

Inglewood Daily News

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Teen Center Students Get Lesson in Distracted Driving Awareness



Inglewood City Councilman Alex Padilla (far right) visits with youth as they participate in AT&T's "It Can Wait" awareness program at the Inglewood Teen Center on November 1. The youth experienced a virtual reality driving lesson that demonstrates what can happen if you use a smartphone while operating a vehicle. They then took a pledge not to practice distracted driving in the future. Photo provided by South Bay Workforce Investment Board

Inglewood Schools Get Upgrades

By Haleemon Anderson

Improvements are on the way for Inglewood school sites, with detailed plans revealed at last week's School Board meeting to make use of funding from Measure GG, Prop 39 and other state and local funding sources. All 18 school sites are undergoing a facility needs assessment, according to Eugenio Villa, Inglewood Unified School District Chief Business Official. Educational specifications, aligned with education goals, will be incorporated into the plans, said Villa. A draft assessment and report of needed repairs is scheduled to be completed by the December School Board meeting. "We are modifying our classrooms to meet our education specifications," said Villa.

The detailed update on facilities planning and construction includes already completed projects and several currently underway. At Coleman, the field was renovated. The exterior façades at Kelso and Inglewood have been painted, and eight schools received new roofs or roof coatings through the State of California's emergency repair program.

Current projects include installation of district-wide energy efficiency measures and a remote monitoring system; restroom restorations, and IT network improvements and increases in broadband capacity. "What happens with facilities [improvements] will be really critical to the process of returning to local control," said Villa. Inglewood Unified is currently under the leadership of State

State appointee to helm the District.

Director of Human Resources Nora Roque gave the 2016-17 annual report, citing advancements in orientation and training of all new employees. "We've become more robust in this area," said Roque. She cited a leadership institute, with 21 teachers attending, and noted that leaves of absence are down.

Dr. Carmen Beck, Chief Academic Officer, reported on Dashboard, a new state and federal accountability system. The software program aggregates student information across multiple indicators, including grades, graduation rates and English learner progress. The new system will eventually include information on chronic absenteeism, and college and career readiness.

Beck said the State wants alignment between Dashboard and LCAP. LCAP is a tool for local educational agencies to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to improve student outcomes. The LCAP is a part of the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Each school district must engage parents, educators, employees and the community to establish these plans.

Public comments focused on personnel concerns. Residents expressed disdain for potential layoffs and a staff rehire included in the agenda. The item (15.a.3) listed eight positions, all classified, for layoff or reduction in hours. Five of the positions are currently unfilled.

Several residents and educators objected to item 15.a.2, an agreement to retain the District's head of Special Education Dr. Marjorie Rudy as a consultant. Rudy is scheduled to resign from the District on November 15.

Don Hughes questioned the arrangement. "What is this revolving door pattern at Inglewood?" he asked. A parent, Ms. Gomez, expressed exasperation with Rudy. She said her special needs daughter is still without services under Rudy's tenure. President of the Inglewood Teachers Association Abu Ngissah also questioned the wisdom of keeping Rudy on in a consultant capacity. The District allocated \$123,000 for the new post.

Aisha Royal, who is the grievance chair for the teacher's association, asked the Board to evaluate the effectiveness of the current training schedule. "I appreciate the professional development, but everyone doesn't need the same thing," she said. Royal noted that when teachers are out of the classroom, they are covered by substitutes.

Board President Dr. Carliss McGhee addressed the audience near the end of the meeting, expressing frustration at the perceived criticisms. "We do hear you," she said. "Your concerns are our concerns."

Student representatives to the Advisory Council were also on hand to update the Board. Larence Gordon gave the student report from Inglewood Continuation High School. Gordon is

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Partly
Cloudy
67°/54°



Saturday
Partly
Cloudy
71°/51°

