distress, and please know that you are in our thoughts as we try to manage this crisis. There is a lot that we are trying to manage, and we ask for your patience and your support. I could not be more proud of everyone in the district-- teachers, classified staff, administrators, Board members as well as our community partners for the incredible hard work and for stepping up.

Maika:

SRCS Accomplishments that we are proud of: FOOD, TECH, INSTRUCTION

● FOOD: (Maika) S/F Marin Food Bank & Food Services - students need fuel to learn!
○ In the survey, we heard from parents concerned about food for themselves or for the students.

○ We are continuing to deliver lunches and breakfasts every day during the week through our Food Services Department. In March we served a total of 7,500 breakfasts and lunches to our families and average 720 per day. Big thanks to Food Service Director Allan Downing and his team!

○ We also help to provide food to our community through the 4 SF/Marin Food Banks every Wednesday and Friday at Bahia Vista and in March we distributed over 1300 family meals for an average of 350 per day. Thank you to Laurel Dell/Short School Principal Pepe Gonzales for coordinating this effort!

TECH: *(Jim)* Chromebooks Deployment - students need technology to learn. We have an awesome IT team!

○ Our first priority was to ensure that every student has access to distance learning. We heard in the survey from many parents who are grateful that we were working to make sure every student had a Chromebook.

○ Huge thanks to our IT Department, District staff, principals, teachers and volunteers who have helped make this happen

○ Last week we gave out over 600 Chromebooks to our High School students (200-TL, 400- SR)

○ This week we gave out over 500 Chromebooks to our middle school students at Davidson and VV
Today we distributed another 300 Chromebooks today to our Elementary Students and plan to do another 800 tomorrow at VV, SP @Pickleweed, SV, CO.

We are currently working to provide internet connection to our families, and have ordered 150 personal hot spots which are coming next week. We are also working with the city and internet providers to establish hot spots throughout San Rafael so that families can access the internet and classroom instruction.

- **INSTRUCTION:** *(Jim)* Our instructional coaches are fantastic
  - Designed work packets (which we shared with other districts in Marin):
    - 3,200 packets were ready to go on March 13 (the final day before the school closure)
    - 1,500 more work packets were distributed this week at Pickleweed
    - Again, those numbers aren’t as important as the fact that TK-5 students districtwide had these packets starting week one and two, then again for weeks three and four.
    - Working on an order for instructional supplies that we will distribute to 3000 students after spring break
  - The District’s Remote Learning Website was up and running within 3 days of school closure, and included Video Lessons
  - We are grateful to our instructional coaches for their innovation and dedication to assist our teachers with
delivering instruction in a completely different, hands-on manner with just a few days of work.

○ Thank you to Bay Area Community Resources for volunteering to support getting packets into our students’ hands.

● STORYTIME: (Maika) Every day at 9am a new story is brought to you by one of our teachers or principals. Check it out on our Facebook and Twitter!

○ Big thank you to Coleman Principal Mike Taylor for spear-heading this endeavor. And to the faculty and staff for sending in their online stories!

● MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES: (Maika) Excellent time to note what we heard loud and clear about the challenges that parents are facing, particularly from those who aren’t working right now AND those who are now working FT at home and schooling their child, or even harder, children at different schools! We have updated our website with Mental Health & Wellness Resources and will continue to update it.

BEHIND THE SCENES (Communication) (Jim)
We thought this was a good opportunity to briefly share what SRCS is doing behind the scenes:

● Every morning at 11:00, I join other Marin County Superintendents, County Superintendent, Mary Jane Burke, and Marin Department of Health and Human Services staff to receive the latest news and updates and to ensure we are all working collaboratively.
• I also meet virtually with SRCS’ district and school leaders almost every day to ensure we are on the same page and moving forward as quickly and efficiently as possible.
• At each school, principals are meeting weekly with their teachers, and grade levels and department teams are also meeting regularly.
• SRCS Board members have also been very present during this time also, working with us on business and fiscal implications, human resources, and communications. We are grateful for their efforts.
• Also working very closely with our supportive community partners, including Canal Alliance, the City of San Rafael, MCOE, Bay Area School Resources, Food Bank, Marin Promise, Marin Community Foundation, Community Action Marin,

II. OTHER TOPICS TO ADDRESS BRIEFLY (5 Minutes)

• Census 2020 (Maika)- reminder to fill out the census forms and why! Helps us plan for future jobs and funding for schools, libraries, construction, roads...etc.

• Shelter in Place and School Grounds access (Maika)
  ○ Due to the Shelter in Place order, school grounds are closed! Please help us to keep your children away from our grounds and ensure physical distancing

• Housing: (Maika)
  ○ If you have lost part or all of your regular wages due to COVID-19, your Landlord cannot tell you to leave your
home. Starting on March 24, 2020, your Landlord cannot evict you if you follow these steps.

- Notify your Landlord in writing (via text, e-mail, or letter) that you lost wages due to coronavirus and are unable to pay the rent
- Provide proof to your Landlord that you have lost wages or lost your job completely
- Canal Alliance? And Legal Aid are resources for information.

**Construction (Jim)**

1. Construction workers on school bond projects were initially deemed essential workers and so work on our key remaining projects at SRHS, TLHS, and Venetia Valley are continuing.
2. With the new Shelter in Place order enacted on 3/31/20, the Governing Board must declare these essential projects. A special Board meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Friday to pass this resolution so work can continue on our key bond projects.

**III. COMMON QUESTIONS FROM THE SURVEY: (20 Minutes)**

Parents asked many questions in common that we will be addressing. Unfortunately, we cannot answer all of the questions right now, but we will answer them in future communications.

1. **Are schools in Marin going to be closed through the end of the school year? (JIM)** Probaby! Marin Health and Human Services, in partnership with the Marin County Office of
Education, and in conjunction with other Bay Area counties, will announce shortly this decision. Note: 10 Bay Area community colleges will also be staying closed and staying with distance learning through the end of the year as well.

2. **What has the district done to prepare teachers for distance learning? (JIM)**
   
a. Recap: the first two weeks of school closure (March 16-27) was a time of enrichment and use of educational resources to begin our transition to distance learning. This gave teachers time to prepare, and the district time to make sure all students have Chromebooks and Internet access. We also gave out packets to all elementary students and have provided a follow up packet this week, along with online resources.

b. Our remote learning website was up and running in 3 days after closure.

c. We continue to build the capacity of our teachers for distance learning. Support and mentoring is being provided by school administrators, instructional coaches, and other teachers who are well versed in technology and on-line learning. Other resources for teachers include On-line chat rooms; 1:1 support, department and grade level meetings, videos and “tips of the day”. Making this shift is not easy, but our teachers are working very hard to make this shift.

d. Almost all students had previous experience using Chromebooks in the classrooms, as well as on-line support
resources. Most teachers also had previous experience using Google Classroom (K-8) and Canvas at high school.

3. What have been the biggest challenges for teachers? (Jim)
   a. Connecting with students online. We still have some classes where not all students have not signed in and so are not participating; every school is working to contact these students to ensure their participation.
   b. Blending independent work and group instruction
   c. Concerns with student behavior on-line (Zoom bombing)
   d. Navigation the slew of new, free on-line resources to find the best content
   e. Getting used to shifting from teaching in the classroom to using a totally new way teaching
   f. Determining the best time to connect with students, and using the new secondary schedule
   g. Developing weekly assignments and gauging the level of individual support-- balance between too much and too little work
   h. Balancing the emotional well-being of our students with academic learning in a new learning environment. Everyone is stressed!
   i. Note: all AP classes are available on line!

4. How can parents best support our children? (Maika)
   a. Make sure they get lots of exercise (kids are under stress now too!)
b. Make sure to give them time away from screens - play games and have some fun

c. Review weekly assignments and help where you can

d. Make sure students are participating in Google Classroom or Canvas with their classes

e. Don’t be afraid to contact your teacher or principal if you need help!

5. **What supplemental resources are available to students over spring break? (Jim)**

   a. If you go to our remote learning website and click on students, you will be able to find your child’s grade level and find some great supplemental resources. Some teachers have also assigned longer term projects that carry over through spring break.

   b. Reading or journal writing are great activities for all ages!

6. **Why spring break? (JIM)** the school calendar was previously set and in alignment with county; requires negotiations to change; stressful times, a break is needed for all.

7. **How will students be graded?** Concerned with AP Grade, GPAs, SATs (JIM)

   ○ Still working on this with our teachers and our other Marin Secondary Districts (Tam, Novato and Shoreline) - A joint decision will be made after spring break

   ○ Students will be promoted

   ○ AP tests - AP tests will continue but will be completed individually rather than in large groups. For the 2019-20
school year, students can take a free online 45 minute open response. The College Board reports that these tests are currently in development.
  ○ SAT/ACT tests - All of these tests are currently postponed.
  ○ CAASPP, ELPAC - These annual statewide tests will not take place this year.

8. **How will we handle PROMOTIONS/GRADUATIONS at ALL Levels (5th, 8th, 12th)?** - (MAIKA) We realize how hard it is for our seniors...and we can make that up to them but we will do all we can to put something in place. Drive-through graduations? Use Parent groups for support. We’ll be asking for your ideas and suggestions - stay tuned for more!

9. **Will we require Summer School? Are there any resources for the summer? How will kids catch up next year?** (JIM)
   a. Not sure yet-- It is too early to make a determination about summer school, but we do hope to have credit recovery options available? (and students can do credit recovery right now>0

10. **What community resources are available to help with rent?** (MAIKA) Community resources will be posted on the district website

**V. CLOSING (4 Minutes)**
- Our next Town Hall Meeting will be Thursday, April 23rd at 5:00pm.
● Surveys will be sent out the week of April 20 to Families, Teachers and Students

● Reminders:
  ○ Follow Physical Distancing Protocols!
  ○ Wash hands,
  ○ Wear a mask if possible
  ○ Stay close to family and friends!
  ○ Stay at home. Read, sing, whatever your joy is, and participate in the Marin Howl!!

Maika: Finally: Two comments we received from families are:
  1. Get ready because this is going to get much worse.
  2. I want my kids to keep on learning but remember we are all scared for our lives right now.

Jim: Just want to say thank you from our entire district and school staff for all you’re doing for your children. We are really in unchartered waters and everyone is doing our best to navigate our way forward. Your teachers and principals are delivering material and lessons the best they can and many of our teachers have their own families to manage too! We need your help and are committed to looking at the many excellent suggestions you submitted and we are in this together: We are one! Thank you for all you are doing!!!!!!