Dear SUSD Families and Staff:

I hope you are all enjoying your summers. Although the 2020/21 school year ended in May, the school board continues to work through summer break in order to plan and prepare for the upcoming school year.

Looking Back

In June, our board and administration addressed a number of issues concerning our students and staff, including:

- Reviewing our existing academic benchmark indicators. Although our students outperformed both the state and national averages for all exams reviewed, roughly 16% of 8th grade students are performing three or more grade levels below where they should be. Further, AzM2 results show that only 60% and 66% of 3rd grade students tested as “proficient” in English Language Arts and Math, respectively, with results varying across our demographics. It is important to note that: (1) these figures do not take into account the enormous and commendable growth students and staff achieved during this very difficult year; and (2) test results are not the only aspect of our children’s education that matter. However, these results do form a starting point for improving academic achievement.
- Adopting new audit policies. The board made significant revisions to its prior audit policies, paving the way for the creation of an audit committee and the formation of an internal audit team in the future that is in line with industry standards and best practices. Internal auditing is a critical component of ensuring that SUSD is following the law, using taxpayer resources efficiently, and improving transparency and accountability to its stakeholders.
- Approving the Strategic Planning Design Team’s recommended Vision, Mission, and Value statements for SUSD. The team is comprised of 40 staff and community members, with individuals chosen from all five learning communities. SUSD’s new vision is to “engage all students in world-class, future-focused learning.” Phase 2 of the strategic planning process begins in August and will establish SUSD’s measurable strategic goals.

In addition, SUSD is looking for parent and community volunteers for its supplemental book list and materials committees, as well as for its Self-Insurance Trust Board. If you or someone you know might be interested in applying, please visit https://www.susd.org/Committees for more information.

Moving Forward

The board next meets in August. The board will discuss a number of important issues, including establishing interim key performance indicators for the 2021/22 school year, significant policy revisions, and potentially joining litigation against vaping companies.

Yours very truly,

Jann-Michael Greenburg
President | SUSD Governing Board