

School Improvement Plans and Measure 30 impacts discussed

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he would be presenting them with a policy before next year to further define the issue.

School Improvement Plans

Part of the 21st Century Schools Act requires every school to have a SIP and each district to have a District Improvement Plan. Prior to the beginning of Funderburg's administration, each school site council developed a SIP. Unfortunately, with a change in approach and a funding crisis, the existing SIPs have not proven effective. At the beginning of this school year, Funderburg asked each school to develop a SIP to outline what they want to

accomplish this year, using the district's motto, vision statement and guiding principles as a starting point. Each school was charged with developing two academic goals and a school climate goal. Grade levels at WGS and Lincoln Grade School (LGS) have also been realigned to correspond better with state testing.

Principal Anne Kingsley told the board that reading is the number one activity at Lincoln Grade School, with a focus on literary forms (an area of need identified by state tests). The staff is also working with a new math textbook and program that they are very excited

about. LGS works with the Effective Behavior Support (EBS) system, the Second Step program and counselor Ann Mason to deal with any personal or behavior issues students may have.

Underwood told the board that the primary goal at WGS is to improve school climate. Staff has developed and adopted five guiding principles and value statements for WGS: We...honor and respect differences; solve problems peacefully, take responsibility for learning, value our community, have the power to make a difference. WGS also uses EBS, has reading and math goals

that correspond to AYP targets, and has staff members attending the Columbia County Math Academy to increase the effectiveness of math instruction.

Scholl stressed the bottom-up development of the SIP. Staff was presented with information from past assessments and developed goals based on data. They have developed cross-curricular instructional strategies, connecting different areas of the curriculum, ie., math and reading, which are also required by the 21st Century Schools Act.

All of the principals praised the effectiveness of the early student release on Fridays, de-

tailing its effectiveness for increased teacher training.

Funderburg concluded by asking the board, "If you don't have a plan, how will you know when you get there?" The SIP is the plan to guide the district.

Impact of M30

Funderburg briefly reviewed the potential impact of the failure of Ballot Measure 30, reminding the board that the district cut almost \$900,000 from last year's budget. Further salary cuts and reductions in supplies are unrealistic so the challenge will be to develop a sustainable contract through negotiation with both unions.

The effect on staff last year was comparable to taking an 18 percent reduction and Funderburg asked the board to consider how that would affect their own lifestyles. Further, he said, think about the impact of an additional 12 percent cut. Krahn said that it was unfair to ask staff to do more with less, while continuing to cut salaries.

In the worst case, Funderburg said, the district would receive \$700,000 less from the state school fund. In the best case, revenue might be reduced by \$350,000 - \$400,000.

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Banks Fire District #13

Abbreviations: EMS, Emergency Medical Service; MVA, Motor Vehicle Accident

JANUARY 2004

- Jan 1 - EMS Assist - seizure
Power lines down (2)
- Jan 2 - Power lines down (3)
- Jan 3 - EMS Assist - chest pain
Miscellaneous fire (2)
MVA - Hwy 6 at Cedar Canyon
- Jan 4 - EMS Assist (2)
- Jan 5 - EMS Assist - overdose
- Jan 6 - Residential fire
- Jan 7 - Miscellaneous fire
- Jan 8 - EMS Assist - fall
- Jan 10 - EMS Assist - seizure
Residential fire
- Jan 14 - Auto Alarm (2)
- Jan 18 - EMS Assist - trauma
Smoke Detector
- Jan 19 - MVA - Sunset Hwy at MP 42
- Jan 20 - EMS Assist (2) - cardiac
- Jan 22 - EMS Assist (2) - fall & overdose
- Jan 23 - MVA - Hwy 26/47
- Jan 25 - MVA - Hwy 26/6
- Jan 27 - MVA - Hwy 26 at Sellers Rd.
- Jan 28 - Residential fire
- Jan 29 - Residential fire
- Jan 31 - EMS Assist - hemorrhage
MVA (2) - Hwy 26 & Hwy 47 at Johnson Rd.