



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2013

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receives a report on the Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK) after school program.

DISCUSSION:

The concept of switching from traditional recreation, sports, and movement programs designed and implemented by City staff to SPARK curricula began in December 2011. The Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) in collaborative partnership with the City, applied for State Proposition 49 afterschool expansion funding and 21st Century federal funding to offer approximately 100 more children the opportunity to enroll in the Afterschool Opportunities for Kids (A-OK) Program. A-OK currently serves 600 students at Adams, Adelante, Cleveland, Franklin, Harding, and McKinley, and District staff were writing grants to serve approximately 20 more students per site and expand to a seventh elementary school, Santa Barbara Community Academy. In order to be a strong contender to receive the expansion funds, the grant needed to show the teaching alignment of common core state standards, the framework and guiding tools of grade level instruction, to after school recreation and sport curriculum. One program that has successfully demonstrated this alignment was SPARK.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been partnering with SBUSD to offer recreation in afterschool programs for over 20 years. Through the A-OK agreement and budget with the District, Youth Activities staff hired a SPARK teacher trainer to conduct hourly staff training for approximately 40 site directors, program leaders, and sport coaches. One side benefit was the Department's ability to also offer the training to Recreation Afterschool Program staff and youth sport league coaches, keeping the concepts and implementation consistent through all elementary schools. After the first six-hour training in December 2012, the new SPARK curriculum started in January. Every five weeks, follow up trainings are led by the Youth Activities staff that facilitates systematic changes in how afterschool program staff involve all children to be more active and health conscious.

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