**October General Meeting Takeaways:**

At our last general meeting, SUSD’s **Dr Steve Chestnut**, Executive Director of Support Services, **Shannon Cronn**, Clinical Support Coordinator, and **Dr. Yadira Flores**, Mohave MS counselor shared information on bullying, reviewed district policy and procedures for handling bullying, and explained the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to prevent it.

**Dr Steve Chestnut**

* Bullying/cyberbullying is defined as aggressive and systematic abuse of power with a desire to hurt. It involves a power imbalance, is repeated over time, and the victim feels helpless to stop it.
* SUSD employees are required to report it, SUSD policy is based on State and Federal law
* In the school setting, **prevention is key**
* Principals are responsible for encouraging a positive climate and school culture by implementing PBIS
* **PBIS is the framework used to create a positive school culture** through recognition and encouragement of positive behaviors
* Administration is provided a notice of anti-bullying policies and procedures when a case of bullying is reported
* The “**Bullying Incident Complaint/Harassment Report Form**” May be found on the **SUSD website**. Any witness may report bullying incidents.

**Shannon Cronn**

* **PBIS** uses a **3 tiered model of prevention and intervention**. Tier 1 is school wide and includes recognizing positive behaviors and teaching/modeling the behaviors we want to see. Tier 2 is directed at students requiring support and may include peer mediation, restorative justice, direct instruction. Tier 3 is for students requiring more intensive support and may involve connecting families to community resources. These tiers are used in a layered approach.
* Research says the best way to reduce bullying in schools is to address the emotional needs of students through PBIS, establish the positive behaviors we want to see in our schools and have teachers and staff teach/model/reinforce these behaviors with students.
* Research shows that programs focused on describing and emphasizing bullying behaviors actually result in increased rates of bullying in schools.

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**Dr Yadira Flores**

* Provided overview of Mohave MS’s program
* Purpose of program is to provide **safe, predictable, and effective learning environment for students to be successful**
* Program focuses on **promoting positive relationships**. Children who know how to develop healthy relationships are less likely to bully.
* Peer attention reinforces bullying, so Mohave’s bullying curriculum focuses on **teaching prevention behaviors and bystander interruption.**
* Mohave uses a “**Stop, Walk, Talk**” response program for its students which teaches students to recognize and interrupt bullying behaviors and report to an adult when needed.
* Mohave asks students to take a pledge, write a personal support plan, and work on ongoing lessons including student forums, practice sessions, etc
* Staff training is an important component for PBIS to be implemented consistently.

Presentations were followed by an informative Q and A and group discussion with parents and staff. We are grateful to all of our district presenters for joining us and hearing our parent concerns and answering our questions. Video of all presentations and group discussion from this meeting will be made available on our website soon.

**Dr Kriekard Announcements**

* The SUSD governing board has approved Kiva Elementary as the next district rebuild.
* Navajo is currently undergoing its rebuild and will move back into their home campus once completed.
* District has just launched a 60 day anti-vaping campaign as part of the “National Smoke Out” campaign. District data shows that for SUSD students vaping is more prevalent than smoking.

*-Submitted by Brehan King*