

**Coffee With the Superintendent – Lorbeer Middle School
February 15, 2018 – 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sessions**

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. We are asking for your constructive criticism, your suggestions or solutions.

Mr. Martinez: The purpose of this meeting is so we can learn about what makes you proud about sending your kids to this school District. What attracts you to this District? We want to know what is not working, what parents are worried about. We need your honesty and your candor.

Mr. Martinez introduced Dr. Perlman:

Dr. Perlman thanked everyone for making time to be here. She said we need to talk to our children about being vigilant. She said that if you see something, say something. Make sure children have someone that they can relate to. We need to support our children not only on their academics but also emotionally.

School Climate/Safety/Facilities

Parent comment: I see you are very active but I would like to see other school board members.

Dr. Perlman: I cannot answer for the other Board Members but they are reachable too. I have a flexible schedule and I'm able to visit the schools. Even though each Board member has trustee area, we represent all students in this district.

Parent Comment: I would like to thank you for being here, your level of commitment, you care a lot about our schools and I commend you for it.

Mr. Martinez: discussed what happened yesterday in Florida. We need to make sure we are communicating, relationship piece is critical. Someone recently asked about installing metal detectors at Garey. We are vulnerable; things can still be snuck in under a fence. We don't have SROs at every school, it's not doable but we do have CSOs and Noon Supervisors at elementary schools. We encourage the listening, talking, telling someone before it becomes an issue. A week ago a student went on line and said he was going to shoot a student at Emerson. It was immediately reported and student was arrested and we dealt with the parents. If you know something, you can help by calling the Principal or 911. We are sending out a message today to pay our condolences to the families in Florida. These tragedies are happening where we did not expect this to happen, it's happening in suburbia. We will be discussing active shooter training at the next Professional Day. It's good to be aware, know your surroundings. We want to make sure we follow the latest recommendations. We do have protocols for active shooters but we don't have time to practice. Would like to recommend to governance to do more trainings regarding active shooter.

Parent Comment: Why don't you have security driving by the elementary schools on a regular basis?

Mr. Martinez: We don't have enough staff but do have white security cars driving around. If it's serious then Pomona Police is contacted and response time is approximately 2 to 3 minutes. What I'm hearing is that you would like people to be assigned. The recommendation is to apply for more funding to hire CSO type personnel.

Parent Comment: I'm a parent of a 7th grader, last year there was bullying going on in bathroom. This it's year worse. I discussed with you about having a Police Officer to talk to students about consequences. Recommended Deputy Vargas.

George Hunter: Florida had 2 CROs and incident still happened. We have far more situations where we lock our schools as a precaution. We do training across the District. Lorbeer was recently trained. In active shooter situations 75% of the time students knew something was coming.

Mr. Martinez: They had been practicing active shooter situations but unfortunately they still lost.

Parent Comment: I moved to a new neighborhood and when I talked to students that looked like they did not belong and one boy pulled out a gun on me. I called Pomona Police. Maybe it would be a good idea to have something on the website explaining who to contact. Maybe the school district can communicate much faster with the proper authorities.

Mr. Martinez: Talked about the WeTip program.

Mr. Unaka: We are pushing out a statement today with telephone numbers that can be called. We have 411 number that comes to the PIO office. If you call 911 your call goes to the appropriate authorities.

Parent Comment: When you talk to parents of students who are bullying other students, they come back at you very defensive so it does not help so it makes it very difficult to deal with the issue.

Mr. Martinez: There is an office across the court that helps parents on becoming more effective parents. Their referrals are made by the Court Hillside. They don't charge.

Parent Comment: I'm a parent that likes to be involved. I have heard of bullying and I try to work with parents whose children have been bullied. We need to know each other, we need to spread the voice, to be alert as parents, have the security number handy. There was a case in Roosevelt and the Police dept. was called but they did not respond.

Mr. Martinez: We tend to share a lot but don't listen to each other. There were 2 reports filed by Roosevelt with the Police Dept. and they did not come out, probably because it was considered low priority. We need to make sure who the groups are and share the information. We need to talk to Administration to let them know where the cliques are.

Parent Comment: With the marijuana law changing, do you monitor high school students that have access to it? Furthermore are there any policies to check employees? Can you find out what students have permits to purchase marijuana? Do the custodians get tested? Do custodians have union?

Mr. Knowles: Employees with permit for marijuana need to submit documentation to Personnel. We have big concerns if employee was to ask for accommodations. To date we have not received requests of such nature.

Parent Comment: Do you have rules that they can't do this while on duty?

Mr. Knowles: Yes, we have a policy but it needs to be updated.

Mr. Martinez: I hear 2 things - bullying and if we can have an officer do some training for children and staff on how we are to respond. We do have policies but we don't practice it.

Parent Comment: I have concerns with bullying and more fights at Lorbeer. What is being done?

Parent Comment: Violence and bullying seem to be a running theme. Don't think we can fix other parenting issues. If parents don't care, they don't care. We need to change focus on the teachers and students. We can have more teachers and Principals talking about what happens and the consequences that will follow. Lorbeer played Emerson and won, the other team picked a fight with our girls. We can't fix bad parents but we can talk about consequences of violence. Can we have a plan at lower grades to educate kids to avoid this from happening when they get to middle school and high school?

Mr. Martinez: Talked about the PBIS program that seems to be working at various schools.

Ms. Norwood, Principal at Decker: talked about a presenter that came to Decker and talked about bullying and how he was bullied as a child. It's simple, a box of questions. Buddy up piece. Schools do a good job having table talks

where kids get to share. Also recommend the book and the movie Wonder it helps to have good conversations.

Parent Comment: New to California due to a job move and shared about program in their previous school district. Going to school is a privilege. They don't deal with fights. It starts in Kinder where they learn what is expected from them. Students can make anonymous reports. They had a Police station at the school. Counselors were available to speak to the kids.

Mr. Martinez: Talked about the "Compassion City" resolution that was passed by the Board of Education last month declaring the month of February as Compassion month. The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council will be promoting this at their schools.

Parent Comment: Expressed worry about his student at the high school. His son has told him about things that happen in the restrooms and the security staff does not monitor the restrooms. Please check the restrooms. The ladies that work in the cafeteria at Diamond Ranch are always mad and the customer service is bad.

Dr. Walks-Harper: Shared that there is a committee that has looked into the customer service in the cafeterias at the school sites. Daryl Hickey and I run this committee and if there is a concern they would like to know about it.

Mr. Martinez: I hear you are asking for monitoring.

Parent Comment: I have a question regarding anonymous reports. She graduated 5 years ago and she was bullied. Wants to know where her sister can report bullying or suicide on an anonymous basis.

Mr. Unaka: There is a place on the website

Dr. Krystana Walks-Harper: Student can make a report at the school site.

Parent Comment: Would like to know what is changing with District of Choice, are kids coming back?

Mr. Martinez: Explained the process where other Districts have taken our students under the District of Choice and have gone over the 10% cap. With the number of students increasing, Darren Knowles is ready to look at the teacher need.

Parent Comment: Lorbeer should explain what programs are available because sometimes it's difficult to find out what is available in terms of tutoring.

Parent Comment: Someone mentioned the poor customer service and it's probably happening. Maybe they can have mystery students who can report back to administration.

Parent Comment: The library has been remodeled at the elementary school but there is a problem with the Librarian. This parent is a volunteer and has noticed that the Librarian is doing her own thing and is not helping the students. She volunteers at Washington, Simons, Roosevelt and her objective is for students to be safe and comfortable. Kids are intimidated by the Librarian. It's necessary to provide support to the schools that don't have Parent Centers. Please pay attention to who is assigned as Librarian.

Parent Comment: The parking at Decker is horrible; there is no crosswalk and no side walk. We have to walk quite a ways to get to the entrance. Is there a way to get a crosswalk closer to the entrance?

Dr. Perlman: Explained that the District is not responsible for the Crossing guards and suggested that parents go to a city council meeting.

Parent Comment: How can we modernize our library at Decker? The couches here at Lorbeer are beautiful.

Parent Comment: Her children attend Lorbeer and she has great suggestions and would like to set up a meeting with the Superintendent.

Parents Comment: Want to thank the Superintendent for the gate at Armstrong for the TK-Kinder class. It was done over Christmas Holiday.

Parent Comment: I see a need for our 6th graders to be socially prepared for middle school. Is there some type of training provided for them?

Parent Comment: Our District is very productive and I appreciate it as a parent and as an employee. My primary concern is about what happened yesterday in Florida. The assailant was evil when he pulled the fire alarm to get the students out. I don't know how we can prepare our kids. How can we change the protocols to better protect our students? Maybe the Principal can make an announcement to confirm if there is in fact a fire or fire drill.

Mr. Martinez: Reported that the gate at Golden Springs will be fixed within the next 2 weeks and will not be costly.

Mr. Martinez: Said that he has asked about teachers having keys to other rooms and if the doors can be locked from the inside but we can't guarantee 100%.

Parent Comment: Just a thought, 35 years ago when I was in Kindergarten and today we have the same fire drill. With the technology available now, how can the fire drill be improved?

Parent Comment: Worked at Parenthood and staff was trained on how to protect themselves. The Police also knew about our procedures. We had a keyword and did not come out until we heard the keyword. It was scary but it was nice to know the steps to be taken. We got trained every year.

Mr. Martinez: Said that practice exercises will be addressed at the next Professional Development. We also plan to do an Active shooter exercise before the end of the school year and twice every school year.

Parent Comment: Has a daughter at Diamond Ranch and wants to know if the facility is safe in case of an earthquake.

Mr. Martinez: Said that the Division of School Architecture (DSA) has to approve the facilities and schools are the safest place to be in case of an earthquake. We have never lost a child in the State of California due to an earthquake.

Parent Comment: What is PUSD doing to help deal with bullying? Some kids are good at hiding their problems and if they are asked, they deny it.

Mr. Martinez: Talked about cyber bullying and the seriousness of this issue. We have policies on how to handle bullying but we need to know so we can intervene and mediate. The person also has to declare if he has been victimized. This is similar to sexual harassment in the workplace. We are coming together with City of Pomona to encourage behaviors that are acceptable. There is a program that has been presented to students called Rachel's Challenge which deals with bullying and safety. It's the responsibility of the Administrators to work with the family in addressing their concerns. The solution on not to just move the student to another school.

Teacher: Mentioned that schools have a bullying prevention program. We have programs for young kids so they don't become bullies when they get older. A program called Bucket encourages kids to do the right thing.

Mr. Martinez: Talked about Conscious Discipline; it's really sharing a technique with 4 year olds to take home to parents. Learning to respect one another can have a ripple effect.

Dr. Krystana Walks-Harper: Said that the PBIS program is being expanded in more schools. We need to start the PBIS program at the elementary level too. The program is growing, it began as a secondary piece but it's evolving

down to the elementary schools level.

Parent Comment: I have a solution to address the problem of drugs in the school. Would it be possible to work with the Pomona Valley Humane Society to get dogs from there and train them to sniff out drugs? They could be trained to bark when they smell drugs or gun powder. I also want to know if the high schools have law enforcement officers.

Mr. Martinez: Said that there are 2 officers and someone asked this morning about having the same type of security at the middle schools. In Orange County they have the security officer living at the school site.

Parent Comment: Another suggestion is to have kids who don't behave to do community service hours by working at the Humane Society.

Parent Comment: His child goes to Golden Springs and they don't know about the transportation.

Mr. Martinez: Explained about the funding changes for Title I and how we will not be able to continue transportation for siblings. The bus transportation will go away completely in about 5 years.

Parent Comment: Shared that there is an application created to help parents carpool. Another parent mentioned that Foothill transit works great.

Parent Comment: This meeting is a good thing and Coffee with the Principal is great too. Would like to see this more at the high schools. Communicating at the District level and being transparent is important.

Parent Comment: Thank you for holding these meetings in the evening because it's hard for working parents.

Mr. Martinez: Shared that we are trying to be competitive with neighboring Districts. We have dual language at Pantera and the rigor is incredibly off the charts. We want to do that at all our schools so that families will find it very hard to move elsewhere. Please share with us those things that you would like to see here at PUSD.

Parent Comment: Will you ever get rid of teaching to the test. I'm referring to spelling in particular. Why are the kids getting multiple choice quizzes to prepare them for the test?

Lilia Fuentes: We have different methods of testing. Students have an understanding not only how to solve the problem but also explain how they got the answers. There a lot of combinations going on in the classroom. Students are struggling in 5th grade on how fractions work.

Parent Comment: I heard that Diamond Bar has dogs that are used to find drugs. Regarding the DOC in Cluster 4, I'm aware of the declining enrollment and want to know how will it benefit us?

Mr. Martinez: Said that the DOC law put in place 25 years ago. It allowed Walnut, Diamond Bar High to support students, especially impoverish students, English learners. Then it changed to a privileged opportunity and no longer to help students in need. It became very loose. There is a rule that states that once they get 10% of an average enrollment then they cannot take any more students. Approximately 2,900 student from PUSD are attending Walnut and they have to stop. In the last few months Walnut has declared that they cannot take any more students. For us, it means that our students will not be able to go that easily. Our numbers will be increasing in Cluster 4 and on the other side students that can't be bussed anymore will go back to their school of residence. There is a multitude of options being offered in Pomona so now there are parents choosing Pomona proper and live in Diamond Bar. We might have to consolidate schools. We currently have 5 schools that are too small and should be closed. We are declining about 400 to 600 students a year because families are moving out of state looking for jobs and cheaper housing. We will have to consider combo classes and combining schools even though the Board of Education does not like to hear about consolidating schools.

Academics/Technology

Parent Comment: Thank you for taking time to come out. Have 2 kids at Lorbeer who are on their way out and I don't feel they are ready for high school. I'm looking forward to Diamond Ranch, both are swimmers and we thought about Diamond Bar High School but it was not worth it. Academically I know that Diamond Ranch has what they need. Surprised that we were not informed about information night on March 1st. We are Very happy with the chrome books. Our kids use it every day.