

PUSD Approach to Excellence Mid-Year Report
Due Date Feb. 6, 2008

Approach to Excellence Strategy: Focus on Student Achievement and Strategic Planning – John Muir	
Project Manager: Kathleen Duba	Date: 02/05/08
Expectations/Scope: (Describe the outcomes/deliverables/scope that have been defined and outlined for the Supt's Priority Monitoring Plan) On October 2, 2007 the Governing Board of the Pasadena Unified School District approved the reconstitution of John Muir High School for the 2008-09 school year and directed staff to establish a new comprehensive school program, establish and implement the process for reapplication for all staff positions, and to negotiate the impact with employee organizations.	
Strategies Implemented: (What strategies/actions have been implemented so far?) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charters and teams have been established to develop recommendations and work plans for John Muir 2008-09 school year around design principles approved by the Board . Teams are Reinvention Team, Small Learning Community - Teaching and Learning Team, Student-Centered Systems Team, Academy Development Team, Parent and Community Engagement Team, Safety Team, and a Facilities Team. Each of the teams has met. Team memberships include staff of Muir, other schools and district as well as parents, students, higher education and community members.• A School Improvement consultant coach has been hired and is working with the Reinvention Team, current school leadership as well as current and potential school partners.• A School Improvement Facilitator, current staff member at another school, was transferred to provide daily support to the work of reinvention.• Training for the Reinvention Team was provided in successful meeting facilitation and working as a team.• Timelines for each of the teams and the overall reinvention have been established.• Key national and California leadership in secondary reform have been contacted and connected to the work. Currently a ConnectEd leader is working monthly with the Reinvention and Academy Team leadership.• Communication modes have been identified and established.• Draft model of the organization for the school has been developed – subject to change as the work progresses.• Research, school visitations and conference attendance have been established to provide the best practices that will inform the development of John Muir 2008-09.• A grant proposal has been developed and sent to a funding source to provide support for John Muir and a Small Learning Communities Grant is in development.	

Data Collected and Analyzed:

(What data have been collected and analyzed? These data can be qualitative or quantitative.)

- Initial data was collected that showed the need for a change at John Muir.
- Currently staff focus groups have been held to gain insight from current teachers for the reinvented John Muir.
- Online surveys are being conducted with students in grades 9th, 10th and 11th to see the interest and make decisions on the themes for the academies.
- Requests for ongoing information are received in person, via email, in writing and via phone and responded to in a timely manner.
- Timelines for the Reinvention Teams have been established and monitored.

Data Analysis Results:

(What are the findings of the data analysis? What is working and what is not? Explain reasons for progress or lack of progress.)

- The data is currently being collected and analyzed in the area of teacher focus and student interest so analysis has not been completed. It should be available by February 19, 2008.
- Though a system of communication has been established. It is not seen as complete and timely by current staff. A communication plan is being established under the leadership of the New Director of Communication in order to be timely with information to all stakeholders.
- Timelines have had to be changed. Work has taken longer than expected.

Mid-Year Changes:

(Based on the data analysis, what strategies need to be modified to meet the expectations?)

- Though timelines have been modified a plan for John Muir will be established by July 2007.
- Communication needs to be continually modified and enhanced to meet needs of all the stakeholders.
- The Muir Reinvention guiding team will begin work on the specific planning of each element of the plan: the who, what, when and where.

Support Needed:

(Is there support from others that is needed or could help the work be easier/faster/better?)