

TO: Brent Stephens, Ed.D., Superintendent
FROM: Baje Thiara, Associate Superintendent
Maggie Riddle, Executive Director, PK-8 Schools
DATE: October 2, 2019
SUBJECT: Math Improvement Strategy
PURPOSE: Update on the Math Task Force

Background:

On June 26, 2019, District staff presented a discussion focused on student outcomes related to mathematics, along with potential improvement strategies. During the Spring of SY2019, BUSD staff including math teacher leaders, school administrators, and central office staff held discussions that focused on ways to improve outcomes in mathematics for students both across the system and grade levels. These preliminary discussions identified potential improvement areas in mathematics that could be explored collaboratively by teachers, principals, subject area experts, and district staff.

Parents groups have also expressed a strong interest in a deeper examination of math instruction and curriculum in the District. The Task Force will solicit input from BUSD's parent groups including: DELAC, PAC, PCAD, and the PTA Council.

BUSD notes significant and ongoing disparities in math outcomes for the following student groups: African American, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities. With this knowledge and with a clear focus on equity, the Task Force will center its attention on ensuring that BUSD's math instruction and programs are designed to raise the achievement of all students while closing the math opportunity gap for our focal groups.

The Math Task Force will:

- Partner with math education professors to review and discuss current research, trends, and innovations in math education
- Examine math teaching and learning in BUSD
- Review and analyze student achievement in math including all related assessment data
- Review the district's current math curriculum in K-5 (A Story of Units) and 6-8 (A Story of Ratios) and other math curriculum
- Review math "intervention" and support curriculum and programs
- Present findings to Educational Services and the School Board
- Make recommendations regarding improving math outcomes for BUSD's students

The first Math Task Force planning meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 27th. The planning group includes staff from Educational Services, Special Education, PD Department, the BHS U9 Math Administrator, and the BFT President.

The Taskforce will meet up to twice a month during the 19/20 school year and will include: District Office staff from the following departments: Educational Services, Special Education and

Professional Development. principals, teachers, and BFT Board members. University partners will be invited from the UCB Graduate School of Education, Cal State East Bay Department of Teacher Education, Silicon Valley Math Initiative and the Center for Mathematics Excellence and Equity at the Lawrence Hall of Science.

We are seeking a grant from the Berkeley Schools Fund for approximately \$40,000 to cover the costs of the year-long Math Task Force.