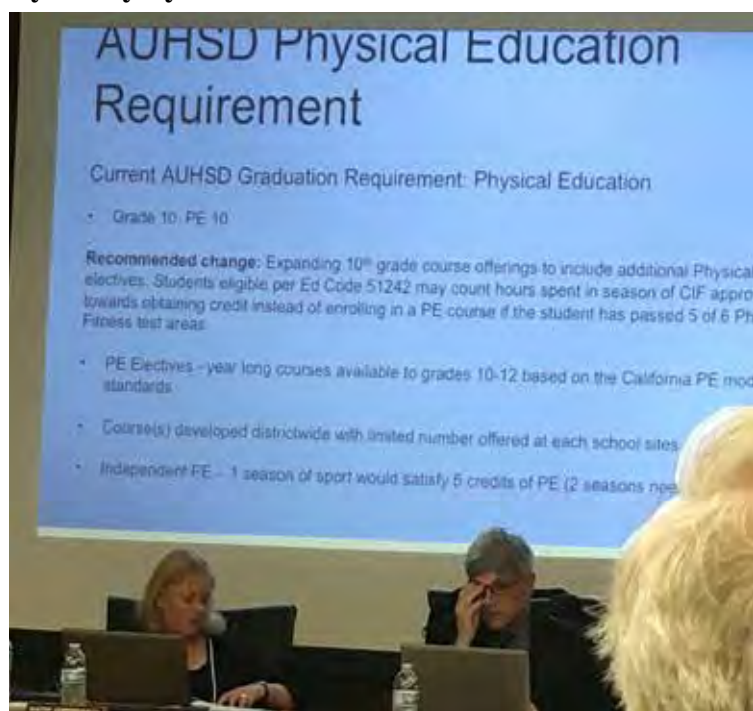


AUHSD Considers Graduation Requirement Changes

By Cathy Tyson



The AUHSD School Board listens to a presentation from the Graduation Requirements Evaluation Committee about possible graduation requirement changes. Photo Cathy Tyson

How many and what kinds of classes are necessary to graduate from one of Lamorinda's high schools? Over many months, a 45-member-strong volunteer Graduation Requirements Evaluation Committee researched possible changes.

Composed of students, teachers, counselors, parents and administrators, the committee thoroughly examined Acalanes Union High School District graduation requirements, evaluated the process and classes that students must complete, and established a guiding framework in order to make a recommendation to the school board.

More discussion of the recommendations and a final decision is expected at the May 18 school board meeting.

The last comprehensive review was conducted 15 years ago and there have been changes in the ensuing years, notably Common Core requirements and an increased focus on college and career readiness.

The GREC team sought to prepare students for life after high school with a focus on critical, creative and independent thinking skills as well as the ability to communicate verbally and in writing. They looked at the relevance of current graduation requirements, state and national trends, course enrollment data, college admission trends and more.

GREC reviewed three distinct graduation requirement models: the State of California, UC and CSU combined, and existing AUHSD requirements. A number of differences were illuminated. The committee had to balance student flexibility and choice to allow students to select pathways based

on their interests, against district parameters of what it means to be a well-rounded student.

For example AUHSD requires three years of social studies to graduate, the same amount as the State of California, but the UC/CSU system only requires two years.

One of the biggest distinctions is for elective requirements, with AUHSD requiring nine courses, UC/CSU requiring only one year's worth, and the State of California requiring no electives.

In her presentation to the school board, Associate Superintendent Aida Glimme outlined the GREC recommendations that could be phased in over time, but ultimately it is up to the board to accept, reject or modify these recommendations (see box below). Glimme estimates it would take a year to develop any new courses, and the administration does not want to penalize existing students, so new rules would only apply to incoming freshmen after plans and classes have been solidified.

There was some concern among physical education instructors that changing requirements could affect PE staffing, but Glimme made it clear: "Nobody wants layoffs."

It is possible that changes in graduation requirements would allow eligible students to be exempt from taking a PE course if they can satisfy the requirement by participating in an approved sport. Currently, 63 percent of AUHSD 10th graders play one or more sports.

Considering the late hour and the need for further discussion, the school board agreed to continue the matter and make a decision at its May 18 meeting.

GREC Recommended changes to AUHSD Graduation Requirements:

1. Expand English 4 (12th grade) course offerings to include English electives
2. Expand PE 10 (10th grade) course offerings to include PE electives and PE through independent study for eligible students
3. Require one year of visual or performing arts
4. Require one semester of health (social psychology)
5. Require three years of math

Pushing Pedal Power on Bike to Work Day



Photo Cathy Tyson

Sustainable Contra Costa Program Coordinator Kat Atkinson poses with bikes at the Lafayette BART station – one of several "energizer stations" set up

on commute routes throughout the Bay Area on May 12, Bike to Work Day. She said their goal is to encourage people to give biking to work a try. – C. Tyson

Spring in Full Bloom in Lamorinda!



Open Sunday 1-4pm

156 Ardith Drive, Orinda
Wonderful updated single level home with level back yard and views. 3131 sqft, 4 Br, 4 Ba plus office.
\$1,895,000 www.156ArdithDr.com

Happy Valley!

1262 Redwood Lane, Lafayette
Exquisite estate property in Happy Valley. Completely rebuilt in 2000, beautiful grounds, pool & cabana.
\$2,950,000 www.1262RedwoodLn.com



Open Sunday 1-4pm

3230 Lucas Circle, Lafayette
Terrific home in Burton Valley with nice setting & views. 2636 sqft, 5 Br, 3 Ba, on .44 ac lot. Remodeled kitchen.
\$1,350,000 www.3230LucasCir.com

First Open Sat-Sun 1-4pm

1892 School Street, Moraga
Expanded single level home on park-like lot. 3323 sqft, 4Br, 2.5 Ba. Fantastic yard w/ pool, spa & gardens.
Call for Price www.1892SchoolSt.com

ELENA HOOD
REAL ESTATE GROUP
925 254-3030 www.Orinda.com

Lafayette • Moraga • Orinda

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
Cal BRE 1221247

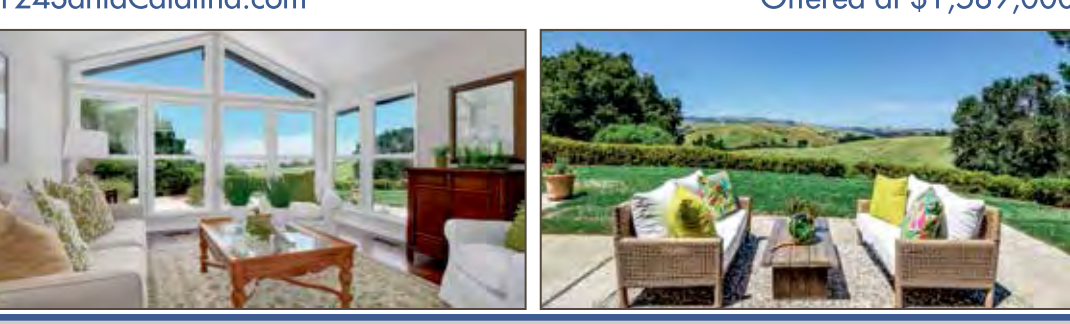
BRYDON & IVES
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Moraga Bluffs Beauty

124 Santa Catalina Court, Moraga



At the end of a lovely cul-de-sac in The Bluffs sits this light-filled 4BD/2.5BA home with views of the Moraga hills. Nearly every inch of this 2,653+/- sq. ft. home has been remodeled with high-end finishes including the wonderful kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances & custom cabinetry that opens to the family room. A beautiful master suite enjoys soaring ceilings, a wall of windows, heated bathroom floors and a state-of-the-art tub. Enjoy natural outdoor beauty from the private back patio and grass area. Situated on 1.6+/- acres, this home is perfection!
124SantaCatalina.com Offered at \$1,589,000



Lisa Brydon 925.285.8336 | Kristi Ives 925.788.8345
www.BrydonIvesTeam.com
BrydonIvesTeam@apr.com

CalBRE#: 01408025
CalBRE#: 01367466

ALAIN PINEL
REAL ESTATE