

July 12, 2020

Dear Banning Unified School District Community:

Congratulations to this year's senior class! Yesterday, our vehicle parade and drive-through graduation demonstrated enormous support for our exceptional young leaders who are embarking on their life's journey prepared for the future due to our fantastic staff, phenomenal families, and engaged community. We remain super excited about all of the wonderful opportunities that our graduates will leverage to fulfill their dreams. Kudos to our high school Principal Mr. Matthew Valdivia and his dedicated team whose focus and hard work led to a flawless graduation.

Valedictorian Jazmine Colon represented with her family and friends in a beautifully decorated caravan and a wealth of support as she made her way across the stage draped in Bronco pride, academic scholarships, and a full ride to the University of California at Berkeley. Once there, Ms. Colon plans to lead the way in economics and political science as a Banning Unified School District graduate.



Jazmin Colon, Banning Valedictorian

As we celebrate the Class of 2020 who are living examples of greatness, we are also focused on developing a roadmap for staff and students to return to school and work safely. Here at Banning Unified School District, our mission is to be a diverse community that collaborates to develop responsible, respectful, prepared students to achieve their full potential. As we plan for the new school year with a flexible roadmap focused on safety and wellness, accelerating student achievement, efficient operations, and fiscal stability, we invite our staff and community to attend our virtual board meeting next Saturday, July 18th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Our reopening plans include timelines, processes, and procedures for staff to return to work and students to return to school safely. During the board meeting next weekend, our district office leadership team will present roadmaps for a centralized and comprehensive technology plan, reopening schools, and professional learning opportunities for all employee groups.

The truth is that COVID-19 has put school districts across the entire nation in uncharted territory. In Banning we know that in order to be successful in a COVID-19 environment, we have to lean on public health officials' guidance and remain open to innovative ideas and strategies to work and learn while staying safe and healthy. I invite staff, students, parents, and the larger community to join us virtually next Saturday to learn more.

In addition, we have to remain flexible because there are no perfect plans; therefore, we must remain receptive to feedback and change in order to navigate these unstable times well. In doing so, we are designing our plans around guidance from Riverside County Health Department and your input

during more than 20 task force meetings involving more than 200 staff and 300 parents. We are planning the logistics because we know that failure to plan is a plan to fail.

During our last board meeting, the 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. We are also hard at work on our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

The LCAP is a tool for local educational agencies to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to meet goals that improve student outcomes. We will soon be sharing our Board's goals and indicators--the first of which is accelerating student achievement. We will also be scheduling LCAP meetings for your involvement. The process will mirror our task force and budget committee meetings, so be on the lookout for those invitations in the coming weeks.

With that said, I hope you will take us up on our offer to join us virtually next Saturday to learn about Banning Unified School District's specific next steps to reopen schools using strategies focused on safety and a high quality work and learning environment. My goal in sharing this message is for us, as a team, to remain consistent in our narrative and approaches to doing this very important work well.

I thank you in advance for all that you do and look forward to a collaborative school year where we will work together to take Banning Unified School District to the next level academically, operationally, and financially.

Take good care!

Sincerely,
Dr. Natasha Baker
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