

## **Special Board Meeting Minutes (Wednesday, October 7, 2020)**

### **Members present**

Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Laura Canciamilla, Joseph Arenivar

### **1. Opening Items - 5:00 PM**

#### **1.01 Called To Order at 5:01 PM**

#### **1.02 Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2. Comments**

#### **2.01 Public Comments: Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no comments.

### **3. Information / Reports / Discussion**

#### **3.01 Update of State and District work on Ethnic Studies and Discussion of Board Resolution**

Dr. Schulze shared a presentation and provided an update on the status of the Ethnic Studies recommendations from the State. Dr. Schulze shared that the District has met with various community and educator groups such as Pittsburg Educators for Racial Justice (PERJ), Pittsburg Youth Advocates (PYA), Pittsburg Educators Black Caucus, Pittsburg Alliance of Black Educators (PEA, CTA, PASA) and East County NAACP. She stated that Assembly Bill 331 (AB-331) is currently pending. AB-331 would require a minimum one-semester course that would be based on ethnic studies model curriculum that districts can use. At this time, AB-331 has not been approved but should have been adopted this summer and implemented this school year. The governor of California vetoed the bill because of framework issues and will come back and be reintroduced in December by Assembly member Medina. The timeline that the State Superintendent Thurmond is working on will hopefully be adopted by the State Board by March 2021. Dr. Schulze shared the recommendations and timelines which included Option 1 - wait and use the State recommended curriculum in March 2021 or Option 2 - use current UC A-G approved courses. Other Districts such as SFUSD and Berkeley USD have adopted UC approved courses already.

The Board discussed and asked questions regarding the implementation of ethnic studies courses.

The Board reviewed the proposed resolution line by line and suggested additions and changes. The Board agreed to consider the approval of the resolution with the changes made by the Board members.

Public Comment: Alex Finn, PERJ representative, commented on the proposed resolution and the proposed committee.

Public Comment: Mr. Willie Mims, East County, NAACP, commented on the proposed resolution and ethnic studies.

### **4. Action Items (Most action items have previously come before the Board as information and discussed at a previous meeting).**

#### **4.01 Recommendation to Remain in Distance Learning (Dr. Schulze)**

Administration recommends the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the district to remain in distance learning through the end of the semester.

Motion by Duane Smith, second by De'Shawn Woolridge.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Laura Canciamilla, Joseph Arenivar

Dr. Schulze stated that during every board meeting she has and will continue to provide an update on health conditions and what the district has done during distance learning.

Dr. Schulze shared a reminder that Contra Costa County has been in the highest tier which meant that schools were not allowed to open in person in the beginning of the school year. Recently, on September 29, 2020, Contra Costa moved to the red tier which meant schools could potentially open as soon as October 13, 2020. She added that although Contra

Costa County has moved tier and will possibly be allowed to allow schools to reopen, the City of Pittsburg has higher numbers of positive cases. Pittsburg as a community, has had a higher rate than the county average. She recommended the Board wait and take a cautious approach before opening in a hybrid model. She asked the Board to consider looking at the second semester in December to see where the cases are then, to possibly reopen in January depending on where the health conditions are. She added that it would be a good idea to learn from the districts who have lower rates and reopen to see what they are doing. She recommended waiting & taking cautious approach, remaining in Distance Learning through the end of the semester and to evaluate Conditions in December for decision about January. The District will continue to bargain assessments for students with disabilities and those recommended to be assessed and continue to prepare school facilities

Dr. Schulze stated that she will continue to provide health condition updates and updates on distance learning on a regular basis at each Board meeting. She added that the District will work with labor partners for one on one assessments.

Dr. Canciamilla stated that she understands the situation but shared concern for the vulnerable scholars who are not thriving while in distance learning and asked the district to focus on those scholars.

Dr. Schulze shared that she has communicated with Contra Costa County and will award thirty spots of childcare services at a local daycare provider for families who will be chosen through a local agency. She added that she will look into how that could grow for additional families. Families who decide to remain in distance learning when it is time to return to a hybrid model, will be able to decide that when it is time. A survey will be distributed and will include the question to allow parents to let the District know if they feel comfortable sending their children to in-person learning.

Mr. Woolridge asked to receive updates on EL and Special needs scholars and what interventions are provided to them during distance learning.

Public Comment: Mr. Mario La Macchia commented in disagreement of remaining in distance learning.

## **5. Communications**

### **5.01 Communications from the Public, Community Organizations, Employee Representatives**

There were no comments.

## **6. Next Board Meeting / Future Events / Adjournment**

### **6.01 Next Regular Board Meeting - October 14, 2020**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm