

Welcome and opening comments by superintendent to attendees. Three things he wants to know:

1. *What do you like and why did you choose this school district?*
2. *What things do you not like, what concerns you?*
3. *What other programs have you seen in other districts that you would like to see here?*

You can also share a complaint but you will need to give us the solution to the complaint.

Dr. Roberta Perlman was in attendance and was introduced to attendees and gave a warm welcome to parents and thanked them for their continued support.

School Climate/Safety

Parent Comment: In the past years she had not seen a Superintendent willing to help. She feels proud and happy to have a Superintendent that provides support to the parents. She is pleased with the schools.

Parent Comment: Her children went to Pomona schools and have done very well. Her daughter graduated from Pepperdine with a degree in Psychology. Another son graduated from Mt. SAC with a Business degree. Another daughter is going to UC Riverside and rides to bus.

Parent Comment: We are very happy with Mrs. Harper. She is always willing to help students that are not doing well.

Parent Complaint: She shared about an accident her child had riding a bicycle and she spoke to Dr. Perlman about it. I would like to speak to you in private. The Nurse gave me an envelope and just said that he got hit with the bike but did not explain how it happened. My son started having convulsions. The Principal is responsible when the children are in school. Don't know how you assign the Principals but this Principal came from a High School. Another student suffered a fracture and he did not have anything holding his arm. The mother asked for something to help hold his arm and they did not do anything. The hospital reported he suffered 2 fractures.

Suggestion: The bicycles should be padded.

Mr. Martinez said he spoke to Dr. Perlman about this incident and staff was going to check the bicycles. He explained about the school's responsibility to communicate with the parents in a timely manner.

Parent Concern: There is a serious traffic problem at Lexington. Parents don't respect the rules and the Police have had to come out. Some parents drop off their children where they are not supposed to and it is very dangerous. We need someone permanent to help with the traffic. There are parents that get off their cars and block other cars from getting through. There have been accidents and kids have gotten hurt.

Parent Recommendation: Do not allow cars to park from the park to where the school ends from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Maybe there would be less traffic issues. Police should come out and issue traffic citations. The same problem is happening at Madison. Can the Custodian tell the parents to move their cars?

Mr. Martinez: The union does not allow Custodians to do that, there is a union contract that needs to be followed. The Custodian wants to help but they are not allowed to.

Parent Comment: Arroyo also has the same traffic problem. They also call on the Police and parents provide description of the cars that violate the rules. Vejar has a traffic issue too. They use the Campus Supervisors to direct traffic. There are 4 new Campus Supervisors. The Campus Supervisors that have been there for a long time they think they are in charge.

Parent Comment: Submitted an application to volunteer but have not received the clearance.

Parent: Cortez Uniforms – How can we help students that don't have regular sizes?

Mr. Martinez: You can speak to the Principal and the school will seek funds to help out the family obtain the uniforms.

Parent Comment: Would like to see a safety training program for parents. What kind of safety program do you have at the schools?

Maria Garcia said that trainings are being conducted by Mr. Hunter. The Police Department also offers programs.

Parent Comment: Daughter attends Madison and son attends Diamond Point. Have seen children walking around 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. Have not seen Truancy Officers out there checking up on these children. Is there any Truancy Officer available to check? It's important to check on these children so they don't go astray.

Mr. Martinez: We have two officers and we have Child Welfare and Attendance staff that is assigned to different areas and they help the Principals. They also go to the homes.

Parent Comment: Want to commend Philadelphia, Simons and Garey. There is only one entrance and the parents have to sign in and report where they are going.

Parent Concern: Very concerned about a fence at Vejar that needs repair, it's very easy for an adult to get through that area. The Principal has not taken care of this matter.

Mr. Martinez said that staff will check to see if there is an RDS request to fix the problem.

Parent Comment: Some parents sign in when they arrive but do not sign out. There is no control.

Mr. Martinez: Parents need to be reminded by staff to sign out when they leave. Mr. Peralta, Principal at Madison, said that it depends on how the office is set up. In some schools there is only one entrance through the office so it's easier to get the visitors to sign out.

Parent Comment: If parents want to form a support group at school, do we need the Principal's approval? Does it have to be a Booster club? I tried to help out 4 years ago but the following year I was not allowed. Do parents have a right to form a support group?

Parent Comment: Thanked the District because she always had the support of the Principals and the teachers.

Mr. Peralta, Principal at Madison, thanked the District of behalf of his daughter because she is happy and excited. I want to ensure that we keep it positive, thank you for the TLC program and everything else happening at Cortez.

BULLYING:

Parent Comment: My son made a comment at the beginning of the school year, is it okay for an adult to bully a kid? If there any class that teaches parents how to talk to our kids in a way that they don't feel pressured.

Maria Garcia said that Patti Azevedo has a class that teaches parents how to communicate with their children.

Parent Comment: Thank you for being here. A problem that all schools have is the traffic. Vejar assigns the Campus Safety staff to control the traffic. There are 4 new Safeties and they should be trained. When they have been there for a long time they think they are in charge.

Pupil and Community Services

Parent Comment: The YES program has been very helpful at Armstrong; will it be taken to our schools? How can parents help support this program? Parent asked if she can practice breathing for 5 minutes by using a video.

Dr. Perlman said that they are planning training for parents. PTA can bring it up. There are 3 Principal (Armstrong,

Kingsley and Westmont) that are supporting the program right now. We are trying to roll it out slowly as it takes 3 years to train teachers. Mr. Martinez said that we have spoken to the Director of the program and requested the results of the study because it will help us to bring the program here.

Parent Comment: Parent group does not have someone from the District to help, do not have a Facilitator.

Parent Suggestion: Create a support group. Create a support group for students to help them deal with emotional issues. There is more trust among students. They need help starting in elementary school. They have to face “bullying” issues at a younger age.

Mr. Martinez: stated that Maria Garcia is working on a training program for parents to learn how to work with other parents and they will eventually be assigned to the schools. There is also the PEER counseling program.

Parent Comment: Are the Parent Leads going to be trained? How are they going to be selected? Are you going to assign another Parent Facilitator?

Parent Comment: Thanked Mrs. Harper for allowing her to volunteer on Fridays. She has been serving for three years and she makes sure kids stay in schools

Parent Comment: She has children at Fremont and Garey. We all want our kids to succeed and she agrees with what is being recommended today. She shared that she left her home at the age of 15 because she was having a lot of problems with her parents. Sometimes it’s difficult for students to open up with their parents.

Parent Concern: There was a misunderstanding at school, I gave my child permission not to attend a program and the teacher pulled my child’s backpack and my child ran. Principal yelled at child and she is only in 2nd grade. I was so upset that I transferred my child to another school. Principal sent a note to the new Principal stating that my child has misbehaved. Principal never called to apologize. My child is now at Roosevelt.

Mr. Martinez told parent she can go to the school and meet with the Principal. Please remember that sometimes there are 2 sides to the story. If you see something was not done right, you can file a formal complaint and you have a right to file a Police report.

Academics/Technology

Parent Comment: For the schools that are getting new technology, what are you going to do with the computers? Can they be donated for other schools? The students need them when they are testing.

Parent Comment: Parent asked about the training teachers receive to work with students with dyslexia or attention deficit disorders. She has a child with attention deficit and it’s very hard. She explained the symptoms of dyslexia. She wants her child to grow and have a productive life.

Mr. Martinez: The law changed in July 2017. We need to identify the child before the age of 5. We need to identify first and then we can help. Lilia Fuentes and Monica Principe can provide more information. Dr. Jennifer Yales from Special Education is in charge of training the teachers. If you see there is an issue you can speak to your Principal.

Parent Comment: Will there be more sports offered at Fremont? Daughter likes volleyball but they only played for a short time. Would like to see more after school competitive sports. We don’t have any sports after 9th grade.

Parent Comment: Happy with Common Core because it forces the students to work harder.

Parent Suggestion: I would like to see two reminders go out during the years regarding Common Core to inform parents of the changes happening.

Parent Comment: Have been very involved in school and would like to see the Math and Reading programs to start at the Kinder level.

Parent Comment: Have a 4th grade student struggling with multiplications and does not want to study. He is asking to be moved to another school.

Parent Comment: My child is in 6th grade and I'm very happy with his teacher, Ms. Soriana, she motivates the students to improve in their writing and spelling. Child was low in Reading and now he is very interested and has made great improvements. He likes math and wants to become an Architect when he grows up. I'm going to college now to learn English; I made a promise to my child.

Parent Comment: Have a concern when I visit the classrooms I have seen students that are eating and talking.

Parent Suggestion: Perhaps Mrs. Harper could visit classrooms more often.

Mr. Martinez: Parents were asked what their preference for receiving information from the District was.

Parents Comment: They like the telephone calls in their language; Text messages work well too. Parents like to have choices. Phone reminder is great. Mrs. Harper recommends Remind 101. Parents like to receive messages from the teachers reminding about the homework.

Parents said she liked "Class Dojo" at Vejar because parents can send messages too.

Parent Comment: Technology is great but she does not use Facebook nor Twitter for personal reasons. She likes Remind and does not like Dojo

Facilities/Staff /Miscellaneous

Parent Concern: About a Custodian that was brought back to the school site after there was an issue with her student. The custodian came back but her son is not here. She wants something done. There is bullying from adults and teachers. The custodian is an adult and he knows what he was doing. The medication was increased for her son. Her son told the truth and there were witnesses.

Mr. Martinez said that there is a civility policy among adults. He offered to speak to the parent and said that he spoke to the Principal and Mr. Knowles is working on this matter.

Parent Comment: **What is happening with the Custodians?** The bathrooms are not clean. The Noon Supervisors are not doing a good job.

Meeting Closed with Mr. Martinez thanking them for their continued support and attendance