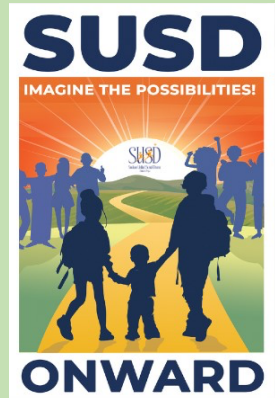




Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #11 2024-25 School Year – Week of October 21, 2024

Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

- 1. I did not go to the town hall on English Learners. I did not receive a reminder that day, so I forgot. Can you hold another one so that more community members can go?**

We understand how important it is for all community members to have the opportunity to participate. In response, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding an additional town hall for English Learners on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. at the School for Adults. We hope that offering this session in the morning will make it more accessible for parents and families.

- 2. Superintendent, Thank you for taking the time to answer questions from the community with regards to the school district. I am thankful for the new equipment that's is being implemented in the classrooms for our students, but when are we going to actually update our school building where many look like relics of the past and some schools in the district are nothing but portables and not a proper school buildings at all? As a community shouldn't we be raising the standards of the places our children go each day and sit in to gain an education. Let's use funds to update and actually build school building for our students and districts rather than chromebooks and other supplies.**

We understand the importance of having modern, well-maintained facilities for our students, and raising the standards of our learning environments. I am pleased to inform the community that we are now positioned to fully utilize the \$300 million in funding from Measure E (2014) and Measure C (2022) following the completion of our Facilities Master Plan (FMP). The FMP was a critical step to ensure these funds are allocated strategically to meet the needs of each site across the district. You can review the proposed facility upgrades at each school by visiting the plan here: [Facilities Master Plan](#).

Our initial focus will be on addressing the most pressing health and safety concerns, identified in red within the plan. We will also work to complete as many of the additional projects, highlighted in yellow, as the funding allows. While technology like Chromebooks supports learning, we are committed to making the necessary investments in the physical structures that provide safe, functional, and inspiring spaces for our students.

- 3. Hello, my daughter attends Montezuma Elementary for the first time this year and I've noticed that her school doesn't have a iron fence around like a lot of Stockton schools do I was wondering if this will happen in the near future.**

Improving fencing is part of our ongoing safety upgrades across the District. Currently, we have several major fencing projects in progress, including upcoming work at Stagg High, Chavez High, and King Elementary, with additional fencing at Kennedy, Taft, and Wilson Elementary Schools expected to be completed by the end of November.

Montezuma Elementary is not part of the current phase, but we have more fencing projects planned for the future. We will certainly evaluate the need for improvements at all sites including Montezuma Elementary.

- 4. How can one request an expansion of a school parking lot? The school I work at does not have sufficient parking for all staff and often doesn't have enough parking for parents. My car has been broken into multiple times due to having to park my vehicle on the street. I noticed on the agenda that Stagg is getting an expansion to their parking lot. So many sites need more parking.**

We understand the importance of having sufficient and safe parking for both staff and parents. As part of the Facility Master Plan, completed in June 2024, each school site had projects identified across several categories, including Health and Safety. In some cases, parking lots such as the ones at Stagg High School, Cesar Chavez High School and King Elementary were included under this category and have been prioritized for improvement.

I encourage you to review the Facility Master Plan, which outlines the identified projects, including parking lot expansions at various sites. You can find the plan at the following link: [2024 Facility Master Plan](#).

- 5. I have a student who asked me if they can participate in your Superintendent's Student Advisory. Can she still apply?**

We had an overwhelming response this year, and most of our 10 high schools currently have waiting lists for students who have already applied. However, we do still have a few spots open for students from Stockton Alternative High School and Jane Frederick High School. If your student attends one of these schools, they are welcome to apply. If they are not current seniors, I hope they will apply next year.

- 6. Where can I get a copy of the new STA contract?**

You can access the Stockton Teachers Association (STA) 2022-2025 Agreement on the Human Resources section of our district website. You will find the contract available for download on the following link: [Human Resources webpage](#).

7. How will the equity team members be chosen?

Site administration are asked to select five members of their team including one administrator, one certificated staff member, one classified staff member, one parent and if possible, one student. The five members of the team should be diverse in representation with the following key responsibilities:

Administrator:

- **Leadership & Accountability:** Lead efforts to align equity initiatives with district policies and school goals, ensuring accountability for outcomes.
- **Resource Allocation:** Distribute resources—time, funding, staff—equitably to support equity efforts.
- **Data Oversight:** Partner with the equity team to track data on school performance, discipline, and resource distribution, prioritizing equity.

Certificated Staff (Teachers/Counselors):

- **Instructional Equity:** Continuously adapt teaching practices to ensure cultural responsiveness and equity for all students.
- **Curriculum Review:** Advocate for inclusive curriculum changes that reflect diverse perspectives.
- **Student Advocacy:** Support underserved students by addressing their specific needs.

Classified Staff:

- **Supportive Practices:** Provide insight on how operations like transportation and facilities affect underserved students.
- **Student Connection:** Leverage daily interactions to understand student needs and incorporate their perspectives into equity initiatives.
- **Inclusive Services:** Ensure all school services are accessible to every student, regardless of background.

Parents:

- **Community Voice:** Act as a liaison between the school and families, particularly from underserved groups.
- **Advocacy & Engagement:** Advocate for student needs and engage other parents in the equity process.
- **Feedback & Communication:** Gather and relay family feedback to inform the equity audit.

Students:

- **Student Perspective:** Share firsthand experiences on how school policies and practices impact students, especially those from underserved groups.
- **Advocacy & Empowerment:** Represent peers and ensure student voices are included in equity discussions.
- **Peer Engagement:** Collect input from students to broaden the range of perspectives on equity issues.

Equity Teams will serve as the primary point of contact at each school site, facilitating communication and coordination with the external agency. Meeting times will be set according to individual school schedules.

- 8. Hello, my site practiced using the CATAPULT EMS alert system. Can you help me learn how to install the "Computer Takeover Popup"? When we practiced drills this week, I would have felt better alerted if the CATAPULT EMS message popped up on my whole computer screen since I only received emails and texts with alerts. During class time, this would not be the fastest way to alert me. Thank you for your help.**

District Technology and Innovation services is currently working with Catapult on this feature. The estimated time to get this feature operational is 2 weeks. Once Technology and Innovation services gets this working, we will inform staff and provide the directions.

- 9. I keep seeing political signs around my school site. Are we supposed to have them on school grounds?**

In alignment with Board Policy 1160, no political signs should be on our school sites. If they are placed on the school site during non-school hours, they should be removed once identified.

Board Policy 1160

No district funds, services, supplies, or equipment shall be used to urge the support or defeat of any ballot measure or candidate, including any candidate for election to the Board. (Education Code 7054).

The Board's position on a ballot measure, including any resolution, shall be publicized only through normal district procedures and consistent with regular district practice for reporting Board actions. Such publicity shall be for informational purposes and shall not attempt to influence voters.

District resources, including email or computer systems, shall not be used to disseminate campaign literature. In addition, district resources shall not be used to purchase advertisements, bumper stickers, posters, or similar promotional items that advocate an election result or urge voters to take any action in support of or in opposition to a measure. (cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

10. Please let me know if the SUSD requires a disclaimer on flyers distributed through PeachJar, and if so what the wording of the disclaimer must be.

We require a disclaimer on all flyers sent to our families from an outside organization. We have a policy that the organization must be a qualified non-profit and follow the following guidelines:

1. The information on the flyer must serve to benefit students and must not interfere, conflict, or compete with programs offered by SUSD
2. The flyer must include fee waivers for eligible students
3. The flyer must be clearly written and articulate the purpose of the flyer
4. The flyer must include contact information
5. The flyer must not contain anything of political nature

Once the non-profit organization creates a Peachjar account, they will upload flyers for approval by the district's Community Relations Office. Most importantly, an organization requesting flyer distribution must be a qualified non-profit with proof of non-profit status. The information on the flyer must serve to benefit students and must not interfere, conflict, or compete with programs offered by SUSD. Use of the district's flyer distribution system shall be under the supervision and control of the Superintendent or designee(s). The district reserves the right to deny any request.

<https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/1242>