



Session 1 Report – Student Vision

NAME OF SCHOOL: SYLMAR HIGH SCHOOL

DATE OF SESSION 1: 10/01/12

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Boys and Girls Club of San Fernando Valley

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: MARIA AGUILAR

DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 10/02/12

The recommendations contributed by the session participants for the Student Vision were documented through a combination of feedback provided by small group activities, discussion, and annotated narrative data. During the small group exercises the parents were asked to discuss recommendations for the planning team to consider for the student vision. Parents stated for their student vision they want to see the following multiple components: Character building and learning habits and college ready abilities.

Character building:

The first theme parents have for the student vision is for their children to develop character traits that will help them in their personal lives and in school. One parent said, **“I want my daughter to be responsible, respectful and has love for herself and others.”** Another parent said, **“that students are respectful to one another and with adults.”** The majority of the written comments fell in this theme as follows:

- That my daughter is enthusiastic, loving, and wants to be someone in life.
- Teach them responsibility.
- Learn to relate to others.
- Lift their self esteem if someone is having problems
- When they have to speak in front of others they are able to do so with confidence.
- For students not to be rude and to pay attention.
- Love all regardless of race, creed, or gender.
- More respect between students.
- Better use of language in class from the students. Students say too many bad words and they talk back to the teacher.
- Teach them to resolve problems.
- Hard work pays off.
- Students should join sports to stay active.

Learning Habits & college ready abilities:

The second theme parents have for the student vision is for their children to learn skills that will assist them with pursuing a higher education. One parent said, **“that upon graduating they have excellent grades and are able to attend college with scholarships.”** Another parent said, **“that they like the learning process and likes to go to school.”** One parent commented he wanted his son to be **“prepared to do excellent in college or career.”** The majority of the written comments fell in this theme as follows:



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- I would like for my daughters to reach their goals, which they realize how important education is in their lives.
- That my daughter learns everything so that she can go to college.
- That she learns computing, so that in the future she can have a good job.
- That the student has good study habits
- That they learn to read, write and take tests.
- To be prepared for interviews and know how to express themselves.
- That the student knows how to read and understand what they are learning.
- Teach them to be responsible with their studies.
- That they are at the correct academic level for their grade.
- More emotional support.
- Able to test in reading and writing.
- Learn to love to read.
- Skills to be able to write research papers and term papers.
- Every student to graduate from high school.
- Students to earn better grades on their report cards.



SESSION 1 REPORT – SCHOOL VISION

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The recommendations contributed by the session participants for the School Vision were documented through a combination of feedback provided by small group activities, discussion, and annotated narrative data. During the small group exercises the parents were asked to discuss recommendations for the planning team to consider for the school vision. Parents provided feedback that expressed that their school vision includes the following: Cleanliness & Bathroom Accessibility, increased communication between the school and parents, qualified and competent teachers and counselors, and safe school & supervision.

School Cleanliness & Bathroom Accessibility:

The first theme for the school vision is to have a cleaner school and accessibility to bathrooms. One parent stated, **“that the school is clean and safe.”** Another parent stated, **“We want clean bathrooms, yards and classrooms.”** Another parent also said, **“The bathrooms should remain open”** The majority of the written comments fell in this theme as follows:

- That the school is clean.
- Cleaner school.
- Clean school and have less trash around the school.
- That the school is clean and safe.
- More nature like plants and trees in front of the school and that it is cleaner.
- No graffiti on bathroom doors there is too much writing on them.
- Clean bathrooms, yards and classrooms.
- That the restrooms are in good condition.
- That the bathrooms remain open.
- Have all bathrooms open during school hours.
- That the classrooms are in good condition, clean and at an adequate temperature.
- That there is better maintenance of the tools used by the students in the classrooms.
- That they teach the students to maintain a clean school, to throw garbage where it belongs.

Increased communication between the school & parents:

The second theme for the school vision is to increase communication between the school and Parents. One parent stated, **“That the school communicates with the parents.”** Another parent stated, **“That there is improved communication between parents, students and parents.”** The majority of the written comments fell in this theme as follows:

- Communication and responsibility between teachers and parents
- That they consider the opinions of the parents.
- Respect on behalf of everyone at the school site.



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- Respect for the students by the teachers.
- That all the students have equal opportunities.
- That they have good teachers who are kinder, and know how to listen and teach their classes.
- Teachers who are understanding and know how to help students.
- Teachers who listen to their students.
- That teachers respect students and do not lower their self-esteem.
- Information for parents and motivation increase support for our school.
- More information regarding the funding received by the school.
- Communication between parents and school director.
- That the school district considers the opinions of the parents and the students.
- Workshops for parents and students about college and careers.
- That parents are notified if our students are absent or tardy.
- Better service in the main office.
- That they have a person who speaks Spanish well, and that they make phone calls home.
- That the staff is kind, respectful and helpful.
- An interpreter when we want to speak to a teacher.
- A principal that is responsible for the quality of education at Sylmar school.
- Director with an open mind.
- Responsible principal.
- A humane principal.

Qualified & Competent Teachers & Counselors:

A third theme for the school vision is for the school to have qualified and competent teachers in every class. One parent said, **“We want teacher who really teach.”** Another parent stated, **“We want well prepared teachers to help the youth by giving them quality time in every period.”** A parent stated, **“That the counselors know how to help the students and communicate with them.”** The majority of the written comments fell in this theme as follows:

- That the teachers know time management, are organized and create a good environment for student learning.
- That the teacher focuses on each student at their level.
- That the teachers and staff know how to listen to each student’s problems.
- Quality education and responsible teachers.
- That teachers help those students who are the furthest behind.
- No discrimination or preferential treatment from the teachers to the students.
- Test the teachers.
- Better level of teaching
- Quality education.
- Quality time in each period.
- More attention to students and quality education.
- Quality education and better quality time for each student.
- I would like to see the school rise in level of education and that it ceases to be a school with a poor level of education.
- That they help us parents when the students have a project to complete.



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- That they bring more counselors that focus on the students and help them be successful in life.
- Trainings for the counselors.
- More counselors
- Better counselors for the students.
- That the counselors give more opportunity to the students to obtain advanced classes.
- That the counselor helps the students choose their courses/subjects.
- Counselors who provide parents with quality time. I had a very bad experience last year with my son's counselor.
- That the counselors know how to listen to students and parents.
- Fewer students per counselor.
- No discrimination with the students.
- That all students have equal opportunities.
- That there is more help for students to get to college.
- That the school has more prepared staff, in that way to help my daughter choose a career or university.
- Información sobre las universidades.
- Classes that motivate my son to go to college.
- Classes that motivate students to continue the path to college.
- That the classrooms are in closer proximity for the students and that the teachers understand that they are far.
- That the school has fewer students per classroom and that there is more supervision during class time.
- Less students per class
- Less kids per class.
- More time in class so that the students have time to assimilate to each class.

Safe school & More Supervision:

A fourth theme for the school vision is to create a safe school for all students and to have more supervision in and around the school campus. One parent said, **“that there is more security in school.”** Another parent stated, **“That the school provides more supervision during class time so that my daughter feels safe.”** The majority of the written comments fell in this theme as follows:

- Police to supervise the site as much as necessary
- Police nearby the school
- A safe school.
- More security.
- More supervision on campus so that there are less nosy kids on site.
- Let's all get involved in getting LAPD to open a sub-station at Sylmar Park for the safety of our schools in the area.
- That the school is alert so that children are not the victims of bullying.
- That there is discipline in and outside the classrooms.
- Safe, drug free and learning environment. Sylmar should be a learning and educational community center for all. Achievement for everyone.
- More support for our community.



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- Less expulsion of children.

Healthy School Culture:

A fifth theme for the school vision is to create a healthy school culture with a good nutrition program for all students. One parent said, “**we want lunch to be 100% nutritious**”. The majority of the written comments fell in this theme as follows:

- Better food for the students.
- Change the food.
- Good quality food.
- Longer lunch, please class periods are too long.
- More time to eat lunch since a well-nourished stomach appreciates learning and knowledge.

There were other comments that reflected differing needs for inclusion into the vision and did not fall into the main themes. These were:

- A magnet school for all students
- More tutoring for students who are behind in their subjects.
- Offer different types of tutoring.
- Help for students who are falling behind.
- Advanced technology.
- That they have the necessary materials at school.
- Monitors with better sound.
- That students are given the opportunity to participate in the different activities available.
- More fieldtrips for students and more fun activities.
- More fieldtrips for all grades.
- More electives, not only a marching band but also an orchestra.
- Speech class should be an A-G course.
- Each 9th grader should have their own lockers.
- A library with staff that motivates students to read.
- More sports that help students stay physically fit and busy.
- Give a locker to students who are in sports.
- More hours and pay for the parent center staff.
- Equality between the teams.
- Less budget cuts.
- Less budget cuts because there are lots of kids in a class.
- Less drama between friends.



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SESSION 1 REPORT – DIALOGUES WITH PLANNING TEAMS

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Planning Team 1. Principal James Lee presented the following:

- There is a history of not reaching out to our parents. We want to make sure you have a voice.
- I need you parents to be active participants in your child's education, to continue to participate in your children's education throughout their school years.
- You have very respectful and well-mannered children; this is a reflection of you the parents.
- We want students to become well rounded and global citizens.
- Discussed their plan would focus on four central areas
- I give you my commitment to have our teachers and counselors do a better job. I want our teachers to perform at a higher level.
- I want your children to have healthy lifestyles, to be respectful, have self-awareness, develop tolerance, and be better communicators.
- I want to address their emotional needs by providing counseling.
- For students to become career ready and be ready to interview for jobs.
- I want students to develop the skills needed to do research and improve their writing and reading.
- I have an open door policy. When you have a problem you can come see me or better yet if you have email it is the best way to reach me. I can also give you my direct school number. Principal provided his email: james.lee@LAUSD.net and direct school phone number: (818) 833-3701
- Even though I no longer live in the community, I understand and can connect with you on wanting to prepare your children to go to college. My wife is Mexican-American and her parents struggled to provide a great education for her and her sisters, but in the end they sent their children to college.

The following were questions directed to Principal James Lee:

1. **Can you add speech as a course for A-G requirements?** **Answer:** Yes, we can as a matter of fact there will be a speech class that will be offered in the leadership academy.
2. **What is the school plan vision to be more vigilant about the safety of the school and the students?** **Answer:** I know there was a big issue at the park weeks back and although I don't want to put any blame on students, there were two of our students who went to the park and met with two young men who had a gun. It's hard to control what a student does after school, but we can educate our



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students on safety measures, such as not to linger in the park, but instead to go home. Ninety-nine percent of our students don't do those things.

Parent said, "She would like for the principal to host a community forum where police officials, the principal, Council Member Alarcon, and other concern parents can dialogue about solutions for the safety concerns that we have for our children in the surrounding community and for the school. I am willing to pass out flier to invite other parents to this forum as we want to find solutions to the safety concerns that we have".

- 3. Can the school create a Learning Community & Educational Center? Answer:** Principal asked the parent center leader to describe some of the learning opportunities available to parents.

Parent's response was I know there are different classes at the parent center, but I would like to see a parent university, that teaches parents English, a place to obtain a GED, offer math classes and help parents assimilate into the American culture. I know resources are limited but we can ask the business community to help with fundraising."