



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 6, 2021
Closed Session 6:00 p.m./Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

Board Members Present: Mr. Ron Freitas, President; Mrs. Susan Macfarlane, Vice President; Mr. Courtney Porter, Clerk; Mr. Ron Heberle; Mr. Joe Nava; Mr. Gary Knackstedt; and Mr. George Neely

Administrative Staff: Dr. Cathy Washer, Superintendent; Mr. Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; Mr. Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer

Student Representatives: Arriana Galvan, Tokay High School, and Jacksery Apolonio-Lopez, Senior Class President, Lodi High School, (subbing for William Machado) were present.

Meeting Recorder: Mrs. Michelle Armstrong, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via YouTube and GoToWebinar.

Public Comment on Closed Session Items

Debra Ladwig, California School Employees Association Representative, Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee, spoke about the proposed retirement incentive program, Public Agency Retirement Services.

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about the upcoming negotiations and settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Kimberly Freeberg, Teacher, Lockeford School, spoke about District communications and settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Adjourn to Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

Reconvene Open Session

The meeting was reconvened at 7:14 p.m. and attendance was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senior Class President, Lodi High School, Jacksery Apolonio-Lopez.

Closed Session

President Freitas reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Washer announced 20 million vaccines have been administered in California and COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations have stabilized, the state is now looking to fully reopen and no longer use the current tier system. She stated that on June 15, 2021, the state will fully reopen if vaccine supply is sufficient for Californians and if hospitalizations are stable and low. She commented to anticipate masks and social distancing will still be required after June 15. Dr. Washer thanked City of Lodi for offering the Lodi GrapeLine fixed route service (routes 1-5) free to Kindergarten – 12th students,

starting 6:30 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021. She stated more information may be found on our social media pages as well as the Lodi GrapeLine website. Dr. Washer announced that April 5-9, 2021 is National Assistant Principals Week and recognized and thanked them for their instrumental part in school site operations.

Board Recognition

Appreciation of Employee Vaccination Efforts: San Joaquin County Office of Education; Lodi Walgreens; and Chelsea Vongehr

President Freitas recognized San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCCE) for facilitating vaccinations to 12,793 people, of which 12,793; 2,128 were Lodi USD employees. He spoke with Jane Steinkamp, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, SJCCE, who introduced Katie Nilsson, RN and Medicaid Compliance Director, who was in charge of all the nurses and actual vaccination room. Troy Brown, Associate Superintendent, Student Programs and Services, SJCCE; Johnny Arguelles, Division Director, CodeStack; and Donna Williamson, Director II, CodeStack were all recognized for their involvement in the vaccination clinics. Mr. Freitas recognized Lodi Walgreens for vaccinating 70 Lodi USD employees and Raj Grewal, Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPHT), COVID-19 Vaccine Lead, Area 46, and Chelsea Vongehr, Public Information Officer/Grant Writer, Lodi USD, for coordinating the Walgreens vaccination clinic.

Comments from Student Representatives

Arriana Galvan, Tokay High School, and Jacksery Apolonio-Lopez, Senior Class President, Lodi High School, (subbing for William Machado), presented reports from their respective schools.

Report

Updates and Discussion Regarding Return to Full In-Person Instruction for All Grade Levels

President Freitas moved the Updates and Discussion Regarding Return to Full In-Person Instruction for All Grade Levels report to after Comments from Student Representatives.

Dr. Washer stated that San Joaquin County is now in the red tier. She commented that the Safety Plans have been posted to the District website and had no changes after submitting for review to the San Joaquin Public Health Services and the state safety team. She gave some updates on operations stating the San Joaquin County Department of Public Health guidance is now three feet distance between students, which means furniture may need to be rearranged or removed/stored temporarily.

Dr. Washer stated outdoor spaces will be utilized for additional food service and instructional purposes and that new outdoor tables have been purchased. She commented that each school has a site-specific safety plan showing the entrance/exits, recess/passing times, and meal service, and will be updated as needed with the changing guidelines. She announced that afterschool programs will resume and will follow all safety measures. She stated that it is important to note that operations and classroom activities will not be as they were pre-pandemic because of the safety measures and social distancing.

Dr. Washer acknowledged that adjustments would need to be made as school sites progress through the year and everyone will need to be flexible to make it work. She introduced Leonard Kahn, Chief Business Officer, to give an update on COVID-19 testing. Mr. Kahn stated staff can be tested once every other month and whenever there is an outbreak. He commented that COVID-19 testing has started for athletes to compete in California Interscholastic Federation sports and that the District has entered into a memorandum of understanding for free COVID-19 testing that will start at each high school on Thursday, April 8, 2021. Mr. Kahn stated they are considering an anonymous surveillance program where anonymous samples are collected in groups of eight, if there is a positive reading in a group, all

eight individuals are tested. He stated all testing would be voluntary and require parent permission and suggested the pilot programs be located at Washington Elementary, Millswood Middle and McNair High.

Mr. Nava asked what the protocol is when a positive case arises when school is session and if the parents or teachers are informed.

Mr. Kahn stated they follow four separate reporting requirements, required by law: Worker's Compensation; AB 685 Notification; Cal OSHA; and county public health services. He commented if there is a positive exposure in a classroom, everyone goes home for 10 days and if someone is pulled from class for displaying symptoms, then receives a negative COVID-19 test and is un-symptomatic, the student may then return to school and not wait for 10 days.

Mrs. Macfarlane asked how we are keeping the children's identity safe.

Dr. Washer stated that students' names are not revealed in any of the public reporting and only given to the authorities that require the District to do so.

Mr. Porter questioned who is checking the three-foot guidance in classrooms and asked about cafeteria use once all day, in-person learning starts. He asked about playground use during recess and masks policies when someone refuses to wear a mask. Mr. Porter asked if a symptom self-checker has been sent to parents for students and if temperatures are being checked at school sites. He asked if parents are aware that Friday, April 9, 2021 is the last day to sign up for all Distance Learning.

Dr. Washer commented that administrators, teachers, and custodians are checking classrooms for the proper spacing and that cafeterias and outdoor spaces will be utilized for food service. She stated that direction has been given to school sites that playground equipment can be used with proper hand sanitization before and afterwards. Dr. Washer stated that masks will be treated like dress code and if there is a violation, parents will be called and if needed, the student will be put on Distance Learning. She stated that a "school screener," a self-health screener, is currently being developed by San Joaquin County Office of Education and CodeStack. She stated that temperature checks are not a requirement but that all school sites have touchless thermometers and each site is managing temperature checks differently. Dr. Washer stated she was unaware of how or when each school site relayed the Friday, April 9th schedule deadline to parents.

Mr. Knackstedt requested that a plan be created for year-round education schedules to help alleviate problems like this in the future.

Arriana Galvan, Student Representative, Tokay High School, asked about students having the opportunity to get COVID-19 tests and about exposure protocols at the high school level.

Jacksery Apolonio-Lopez, Senior Class President, Lodi High School, stated she wanted to finish the school year with Distance Learning but did not want to change her teachers and schedules due to switching to all Distance Learning, thus will now return to in-person learning.

Public Comments

Rebecca Bratcher, Teacher, Beckman Elementary School

Claudine Stanbridge, Teacher, Joe Serna Jr. Charter School

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association

Tom Moccia, Parent

Joni Murphy, Student, Bear Creek High School
Brandy De Alba, Parent

Other Action Items

Item OAI-1 Board Action to Affirm the Start Date for Full In-Person Instruction for All Grade Levels

Mr. Freitas carried straight into Item OAI-1 from the Updates and Discussion Regarding Return to Full In-Person Instruction for All Grade Levels Report.

No Board comments were received.

Public Comments

Lori Celiz, Teacher, Ansel Adams Elementary School
Bethany Harris, Teacher, Clairmont Elementary School
Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association
Christina Dougherty, Teacher, Lawrence Elementary School

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item OAI-1 Board Action to Affirm the Start Date for Full In-Person Instruction for All Grade Levels on Monday, April 12, 2021.

The student preferential vote was unanimously aye.

The student representatives were dismissed, and the Board took a short break.

Comments from the Public

Jennifer Van Blair, Teacher, Westwood Elementary, spoke about settling the Lodi Education Association (LEA) 19/20 contract.

MaryElla Randall, Teacher, Davis Elementary School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Lisa Wilkins, Teacher, Morada Middle School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Juan Garcia, Teacher, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, spoke about District communications.

Kathi Yeager, Teacher, Christa McAuliffe Middle School, spoke about District communications and settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Maria Smith, Teacher, John Muir Elementary School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Bethany Harris, Teacher, Clairmont Elementary School, spoke about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act material supply distribution at school sites, assessment testing, and settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Savina Thompson, Teacher, Tokay High School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Elizabeth Ing, Teacher, Lodi High School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

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Anne Swehla Garcia, Teacher, Julia Morgan Elementary School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Lana Gentry, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, spoke about management of public comments during Board meetings.

Jen Vasques, Teacher, Ansel Adams Elementary School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Rebecca Bratcher, Teacher, Beckman Elementary School, spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Consent Agenda A, Routine Business

Yvonne Bach, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, pulled Item A-2 and Randy Cordoviz, President, California School Employees Association, Chapter #77, pulled Item A-4 from Consent Agenda A for discussion.

- Item A-1 Changes to the Adopted Budget
- Item A-3 Notice of Completion for Public Works Projects under the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA)
- Item A-5 Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 23, 2021
- Item A-6 Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 24, 2021
- Item A-7 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 30, 2021

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda A, Routine Business, as amended.

Items Pulled From Consent Agenda A

Item A-2 Contracts List

Yvonne Bach, Teacher, Bear Creek High School, pulled the contracts list item for discussion but did not comment.

No Board Comments were received.

Mr. Nava moved, Mr. Porter seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-2 Contracts List.

Item A-4 Proposal to Increase School Bus Drivers to 1.00 FTE (8 hrs/day)

Randy Cordoviz, President, California School Employees Association, Chapter #77, spoke about Lodi USD's bus drivers' wages and benefits in comparison to other districts of similar size and stated that the increase in hours will not help bridge the gap of retaining and recruiting quality bus drivers; however, a competitive wage would.

No Board Comments were received.

Mr. Neely moved, Mr. Heberle seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Item A-4 Proposal to Increase School Bus Drivers to 1.00 FTE (8 hrs/day).

Personnel Matters

Mike McKilligan, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, presented Personnel Matters for Board consideration.

Public Comment

Lucy Vang, Teacher, Millswood Middle School, shared her new teacher experience and spoke about settling the LEA 19/20 contract.

Mr. Nava moved, Mrs. Macfarlane seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve Personnel Matters.

Reports (continued)

State Testing Requirements

Robert Sahli, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, and Uve Dahmen, Coordinator, Assessment/Research/Evaluation, presented the State Testing Requirements report. Dr. Sahli stated the California Department of Education (CDE) is preparing a waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education that could potentially eliminate the requirement for CAASPP testing this year. He stated the California State Board of Education took the first step to give districts the option of using the statewide assessments or district-selected assessments for the 2020-2021 school year; however, he is unsure of the approval timeline of the waiver so advised Board that the District should move forward with preparing for CAASPP. Mr. Dahmen spoke about some of the consequences of not administering the CAASPP.

Mr. Neely asked how the Distance Learning students would be tested and what the plan is.

Mr. Dahmen stated that there is a secure browser for Distance Learning students to use while testing but it still does not eliminate a student from using another device or receiving help from a parent.

No further Board comments were received.

The Board gave direction to proceed with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

Public Comments

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA)

Communications

Comments from Employee Group Representatives

Michelle Orgon, President, Lodi Education Association (LEA), spoke about the additional public comments that were unable to be addressed due to the time constraint. She asked about receiving answers to the public comment questions asked during the report sections. Ms. Orgon spoke about the student symptom screener, school safety plans being updated, and the exposure protocols. She commented about negotiations and settling LEA 19/20 contract.

Dean Blount, President, Lodi Pupil Personnel Association (LPPA), thanked the District nurses for their hard work and dedication while working with San Joaquin County Office of Education at the vaccination clinics. He spoke about the need for more nurses at Lodi USD and that LPPA has opened up applications for two \$1000 scholarships for graduating seniors who are interested in pursuing a college program in

the fields of counseling, nursing, speech and language pathology, and psychology. He stated that the deadline has been extended to Friday, April 26.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Neely requested the District concentrate on K- 3rd reading, stating they will need extra help when returning. He commented the District should get the backlogged/canceled Staples supplies that are missing from Clairmont from another vendor. Mr. Neely stated he is looking forward to the upcoming LEA mediation.

Mr. Nava stated the District needs to identify, as soon as possible, which students are behind and in need of help.

No further Board comments were given.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Washer had no further comments.

Board Advisory Committee Reports

No reports were presented.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

President of the Board