PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is to educate and to support learners in reaching their highest potential. We prepare students to pursue successful futures and to make positive contributions to the community and global society.

Press Release
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PVUSD Maintains College and Career Readiness Focus

Watsonville, CA, July 2, 2020 – Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center (EPC) have worked together in service of students for over 30 years and will continue to do so. Both PVUSD and Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) have similarly aligned goals towards college preparation, enrollment, and success. Two years ago, when EPC's GEAR UP grant for college and career readiness was ending, PVUSD entered into a contract to ensure uninterrupted college and career preparation services for students at Watsonville and Pajaro Valley High Schools continued. It was also important for the District to have these critical services at Aptos High School, and thus the contract was expanded to include Aptos. Monthly meetings between PVUSD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, and EPC Executive Director, Maria Rocha-Ruiz and her senior staff have served to discuss the many programs EPC delivers within the school district: GEAR UP, EAOP, GIRLS Paving the Way, MESA, and other summer programs.

During this pandemic and unprecedented California state budget crisis, public schools, colleges and universities are reimagining the delivery of services to students of all ages with fewer resources. On June 10, discussion between PVUSD and EPC began to examine the possibility of EAOP contract changes pending State budget allocations. PVUSD is required by law to submit a qualified budget by June 30 each year based upon May State budget projections. This May those numbers were dire and the proposed cuts brought forward at the June 24 Board meeting reflected this deeply unfortunate situation.

Dr. Rodriguez comments, "We are committed to supporting the whole child at PVUSD, including systems that help them successfully navigate college and career opportunities. The favorable June 30 revised State budget now allows PVUSD to move forward with reinstating EAOP contracted services in the District's 2020-21 budget. Ensuring all students are college and career ready remains at the center of PVUSD's focus."

Maria Rocha-Ruiz notes, "The mutual support and respect between EPC and PVUSD has allowed us to navigate this difficult moment. We look forward to the EAOP contract being revisited and to reinstating this impactful service for PVUSD students. All EPC programs will continue to serve PVUSD students and families in the 2020-2021 school year, including EAOP."