



Exploring the paradox of going green.

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KOREA'S GOLDEN MOMENTS

From "Parasite" to BTS, Korean culture is making its presence known, on campus and globally.

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Teachers who nurture their artistic passions

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BEAR WITNESS



ELECTION 2020

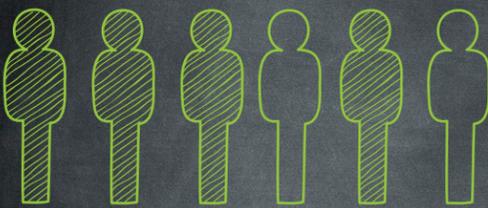
MEASURES of SUCCESS

District banks on a parcel tax to help stem exodus of quality teachers

Measure K at a glance

If the parcel tax passes, an independent committee will be formed to determine how the \$16.7 million in annual funds for the next eight years will be spent. This is what the general plan for funds will look like.

TEACHER RETENTION



Though the number of new teacher hires has dropped recently, Branham saw a turnover rate of more than 50% over a three-year period between 2015-2017. If the Measure K passes, they expect to see a \$6,500 bump in their salary schedules.

EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Funds will be allocated to increase the resources that are available for students and staff. Branham this year piloted a Wellness Center, including hiring Kevin Nguyen, a full-time social worker. The district plans to roll out Wellness Centers to the rest of the schools with Measure K funds.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Support vocational and career technical educational classes to train students for high demand careers, like health care and engineering.

Sources: CUHSD, Neighbors for Student Success and Excellent Local Schools

More coverage pg. 7

- Why teachers feel that Measure K should be passed.
- From ballot measure to special elections, a glossary of campaigning terms.
- Clarifying the confusion over Proposition 13.

Caitlyn Schlaman/Bear Witness graphic

JULIANNE ALVARES
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Many Branham teachers already know what they'll do with the \$6,500 salary increase if voters pass Measure K, a parcel tax that's expected to provide a \$16.7 million windfall each year for the district.

What's at stake

Many teachers say that they are leaving or are threatening to leave because of the high costs of living in the Bay Area, and because of other districts in the county pay more.

- The current parcel tax is \$85 — lower than other schools nearby.
- Senior citizens are exempt from the parcel tax increases.
- Any parcel tax needs 66.7% approval to pass.
- Only registered voters in CUHSD boundaries are eligible to vote.

English teacher Mike Espinoza plans to pay off his student loans. Science teacher Juan Fernandez plans to do more traveling. French teacher Laurel Garceau wants to pay off her home equity line of credit. Math teacher Amanda Wilson will use it toward her mortgage.

"I'm pro anything when it comes to increased funding for schools," said English teacher Melanie Vega.

Measure K, which is up for a vote at the special primary election in March, will tax \$298 for each unit of land, and is expected to generate \$16.7 million dollars each year for the eight years it's in effect. District leaders plan to use that money toward increasing teacher salaries and providing more mental health services and resources for students.

Increasing career technical education (CTE) services was also a priority for the authors of the measure. While facilities bonds cover the district's need for physical infrastructure, this parcel tax aims to account for the personnel and human needs involved in the education process.

Teachers priced out of district

The Measure K funds come at a time of rising income inequality, especially in the money-rich Silicon Valley, whose top earners make 12.2 times as much as those at the bottom of the economic ladder, a gap that's wider than anywhere in the state, according to the Public Policy Institute of California, which analyzed 2018 U.S. Census bureau data.

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JUUL LAWSUIT



Dr. Robert Bravo
CUHSD
superintendent

"JUUL marketed these dangerous and addictive products to youth without warning. We are in the business of educating students, not cleaning up JUUL's health crisis."

District files suit against JUUL maker

Class action with other school districts

ELIZABETH POSEY
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Campbell Union High School District has joined districts across California in a class action lawsuit against the electronic cigarette company JUUL for causing disruptions to their school's learning environments and resulting financial losses in dedicating resources to fight the increase in vaping.

Several other district lawsuits across the state have filed similar lawsuits earlier in January. CUHSD, Davis Joint Unified School District and Chico Unified School district filed theirs on Jan. 22.

"JUUL marketed these dangerous and addictive products to youth without warning," said CUHSD Superintendent Robert Bravo in the press release of the lawsuit. "We are in the business of educating students, not cleaning up JUUL's health crisis."

Bravo ranked the JUUL epidemic in his top five most common complaints among parents and administrators this year.

"Ideally, they wouldn't be in busi-

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AUTHOR TALK



The book describes women who have succeeded in male-dominated Silicon Valley.

Talk highlights female impacts in tech sector

ZIV GALPAZ
Staff Writer

It's no secret that Silicon Valley has long been dominated by men, who according to author Julian Guthrie make up nearly 94% of the workforce. What is not as widely known is how some of the 6% have been instrumental in shaping some of the world's largest companies, from Facebook to Google.

The bestselling author talked to students at Branham on Feb. 12 to highlight the gender discrepancies, and to highlight the Hidden Figures of Silicon Valley, in reference to the undercelebrated and influential figures in the male-dominated, cutthroat envi-

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