

Vice Principal Study Committee – Grant PTA

Purpose

- Evaluate impact on student, teachers, and faculty regarding the removal of vice principals from TK-8 schools.
- Make recommendation on vice principal, counselor and psychologist staffing at TK-8 schools.

Information gathering

- Survey to principals of all TK-8 schools.
- Interviews with principals, teachers, and parents at TK-8 schools.
- Research on budgeting, school enrollment, and Title 1 fund allocation.

Findings

- All middle schools in San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) have a vice principal and full time counselor.
- Vice principals were removed from 8 of the 9 TK-8 schools in SDUSD in the 2017-2018 year. SDUSD budgeted to staff vice principals at TK-8 schools with enrollment over 1,000. One school, Language Academy, has enrollment at 998 and was allocated a vice principal.
- Vice principals previously oversaw proactive counseling, discipline, safety, IEP implementation, and community outreach, among other things.
- Teachers and other school staff are putting in extra hours and having to take time away from classrooms and regular duties to complete things that were previously done by the vice principal.
- TK-8 schools are unique in serving students from 4-14 years old. The needs of this age group vary widely, and a second administrator is needed to have a proactive learning environment.
- The complexity and depth of middle school student discipline issues remains the same for students in a traditional middle school and those in a TK-8. A vice principal is needed for timely, complete follow up on these issues as well as ways to proactively prevent them.
- Without a vice principal, a shared school psychologist, and a part time counselor special education and IEP needs are not being met in a timely manner. At risk for non-compliance with state and federal requirements.
- TK-8 schools are valued and needed. They create an environment of community within the school, give valuable social connections of remaining in one school, and let students have the support of long-time friends and classmates during challenging middle school years.

Recommendation

All TK-8 schools be staffed with a vice principal and full time counselor and psychologist.