

Special Board Meeting Minutes (Wednesday, July 14, 2021)

Members present

Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

1. Opening Items - 5:00 PM

1.01 Call To Order

Called to Order at 5:00 PM

1.02 Public Comment On Closed Session Agenda

There were none.

2. Closed Session

2.01 Closed Session Agenda (Ms. Castro)

3. Recall to Open Session - 5:30 PM

3.01 Recall to Open Session at 5:34 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Closed Session Report / Action

4.01 Personnel Action Report, [Labor Negotiations - as applicable] (Ms. Castro)

Ms. Castro reported the Personnel Actions were approved as presented
Motion by De'Shawn Woolridge, second by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

Ms. Castro reported the appointment of Melissa Johnson to the position of Program Specialist
Motion by De'Shawn Woolridge, second by George Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims 5/0

Ms. Johnson shared her excitement about her new position and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Ms. Castro reported the appointment of Eric Peyko to the position of Associate Principal at Pittsburg High School
Motion by De'Shawn Woolridge, second by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

Mr. Peyko thanked the Board and PUSD for the opportunity and shared his appreciation towards the families of Rancho Medanos.

The Board congratulated Mr. Peyko on his new appointment.

Ms. Castro reported the approval of the Unpaid Leave of Absence of employee #3052
Motion by De'Shawn Woolridge, second by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

4.02 Litigation [as applicable]

None.

5. Information / Reports / Discussion

5.01 Update on State Guidelines and Laws (Dr. Schulze)

Dr. Schulze thanked the Board for holding a Special Board Meeting to allow the appointment of new hires before the July 28th Regular Board meeting. She added that this will allow the District to post the position of Principal of Rancho Medanos given the appointment of Mr. Peyko as Associate Principal at PHS.

Dr. Schulze provided an update on State updates, AB 104, Independent Study AB?SB 130, California Department of Public Health updated guidance for schools for 2021-2022, review of COVID-19 case rates in the County, Pittsburg and PUSD, review of vaccination rates in the County and Pittsburg, and shared key dates.

Dr. Schulze shared information on AB 104 on student retention, grade changes and graduation options. She shared that the bill was signed on July 1st, and was effective immediately and has three main areas.

She explained that AB 104 Retention Requests apply to “students in k-11 who, during the 2020-2021 school year, received a deficient grade (D, F, No Pass, or as otherwise defined by the school agency) in at least half of their courses”. Schools must have retention consultation within 30 calendar days of request, and must include: available learning recovery options, research on effects of retention and benefits of supports, and consideration of best interest both academically and socially. She added that the school would issue a decision within 10 calendar days of meeting and the decision is the school’s. Scholars must be offered specific supplemental interventions, access to prior semester courses where they received a D or F, and some other credit recovery or support.

Dr. Schulze provided a summary of the grade change section of AB 104 and stated that it would apply to students who were in high school during the 2020-2021 school year (or who took a high school course(s) during the 2020-2021 school year. Students may request to change from a letter grade to a Pass or No Pass grade for a course during the 2020-2021 school year, without input from the teacher and that there would be no limits on the number of courses this can be done to and that it may not negatively impact a student’s GPA. She added that the timeline includes that the California Department of Education would develop the specific application that would be used, within 15 calendar days of the CDE’s online posting of application, LEAs must post notice on website and provide written notice of this option to students and parents/guardians, including list of postsecondary schools accepting Pass or No Pass and statement that some institutions may not accept it in lieu of a grade for admission purposes. She added that students will have 15 calendar days to submit the form and grade changes must be implemented and confirmed within 15 calendar days of receipt.

Mr. Woolridge expressed concern that grade changes do not have to be approved and asked if staff would speak with students on how this change could potentially affect them.

Dr. Schulze answered that due to the 15 day timeline from when the application is released, she hopes the timeline works out. She added that she has met with the high school principals and that the plan is for counselors to hold meetings with those students. She added that a webinar to have information shared to large groups would also be organized.

Mr. Woolridge shared his worries about students making decisions that could impact them in the long run.

Mr. Smith asked if the grade changes need to be approved or if the changes are automatically approved and also asked to know what happens when the change is not beneficial for students who apply.

Dr. Schulze explained that if a student or family turns in an application on time, the district must make the change within 15 days. She added that her and staff understand the impact and importance of the change and that it is not up to the district on which universities accept a Pass or No Pass and will communicate that information with the students.

Dr. Schulze stated that the graduation options under AB 104 apply to high school students who were in their 3rd or 4th year of high school during the 2020-2021 school year and not on track to graduate in 4 years. She added that it also includes an exemption from all graduation requirements that exceed statewide requirements and include credit recovery, and a 5th year for students if needed.

Mr. Woolridge asked to know how the graduation options in AB 104 would play out with the Board Policy the Board recently adopted.

Dr. Schulze shared that the AB 104 graduation options supersede the Board Policy. She added that if scholars are not on track to graduate, they are allowed to graduate under the statewide requirements, and the law is effective immediately. She shared that the high schools would have to discern who qualifies and many Black Diamond High School scholars will qualify. She stated that this also applies to community service and although the district already exempted students from that, it would apply if the district had not made that decision.

Dr. Schulze provided information on AB/SB 130 on Independent Study. She explained that SB98, which allowed the district to have flexibility on distance learning, and instructional minutes exemptions, ended on June 30th. She added that districts receive ADA 2 ways, for having in-person school and independent study. Changes through AB/SB 130 include, LEAs must offer an Independent Study Option Tk-12 for the 2021- 2022 school year using: in house, contract with County Office of Education, or inter-district transfer agreement with another district, notify parents and guardian of the option, learning agreements/conference required (virtual, e-signatures allowed), and live and synchronous instruction: grades TK-3 to include daily synchronous instruction, grades 4-8 to include daily live interaction (can be virtual, in-person, phone), weekly synchronous instruction, and grades 9-12 to include weekly synchronous instruction. The changes do not apply to short-term independent study (fewer than 15 days).

Dr. Schulze shared that the plan Mr. Molina presented at a previous meeting, meets the new requirements.

Mr. Smith shared that Mr. Molina's plan did not include Transitional Kindergarten.

Dr. Schulze shared that TK was not included in the initial plan but will be added due to AB/SB 130.

Mr. Woolridge asked for clarification on what would be considered a health reason.

Dr. Schulze answered that it would be defined by the parent or guardian.

Dr. Schulze explained that if the District is looking to receive clarification from CSBA on what should be done when the district runs out of spaces. She added that the district is also required to enroll students to in-person school within 5 days if a parent decides they want their scholar back in in-person school which is different from the initial plan to have parent commitment for the entire year. Students who return to in-person school will be placed at a school different from their home school if there is no space available. She provided a summary of AB 130 and shared that she would give updates as she receives them.

Dr. Schulze provided an update on the California Department of Public Health Guidance for the 2021-2022 school year released on July 12th. She shared that the CA Department of Public Health stated "The foundational principle of this guidance is that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible.". The guidance included universal masking in Schools k-12 which states students must wear masks and adults required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students which is a State mandate. Adults can wear a face shield for limited instructional purposes. Persons exempted from wearing face covering due to medical conditions must wear an alternative such as a face shield and drape. Students who will not wear face covering have to have alternative educational opportunities and will be excluded from campus, the State changed to making it a local decision. She added that the state shared that masks are optional for outdoors, but it is a local decision, and she stated that she would recommend the continued mask use for outdoors based on local data. There are now no minimum physical distancing requirements, and now have targeted quarantine practices. She added that CDPH will continue to assess and determine no later than Nov 1st on whether they will update masking or other requirements or recommendations. She provided a detailed update on all new guidance from CDPH.

Dr. Schulze shared she has experienced that students are taking masking very seriously and schools have not had an incident of students not wanting to wear a mask.

Mr. Smith agreed and shared that he went to Pittsburg High School and everyone was complying with the masking. He added that some may pull it down and saw the CRAs reminding them to pull masks back up.

Dr. Schulze shared data of cases and vaccination rates from Contra Costa County and Pittsburg.

Dr. Schulze shared a summary of key dates which included Parent and Family Letter and Webinars on July 21st and 22nd, Employee Webinar on July 21st, Early Back for Elementary and for all schools July 19th -July 30th, the Week of Welcome Professional Development on August 2nd August 5th, All Admin Retreat on the morning of August 3rd, August 6th: New Teacher Orientation August 9th and 10th: Site based PD and Teacher Work Day August 10th: Classified Professional Development day, and the first day of school on August 11th.

Mr. Arenivar commended the administration for their flexibility and the work during this time. He said he hopes it all falls into place and thanked them for their hard work.

Mr. Smith thanked administration and also custodial staff for all of their work.

Mr. Woolridge shared that teachers also had to learn to reteach during distance learning and it was not easy to engage students. He added that staff all across the board should be commended for navigating the unknown.

Dr. Schulze added that it is important to recognize that all of the adults have gone through experiences navigating through all of this and to welcome them back with care and grace to receive the scholars. She said that it is important to make everything as calm as possible because everyone will need the time to adjust. She said that early back allows staff and scholars to get adjusted to return.

6. Next Board Meeting / Future Events / Adjournment

6.01 Next Regular Board Meeting - July 28, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 7:07PM