

VUSD BOARD REPORT

NEXT STEPS

REQUEST: “List three to five actions to be taken to continually improve the program.”

RESPONSE: There were three primary goals that we set out to achieve during the 2009-2010 school year. These goals were to increase standardized test scores and improve student achievement, take the organization through strategic planning, and resolve critical organizational issues that address operational practices and protocols. By addressing these three primary goals, this will allow GPA to further address long-term interventions that support our main objective, which is to increase student achievement and provide our students with tools to be productive, positive life-long contributors to society. Through strategic planning, the following organizational parameters were established to hold GPA accountable to these identified outcomes; be fiscally solvent, student centered, embrace excellence, hold all stakeholders accountable to defined expectations, and embrace innovation at all levels of service and performance. To address these issues, the following actions will be taken to support the primary goals identified, and continue to improve student performance and lay programmatic foundations going into the 2010-2011 school year:

- Continue to address the critical issues that have been identified in our Five-Year Focus Plan through strategic planning for year two goals (2010-2011)
- Focus on instructional practice and teacher support
- Develop and define Board goals for the 2010-2011 school year

Through strategic planning, we have identified critical organizational issues covering the following program elements: curriculum, assessment, instruction, financial, governance, charter, school culture, technology, the GPA Foundation, International Baccalaureate, leadership, and communication. This five-year plan is an organic document that is revisited bi-annually each year. Next school year, the year two goals will be the primary focus.

Teacher support and instructional practice will take on three specific initiatives. First, provide teachers with specific data that will identify and support individual student learning and achievement. GPA is in the process of training staff in DataDirect/Zoom software that will assist them in targeting individual student and classroom performance, creating benchmark assessments, and creating evaluation tools that measure student success more effectively.

Second, staff will be expected to develop lessons and units based on the research practices of Understanding by Design (UbD) strategies. A cadre of trainers has been established internally, and they will be working with each department specifically to develop these units for fall and spring implementation. Additionally, professional development has been expanded and all staff will be provided Friday collaboration time to address departmental issues, student achievement and provide designated time for grade level articulations. Additionally, *Response to Intervention* (RtI) philosophies and interventions will be addressed during these collaboration times. Finally, staff and administration will develop strategic instructional objectives this spring and weave them systemically into GPA for fall application. These initiatives could consist of strategies such as; writing/reading across the curriculum, student presentations, and math support.

The third action taken will be to develop Board goals. GPA has not been consistent in developing a sustainable process to establish Board goals or create evaluation tools to measure effectiveness. The initial conversations to address this action will be initiated in June of this year.