March 2024 CPESD Meeting Summary

Dr. Kirk Zeeck was in attendance and introduced as the new Assistant Superintendent of Academic Achievement starting next year.

**Elementary Update:** UFLI Foundational Curriculum is being piloted in kindergarten this year and then will be expanded to all of kindergarten next year and piloted in first grade. Kindergarteners are out performing where kindergarteners from last year ended the year; thus supporting the continued expansion of the curriculum. Students are spending 45 minutes every day dedicated to foundational skills and practice in reading and writing, and they have an additional 35 minutes that is flexible time to dedicate to small group interventions.

Secondary Update: Fine arts is finishing up their curriculum study. Social Studies is kicking off their pilot at Washington High School with AP African History. Not counting AP courses, there are sixteen different social studies courses offered at the high school. Next year they will be offering dual credit with USD for anatomy. They are continuing to push a high level of rigor and relevance.

**Special Education Update:** They have been in collaboration with USD on the STEP program and offering professional development for their teachers. They are seeing an increasing number of students being referred to services under the autism category. They are optimistic that using the train the trainer model will help create a wealth of informed staff within the district to then support the behavior programs at each level. On the hiring side, they are working to make special education a more appealing profession to be in by emphasizing the support they provide to their teachers.

**HR Update:** They are getting an information sheet out to potential employees to share about how special education is different in SFSD and the supports they have in place. New elementary positions will be coming out next week. Currently they are seeing a shortage of teachers in SPED, Spanish, and FACS. Teachers do not have to let the district know they are learning until June so they expect some additional summer hirers as well. SPED teachers have also been hired mid-year as well.

**Partner Updates:**

USD update: Whittier Middle School visited campus. They are seeing the numbers increase in teacher residency and back up to pre-Covid numbers in student teaching. Everyone is invited to the annual PowWow.

DSU update: 55 student teachers in the fall and in the spring will be increasing with 70+ teachers and the TAP program. They are piloting a single semester of student teaching, and seeing a larger number of students teaching on contract with the Advanced Student Teacher Permit; 12 last semester and 12-15 next fall.

DWU update: They have one student teacher currently in SFSD and one next semester. They are doing one semester of student teaching then two mini eight week practicum experiences.

USF update: EDU218 is changing in structure without Interim to still allow for students to spend nine days in the classroom. Currently they are working on an online elementary program that will be starting Fall 2025. They have had a number of students participating in the Learn and Earn Program, and students have shared it has been a positive experience.

NSU update: Learning Expo took place in October. They are working on supports for cooperating teachers. They have one semester of student teaching with three other field experiences throughout students coursework.

Augustana update: Special education program is expanding into an ABA program. They have seen a stable enrollment in elementary education and a lot less secondary education majors. SPED has also been short on enrollment.

SDSU update: They have a new dean in the Education Department who will be starting shortly. They are hiring for their elementary and SPED program. They will be hosting an author on campus.