ACE Newsletter: May 4, 2023

Leadership Conversations

On May 1st, ACE met with the District Executive Cabinet in one of our regularly scheduled meetings. In our opinion, the meeting was the most positive, direct, and productive conversation we've had together.

We discussed issues that still need resolutions (such as IA staffing, substitute shortages, and class sizes), and also broached topics that we've gathered from more recent conversations with educators:

- **SPED teachers should _not_ be conducting evaluations of IAs**: although they can participate by sharing input, not in conducting or writing the actual evaluation. This is part of the administrative credential, not the teacher credential.

- **Substitute shortages:** the district agreed that, while there is still room for improvement, the substitute situation has ebbed and flowed but has generally gotten better since COVID.

- **Class sizes:** the district reported that reducing class sizes is a priority for secondary core classes, but will depend significantly on the state's COLA.

- **PE high school graduation requirement waivers:** ACE posited the idea that if PE teachers are becoming more available in the next few years due to graduation requirement changes, wouldn't it be prudent to return to having PE teachers in the elementary schools to allow for more prep/planning time for elementary teachers? Admin acknowledged they were open to this idea but didn't feel that the graduation requirement changes alone would provide significant numbers to start making this change.

- **Teachers sometimes get assaulted by students but don't find support in addressing the violence and staying safe:** the district immediately agreed that teachers/staff should be safe and that incidents need to be investigated. We asked them to explain what should be done when an educator needs to report an assault but is not receiving

support from their Program Specialist or site administrator. They agreed to provide an explanation of what should be done in a follow up email.
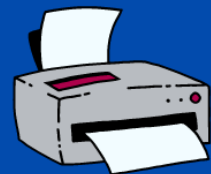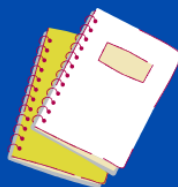
- **Exit interviews**: every employee who leaves the district is allowed to participate in an optional exit interview. Employees can also request to interview with someone who is not their immediate site or area administrator. Nobody should be told that they can't have an exit interview if they'd like one.

- **1:1 Computer Tech**: ACE asked for a clear policy on which schools and classes should have access to computers, particularly in core classes.

- **Supporting LGBTQ+ Students:** with the changing policies and procedures regarding LGBTQ+ students, we asked what the district's position or intentions are regarding creating a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. They discussed their efforts to navigate conflicting priorities between the law and the community's input – but made it clear they believe it's important to provide a safe place for students.

- **Climate Assessment Survey results:** in previous years we've found that the results of the climate assessment are inconsistently shared out at different sites. We asked the district to share the district-wide results. They agreed that the numbers – but not the written responses – should be shared out universally.

For questions that we didn't receive a thorough answer, we've sent a follow-up written request for the answer. ACE will stay on top of the issues that have long been a priority for Clovis educators. If you'd like more details, reach out to us by responding to this email!

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?

Are classroom supplies budgets an issue for you? What does your site provide to you? Do you have access to printing and copying? How much do you end up spending from your own pocket and what do you purchase?

Email us at <u>ace@cloviseducators.org</u> to share your experiences!

CALENDAR

May 2023
(Mental Health Awareness Month)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Week of the Educator					
			CUSD Board Meeting			
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20

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