



District 2009-10 Focused Goals Discussion

Palo Alto Unified School District

Our Mission is to enable all students to:

- *Strive for academic excellence;*
- *Acquire the knowledge and skills that support learning;*
- *Value creativity and life-long learning;*
- *Demonstrate respect for self and others; and*
- *Participate meaningfully in our democratic society and interdependent global community.*

Strategic Plan Areas

- Academic Excellence and Learning
- Staff Recruitment and Development
- Budget Trends and Infrastructure
- Governance and Communication

August 25, 2009

Palo Alto Unified School District

Academic Excellences and Learning

Seek ways to improve our collective social-emotional support for students

- Community conversations
- Review and discussion around consistency for the Living Skills Class
- Additional training for counselors and other student support personnel

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Academic Excellence and Learning

Improve math instruction and support implementation of new math materials (K-12)

- Review of reporting math progress to elementary students' parents
- Intensive professional development for elementary school teachers and administrators and their integration into math program
- Summer planning time for secondary math teachers around new materials and their integration into math program
- Implementation of *Everyday Math* calendar reviewed by Board on April 28, 2009

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Academic Excellence and Learning

Continue discussions and efforts around college readiness, graduation requirements, and maintaining excellence at secondary schools

- Review of student success in college through surveys
- Examination of graduation requirements versus college admissions requirements as well as student a-g completion rates

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Staff Recruitment and Development

Enhance culture and build structures around improved staff development for all employees

- Continued conversations with teachers and other staff regarding training and development needs
- Setting budget priority around professional development
- Examination of best practices in professional development, particularly at the secondary level

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Budget Trends and Infrastructure

Act as careful stewards of district fiscal resources (operating funds, Strong Schools Bond funds, and parent donations)

- Solve structural deficit issues
- Address explosive growth in health benefit costs
- Continue to move building program forward

Budget Trends and Infrastructure

Renew Parcel Tax that ensures a steady source of local funding

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Governance and Communication

Complete review and revamping of the district's Board Policies

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Timeline for Decision on Focused Goals

- ✓ Introduce at June 23, 2009, Board meeting
- ✓ Discussion during Board August 3-4 Retreat
- ✓ Discussions with school leaders August 5-24
- ✓ August 25 Board discussion of Focused Goals
- September 8 Board approval of 2009-10 Focused Goals

August 25, 2009

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