

Winter 2016

Dear Families and Colleagues,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your dedication to students, families, and one another. As I have visited schools, classrooms, district office teams, and a variety of team meetings, I have noticed a very high level of commitment, passion, and talent. Vince Lombardi expressed it well when he said, "Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." I see this winning team dedication and commitment in Amador. It is clear our community believes in all students, and works hard every day to support them. I, too, am committed to this work and am so proud you are there for our students every day. Thank you for persevering, as a team, with a common, determined focus on our students.

I believe it is important to communicate openly about our work as we collaborate toward our common goal. As you may know, this week's Board of Trustees meeting was a pivotal one as it included the seating of two new members, Janet White and Susan Ross. It also included the annual election of the Board president and Board clerk. It is my pleasure to congratulate our two new members, new Board President Bob Laurent, and new Board Clerk Kandi Thompson.

At the Board meeting, an ACTA representative spoke to the Board about concerns related to teacher morale and the desire for more collaboration and feedback loops in decision-making processes. I appreciate this feedback and will continue to build and adjust systems so that everyone on our team has an opportunity to voice their concerns and suggest possible solutions. I believe we are using some promising feedback loops, such as surveys, the newly-formed Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) which includes principals and teachers who are charged to be liaisons between their site and the district, and regular meetings with labor leaders; however, we can develop more communication systems.

It is crucial that we hear from you. To assist with this, we have created a communication tool at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/oj4jsHHKXW5WdYpw2>.

Please use it anytime to give us information that is necessary to be responsive to your questions, concerns and insights. Another way to share information is simply to reach out. Please accept this as an open invitation to email or call me with questions, suggestions, feedback, etc.

Finally, as we begin winter break, please remember to take care of YOU. Find balance through rest, rejuvenation, and spending time with family and close friends. I highly value each of you and look forward to our continued work together in 2017. Happy holidays!

Warm regards,
Amy

“When you're surrounded by people who share a passionate commitment around a common purpose, anything is possible.” - Howard Schultz