



**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Instructional Services, Office of Student Support Services**

**GATE-DAC MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE Friday, March 23, 2017: 9:10 a.m.-10:58 a.m.**

**Location: Horizon Hills**

CVUSD GATE DAC Purpose: Communicate & Advise (Advocacy)

*Quote: "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten." – Wilson Mizner – American playwright*

**ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Juan Santos, Subha Tholudur, Bijaya Eaton, Christine Wells, Bernard Kuai, Hilary Bhinder, Teri Trudel, Dale Dooley, Julie Nagamoto, Gisella Stanley, Bill Gorback, Amy Chen, Rachel Brusseau, Li Yi, Matsuko, Carolyn Bernadino

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chair Subha Tholudur.

**II. OPENING CEREMONIES**

- a. Introductions
- b. "Quote of the Day" – Dr. Santos

**III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as presented.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)**

Bill Gorback observed program at University Learning Center and liked it. He suggested asking Mrs. Green for a tour. He asked if teachers can go to other classes to see what they are doing.

**V. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Julie Nagamoto moved and Bijaya Eaton seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

**VI. REPORTS (see attached)**

- a. Dr. Santos  
Assessment results should be read by mid-April.  
The district purchased 30 headsets for virtual reality, but they don't connect to the computers; this is being fixed. These may be used for Fun Fridays.  
Student support services is being reorganized. A Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) will be assigned to GATE. The job opening will be posted soon. This person will work on professional development and online resources. There will be only one TOSA for the entire district.



**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Instructional Services, Office of Student Support Services**

- b. DAC
  - The theme for next year's Reflections will be "Heroes Around Me."
  - The Get-Ahead school program is now open.
  - All-district Strings Day is coming up.
  - More grants from the Conejo Schools Foundation will be awarded soon.
  - The LCAP goals are being discussed.
  - There will be a safety audit of each school in mid-June.
- c. GATE DAC Events Reports
  - There will be a Fun Friday event presented by CREATE. There will be a solve-it day at University Center at 4 p.m. for students in grades 3-5. Upcoming Fun Fridays will include break-out boxes.
  - The Fun Friday in May will be a parent feedback session. There will be something for the students to do – perhaps a presentation to watch.
  - There will be a science fair and robotics event for middle school students only; this will be a meet-up event on Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31.
  - There will be a pilot program on leadership for fourth graders. Dr. Santos is waiting for the school board to approve it. Only four to six kids per school will be able to participate. Those who participate may or may not be GATE students. There will be Friday and Saturday sessions, and it will start in late April or May.
  - There will be an Invention Convention for students in third through fifth grades.
  - There will be a team technology event for sixth grade students.
- d. School Site Reports
  - Teri Trudel said that her school has no money, and it was suggested that she apply for a grant from the Conejo School Foundation. The Tri-County GATE Council grant is available only in the fall.
  - There was a discussion of how to start, and many success stories were shared.
  - Hilary discussed Noetic math.
  - Subha is buying 35 microbits through her school's PTSA and may be able to hold a fun Friday event using them.
- e. Local / State Update
  - None
- f. CAG Conference Report
  - Bijaya reported on the meetings that she attended. Ocean guardian schools can get grants. One workshop that Bijaya attended was for twice-exceptional children. It was titled A Bright Future for Bright Minds. She heard that if the future is knowable, then we should teach knowledge and skills. If the future is unknowable, then we should teach what was true in Roman times, such as perseverance, time-management, etc. People should work on their weaknesses just enough so that that the weakness is not a handicap, and the focus on strengths.
  - Hilary got lots of fliers and described some of the cool ones. She spoke about a program started by a retired robotics teacher in Long Beach. She heard that grouping, rather



**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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than tracking is the currently-preferred method of teaching kids, and as always, quality is important. She heard that time-intensive and long-term programs, such as those that are held over the summer, are preferred to activities in the classroom or pull-outs from the classroom, because they allow for “deep dive” into a given subject. Mindfulness can be helpful. There should always be a democracy of opportunity but there will always be an aristocracy of achievement.

Bijaya also attended the tri-county meeting. There will be another meeting on April 21 and May 11 (in Santa Barbara). Judy Bloomer gives talks on social and emotional issues regarding GATE students, and she also runs a workshop (for a fee).

Rachel reported that there are lots of different ways that GATE activities can be implemented.

Dr. Santos and three teachers also attended the meeting. Work is beginning for a plan for next year.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. Communication:

Next month Dr. Santos will lead a discussion group on LCAP.

b. “What do you want for your GATE student?”

Hilary said that we have done all that parents can do, but now it is time for the district to take it to the next level.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Nominating committee

add LCAP to next month’s agenda.

**IX. SPECIAL GUEST**

**X. NEXT MEETING**

Friday, April 13, 2018 @9:00 a.m. at Horizon Hills

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Teri Trudel moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. The motion was seconded by Gisella Stanley. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Wells, Secretary



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