



# Parent Superintendent Advisory Committee

January 11, 2024 | 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Virtual via Google Meet

## Meeting Minutes

- Welcome & Introductions
  - Meeting Attendees:
    - TTUSD: Superintendent Kerstin Kramer, Amber Burke, Kim Bradley
    - Parent Representatives: Lisa Ascher (NTHS), Megan Evans (THS), Stephanie Arroyo (KBE), Kate Gladman (GES), Lisa Smith (NTHS), Jessica Carr (TES), Brian Bates (NTS), Christine Ryan (KBE), Annie MacFadyen (DTE & ACMS)
    - Student Representatives: Mischel Suarez Hernandez (NTHS)
- District Updates - Superintendent Kerstin Kramer
  - Academic Achievement
    - [California Dashboard](#) is now available for viewing. This shows the assessment of TTUSD and all schools within the district. TTUSD has qualified for Differentiated Assistance, which means we'll be working with the Placer County Office of Education on our programs for English Learners and Students with Disabilities in addition to improving our chronic absenteeism, which has been identified as an area of concern.
    - Recruitment | We are pleased to announce that we've finished negotiations with both bargaining units - TTEA and CSEA. TTEA ratified the agreement, and it was approved by the TTUSD board of trustees in December. The CSEA agreement will go through the same process this month, and we anticipate it will be approved by the TTUSD board of trustees on 1/24. There was great collaboration from all units during the process, and both agreements included salary increases and/or a revised salary schedule (TTEA). The salary schedule revisions were made in an effort to make starting salaries higher to incentivize new teachers in anticipation of the teacher shortage that has been reported. Additionally, a second professional development day will be added to the 2024/2025 calendar, and CSEA members will be invited to attend while being paid. Details will be provided soon to families as this means one additional day needs to be added to the 2024/2025 school year calendar. Modifications were made to the language around personal necessity days for employees to allow for one additional "no tell" day.
  - Support Services
    - It was announced to participants last month and to the broader THS community this month that there will be modifications to the THS Ski Academy beginning in the 2024/2025 school year. Following a two-year pilot period where we evaluated participation, interest, and associated staff resources, we decided to discontinue the role of a dedicated THS staff member liaison for students within the program. This decision was finalized after receiving recommendations from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) during a recent visit. WASC, the organization responsible for accrediting schools, identified recommended priorities for Truckee High School to focus on: increased English learner supports, equity, and attendance. In alignment with these recommendations and our broader strategic plan, THS staff resources will be reallocated to strengthen our English Language Learner program and expand athletic programming. Despite this change, Truckee High students will still have the opportunity to participate in

competitive ski programs. The Ski Academy program at North Tahoe High School will continue to operate, and as TTUSD is an open enrollment district, students are encouraged to explore that option if it aligns better with their individual needs.

- The TTUSD Safety Committee recently met, and a few action items came out of that meeting. TTUSD will review and update all of our safety manuals utilizing an industry expert consultant. The manuals were created 10 years ago, and staff feel it's time to revisit them to ensure they are in alignment with current best practices. This will be a 1-2 year process. School site counsels will review, update, and approve current safety plans, which is an annual process. Additionally, each school band (ES, MS, HS) will be meeting to review ALICE protocols and share best practices. Each school site will also be sending 2 staff members to an advanced ALICE training. All classroom emergency buckets have been updated and now include Stop the Bleed materials.
- Community Connections
  - In relation to making sure we're focused on support and belonging initiatives for students and staff, TTUSD just received the results from the staff morale survey that was administered in the fall. In the results, 83% to 92% of staff said they have a feeling of belonging within the district and at their school site. The main area of concern from the survey is workload and work-life balance. Tim Schwarz, founder of Sustain Teachers, has offered his services to TTUSD and recently did a training on burnout, the root causes, and areas to focus on to the TTUSD District Leadership Team.
- Wellness Program Updates - Kim Bradley, Coordinator of Wellness Programs
  - [Presentation](#)
  - Questions/Discussions that came out of the presentation were:
    - DESSA is utilized in all TTUSD elementary schools as a tool to identify students that could use additional supports in the CASEL competencies. Each teacher does mini assessments on each of their students, 3x/year, and then a more in-depth assessment for those students who are identified as potentially needing additional supports.
    - A parent mentioned they've seen a big difference with their student connecting to these services more this year, which spurred a discussion on transition years and how TTUSD can make sure students and families are aware of services as they move into a new school and have the appropriate information on how to access the resources and who to reach out to. We also discussed former students coming back to speak with 5th graders/8th graders to relay their experiences at the next school level to relieve some anxiety.
    - Mentioned the Breaking Down the Walls program was profound and built confidence in students.
    - Parents were appreciative of the district's efforts to prioritize these services and programs and find them extremely valuable and necessary.
    - Asked Kim what her 50,000' perception is of how things are going broadly. Discussed burnout of staff and focusing on adult SEL so staff can understand and model.
    - The uptick in vaping was discussed. Feedback given was that providing information earlier in a student's career is better so they are well-versed and equipped to handle it when they enter middle and high school. Would like to continue seeing education at the elementary level. Continue to enlist HS leaders to do presentations to younger students, which our Athletes Committed are already doing. Are there opportunities for them to do more presentations?
    - A discussion was had on communication and the best ways to get this information (and other information) to families. Talked about how to best structure principal emails since they are long and contain a lot of information. They recommend putting important dates and new information at the top and recurring information at the bottom. We also discussed utilizing Smore, the program the district uses for newsletters, throughout the district. A parent also mentioned it would be nice to receive timely reminders of any upcoming services/offerings in relation to SEL/wellness through the text function in Blackboard.

- A comment was made that having wellness centers in elementary schools exposes students to wellness services early and helps to destigmatize asking for help or utilizing services as they transition into MS and HS.
- Family & Community Engagement Brainstorming - Amber Burke
  - We ran out of time, so will move this item to the next agenda.
- Committee Roundtable - School Updates
  - NTMS: The school dance is taking place next week. The mood around campus is pretty positive right now.
  - THS: There is a FAFSA workshop tonight (1/11). Finals are coming up, so students are getting ready. It's tough to come back from winter break and go straight into finals.
  - KBE: The PTO is working with the newly hired wellness specialist. KBE/PACE are holding a movie night on January 19th - all are invited. PACE and a few other school PTOs are meeting with Todd and Laura from the TTUSD Business Services Department to discuss after-school enrichment programs.
  - DTE: Students are enjoying being able to skate ski and using the new trail-making equipment.
  - ACMS: The 7th-grade SWEP event was great.
  - GES: The Holiday Breakfast was a record-breaking and wonderful fundraiser. Additionally, the number of students who completed the winter reading challenge was the highest ever. GES is also looking to implement a perfect attendance challenge.
  - NTHS: Finals are coming up, and the winter formal is next month.
- Adjourned