

Porterville Unified School District
Law, Justice & Education Academy
Advisory Board Meeting
August 27, 2014

Board Members present: President Robert K. Dempsie, Acting Secretary Glade Roper, Tim Brown, Gary Hunt, John Nicholson, Michael Smith

Others present: Principal Apolinar Marroquin; teacher Jane Kisling

Staff present: District Pathways Coordinator Ruben Alvarez

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Dempsie.

1. Dempsie asked what the needs of the school will be for the next few months.
2. Dempsie went to a training session for advisory board members last week. He wants all Board members to have the information he received there as it will help all Board members understand their roles. A guidebook prepared by Alvarez will be handed out at the next meeting.
3. Roper prepared minutes from the last meeting but they were not sent to the Board. In the future he will prepare minutes and send them to Dempsie, who will send them to the rest of the Board.
4. Alvarez said that the goal of the academy is to have all students graduate with the skills listed on the College and Career Continuum sheet which he handed out. More documents explaining the process will be handed out at the September meeting. He explained that the “self-summary” on the sheet means an opportunity for the students to provide feedback on their involvement in various projects such as the Mentors’ Conference, internships or mock interviews.

5. Dempsie would like for Alvarez and Kisling to meet with the Executive Committee of the Bar Association to inform them what skills students from the Academy will have and then make a presentation to the entire Bar Association to see if internships can be developed for the seniors. He will arrange the meeting with the Executive Committee.
6. Dempsie asked for an overview of the school year.
 - A. Maroquin said the average daily attendance for LJE and the entire school is up this year. Last year there were 60 new freshmen in LJE; this year there are 147. There are now four sections of the freshman foundations courses. This means an increased need for speakers and other support. New staff and teachers have been hired. The challenge will be to retain quality in the programs. A new Career Core Coach was hired. New assessments will be used that require more advanced critical thinking instead of using multiple choice tests. By October one-half the students will have new iPads, which can be used by their entire family. By next year all students should have iPads. Teacher development is ongoing to teach 21st century teaching skills, with less emphasis on the teachers and more on the students. The changes have caused a lot of excitement and frustration.
 - B. Measure B was explained at the back to school night and a bilingual guide to student success was handed out.
 - C. The school is open every morning at 6:45 so that students whose homes do not have water can come in and shower. Water is also available for their families to come and take home.
 - D. Armando Silvas has agreed to be the advisor for Mock Trial. He has no prior experience with it but has been advisor for debate teams.
7. Kisling said that four new staff members in their 20s have been hired. The increase in students means that an additional day has been added to classes. Speakers will have to come for two days.

8. LJE had the greatest increase in students of all the pathways.
9. Dempsie asked Roper to find someone from the court system to represent the Court on the Board.
10. The CCFCC will hold a candlelight vigil in October. The students from the Academy are invited to attend.
11. Roper discussed the need to expand the curriculum beyond the criminal law. Kisling indicated that there are components of other areas of the law that will be implemented in the coming months. She will provide Roper with copies of these units.
12. The next meeting will be held September 24, 2014. Roper said he will be out of town that date.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Your Humble and Obedient Servant,

Glade F. Roper, Acting Secretary