



July 1, 2020

Good morning Banning Unified School District!

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the new fiscal year! Our mission is what guides my thinking and focus, as Banning Unified School District is a diverse community that collaborates to develop responsible, respectful, prepared students to achieve their full potential. With that said, below are three topics that will provide you with a perspective about our team's future.

***(1) Returning to work and safely reopening schools.*** While we carefully consider and plan the next steps necessary to reopen schools safely, the majority of classified staff will continue working from home until at least mid-July when the board approves a safe reopening plan for our district. As part of our reopening planning process, we are aligning our protocols with the Riverside County Health Department's guidance and many of your wonderful ideas shared during the more than 20 task force meetings designed to include your voices in how we safely reopen schools. We thank the more than 200 certificated and classified staff members who participated in Banning's task force meetings alongside nearly 300 parents. This volume of staff and parent involvement demonstrates true investment, collaboration, and focus on what's best for our community and our students.

***(2) District budget for FY 2020-21.*** This week our Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Given the impact of COVID-19 on newly legislated fiscal parameters impacting every school district in California, our \$59.4M budget will be revised within the next 45 days. Between now and then, we will develop targeted budget advisory committees and a stabilization plan, which includes the following: (1) aligning all spending with the new district-wide goals and indicators, (2) applying for federal assistance through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER), (3) tracking and managing cash flow to ensure mitigation of state deferrals, and (4) engaging the staff and community in the budget history and enrollment projections. You can read and review BUSD's complete budget and the board presentation by clicking [HERE](#) and scrolling down to the appropriate link.

***(3) Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).*** The LCAP is a tool for local educational agencies to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to meet those goals to improve student outcomes. We will soon be sharing our Board's goals and indicators--the first of which is accelerating student achievement. All staff plans will be aligned with our goals. Yesterday, we successfully submitted Banning's COVID-19 Operations Written Report (OWR). Due to COVID-19 Executive Order (EO) N-56-20, which was established back in April, a new timeline and approval process for waivers and budgetary requirements were issued. You can read our OWR by clicking [HERE](#) and scrolling down to the appropriate attachment. We will be scheduling LCAP meetings for your involvement. The process will mirror our task force and budget committee meetings, so look out for those invitations in the coming weeks.

Finally, our leadership team's summer reading list includes some of my favorite texts: (1) James O'Toole and Warren Bennis' *A Culture of Candor*, and (2) Marshall Goldsmith's [What Got You Here Won't Get You There--How Successful People Become More Successful](#). If time permits, order those texts and let me know what you think.

In conclusion, I thank you for all that you do and look forward to a collaborative school year where we will work together to go to the next level academically, operationally, and financially.

Take good care!

Sincerely,  
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