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Moraga School District Gives Math Intervention Priority Over Extended Kindergarten

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga School District governing board members and superintendent bid farewell to Parker Colvin, center, who will be leaving California at the end of the year. Surrounding Parker, from left: Bruce Burns, Jim Obsitnik, Shari Simon, Heather O'Donnell, Jon Nickens. Photo Sophie Braccini

Last spring, the Moraga School District formed an extended kindergarten day committee to study the feasibility and impact of adding a few hours of instruction to the kindergarten day in the district. The report came back favorable, matching a general trend of more children attending full-day kindergarten classes in the United States, according to a report by the Education Commission of the States.

A survey showed strong parental support for the concept of all-day kindergarten, it looked like the idea had momentum. But after fall results from the 2015 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress assessment, and after further analysis of the scores by grade level, the district felt there was a higher priority to imple-

ment an early intervention math program for first and second grade students. The governing board approved that decision at its Nov. 10 meeting.

Though the logistics have not been finalized, Superintendent Bruce Burns is targeting the end of January as a launch date for the new program. "We are not abandoning the extended kindergarten concept," said Burns, "but with limited resources we have to prioritize what we think is most needed."

The idea is to train existing kindergarten and transitional kindergarten staff who would be using their contracted hours to teach math intervention between 2 and 3 p.m. ... continued on page A12

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