



July 11, 2019

*Sent via electronic mail and U.S. mail*

Jeff Harris, Superintendent  
Steve Godla, Assistant Superintendent  
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Re: Summary of June 24, 2019 Meeting

Dear Jeff and Steve,

Thank you for the positive and productive meeting between the District, Yurok Tribe, True North and the ACLU on June 24. Below is a summary of the topics discussed and working agreements made during the meeting, which we sent to you to memorialize our conversation. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any corrections or additions to the below.

### **LCAP Stakeholder Engagement Process for 2019-2020**

We greatly appreciate how the District has worked together with us over the last school year to create strong and authentic community engagement in the development of the 2019-20 LCAP. We agreed that the process of holding six community input sessions and two student sessions in Smith River, Klamath, and Crescent City worked well and will continue in the next year. We also agreed that holding LCAP specific school site council meetings at each school site would be an ideal way to engage additional families in the LCAP planning process over the next year.

The District responded agreed with our recommendation that, before future LCAP public hearings, the document should be posted online three days in advance to allow families and community members adequate time to read the document and engage in conversation. We also asked the District to consider placing the LCAP agenda item earlier on the School Board Agenda in future meetings so that greater numbers of school community members can hear and participate in Board discussion.

### **District's 2019-2020 LCAP**

We also discussed the two areas of concern identified in our June 18<sup>th</sup> letter.

**A. Hire more counselors**

The District stated that their plan was to hire three additional counseling positions for K-8: one full time equivalent counselor and two full-time counseling techs. We have some concerns about what kind of mental health supports the two counseling techs would actually be able to provide, given their credentials, to meet the student needs that community members raised throughout the LCAP engagement process. The District responded that counseling techs would be able to offer Tier 1 and administrative support. Mr. Napier also stated that counseling techs would be able to lead student support groups.

The use of counseling techs at the K-8 level is not a common practice in our district or a practice recommended by the California Association of Counselors. Unless a counseling tech has a master's level degree in counseling or counseling license, then they would not be able to lead student support groups without the presence of a trained counselor. While it is true that having one full time counselor and two counseling techs would put a person at each K-8 site every day, this would not ensure a full range of appropriate mental and Behavioral Health counseling services at all K-8 sites every day. Full time counselors would continue to have to split their time between sites, which was an issue of major concern amongst existing K-8 counselors. To truly address the concerns that community members have consistently raised, our recommendation is to hire two full time counselors for K-8 rather than one full time counselor and two counseling techs. This will allow the District to actually meet its stated goal to ensure student access to urgently-needed quality mental health supports, including student support groups.

**B. Better demonstrate in the LCAP how significant districtwide spending of S&C funds on class size reduction, transportation, and site cleanliness staff will target schools serving predominantly high-need students.**

The District agreed that there should be more explanation of which sites will receive funding for district-wide use of S&C funds. Before the 2019-2020 LCAP is finalized, the District will explicitly justify how these funds are principally directed toward, and effective in meeting, the District's goals for its unduplicated students in particular, including a clear explanation of the amount of funding specifically directed towards each school site.

**Schedule Meeting with New Superintendent**

We agreed that it would be helpful for the ACLU, Building Healthy Communities, True North, and the Yurok Education Department to meet with the new Assistant Superintendent, Tom Kissinger, to discuss with him the work that we have done over the past year and understand his role in this work over the next year. We agreed to wait until after July 1<sup>st</sup> to identify a date when we can schedule a phone call.

We look forward to collaborating with the District to sustain authentic community engagement and transparency in the development of the 2020-2023 LCAP. Thank you again for your time and effort on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McQuillen".

Jim McQuillen, MFT, PPS  
Education Director, Yurok Tribe

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Supahan".

Terry Supahan  
True North Organizing Network

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linnea Nelson".

Linnea Nelson, ACLU Foundation of Northern California  
Theodora Simon, ACLU Foundation of Northern California  
Sylvia Torres-Guillén, ACLU Foundations of California