



# DIRECTLY SPEAKING

SUPERINTENDENT DUBOST'S COMMUNITY UPDATE

Volume 1

Issue 1

March 11, 2021

Welcome to the first edition of our new community update. I will be issuing these on Fridays following each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to update the community on Board actions and topics of broad interest. I hope you find it helpful. Feel free to send questions to me at [cdubost@pasoschools.org](mailto:cdubost@pasoschools.org).

Curt Dubost  
Superintendent

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Reopening Schools  
Tutoring Programs &  
Summer School  
Ethnic Studies Course  
Special Board Mtg on  
Measure M  
Measure M Q & A

### SCHOOLS ARE REOPENING!

The Paso School District proudly announces the return to on-campus instruction in the hybrid model for all remaining grade levels this coming Tuesday. It has been a difficult, often traumatic year almost to the day since we shut down last March 13. Last September we brought back our kids with the highest mandated needs. In November we phased in our elementary kids TK-5, and sixth grade returned to campus on March 9. Grades 7-12 had orientations for students new to the campuses this week, and the hybrid model will see roughly half the student body at a time on campus beginning Tuesday, March 16. We know it's been a long, often frustrating year for all and we appreciate everyone's understanding and patience.

### TUTORING

The School Board approved a comprehensive menu of assistance for our students. This includes immediate in-person tutoring with existing teachers before and after school and over Spring Break. These tutoring opportunities are being developed and approved at each individual site. Contact your student's school with questions for follow-up to see how we can best help your student get back on track. The Board also approved expanded, more-structured Summer School offerings to assist students with credit recovery (making up failures) and to provide opportunities for students to come on campus for enrichment. Cuesta College classes will also be available on the PRHS campus, particularly in the history/social science department.

Another new program the Board approved is online tutoring from trained teachers for Grades 6-12 which will be

available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year through June of 2022. This program from [Paper Education Company](#) is highly recommended and is paid with a combination of funds from the Low-Performing Students Block Grant and COVID-relief monies targeted for that purpose.

### ATHLETICS

We are also starting [athletics](#) and other activities as permitted and are proud to partner with [Voice of Paso](#) to bring them to you online

### OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE FROM THIS WEEK'S BOARD MEETING INCLUDE:

#### ETHNIC STUDIES COURSE

On March 23 the Board will consider the reintroduction of an [Ethnic Studies](#) course at Paso High. The materials for this class, including primary and supplemental books, are on display in the District Office lobby now through March 23. The recommended course description will be made public next Tuesday. All interested parties are invited to examine these materials before the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and public comment will also be welcomed at that meeting.

In addition, a new science curriculum for grades 6-8 will be presented for approval at the same meeting.

Your PRJUSD Board of Trustees:

- [Chris Arend](#), Board President
- [Chris Bausch](#), Board Clerk
- [Dorian Baker](#), Trustee
- [Lance Gannon](#), Trustee
- [Tim Gearhart](#), Trustee
- [Jim Reed](#), Trustee
- [Nathan Williams](#), Trustee

MORE



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### SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – FRI.-SAT., 3/12 & 3/13

On Friday, the Board will tour the various sites where Measure M construction projects are planned or are already in progress. The public is welcome to join, with masks and 6-ft distancing.

#### Friday, March 12, 2021

- 11:00 a.m. Virginia Peterson
- 11:30 a.m. Winifred Pifer
- 12:00 p.m. Daniel Lewis
- 12:30 p.m. Pat Butler
- 1:00 p.m. Bauer Speck
- 1:30 p.m. Flamson
- 2:00 p.m. Georgia Brown
- 3:00 p.m. Kermit King

Then Saturday, March 13, the Board will reconvene in the Board Room for a Study Session. (Study Sessions allow the Board to focus and learn about a particular topic without taking action.) This meeting may be accessed virtually ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)). The agenda for that meeting is:

- Measure M Bond Projects Update
- Measure M Budget Update
- 7-11 Committee – Next Steps
- Citizens' Oversight Committee
- Architectural Services

### MEASURE M Q&A

Several concerns have been expressed about Measure M Projects and the 7/11 Committee recommendations. Here are some of the frequently asked questions with answers:

Q: Must all projects listed on the Measure M ballot approved by the voters be completed?

A: No. The fact that a project was on the ballot does not mean it must be completed, but only projects on the ballot can be completed. The Citizens Oversight Committee exists solely to assure all projects have been specifically authorized by the voters. The Board retains the authority to complete some projects but not others that were on the ballot; they just can't add anything not on the ballot.

Q: What is a 7/11 Committee?

A: The 7/11 Committee is so named simply because it must have a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven members. It is required by law whenever the Board is considering disposing of (selling) any district real property, and it makes a recommendation to the Board. The committee's sole responsibility is to determine if the property is, in fact, surplus. The committee is not intended to weigh all variables and makes solely objective determinations based on objective data. The two properties the committee recommended for sale are the Montebello and Whitley Gardens parcels.

Q: I'm told the 7/11 Committee didn't include a broad enough range of members to reflect accurately the district's population let alone that of Georgia Brown. Doesn't this make it impossible or illegal to use with regard to the closure of any school, let alone Georgia Brown?

A: The 7/11 Committee's role was to examine and make a recommendation regarding unused sites. As part of their research, they explored the impact on the District's finances of declining enrollment. Their additional recommendation was to declare one unnamed elementary site as surplus and in a separate vote identified Georgia Brown as the recommended site for closure. Remember, a 7/11 committee is required ONLY if a school property is to be sold; hence the [current report](#) allows the two vacant parcels mentioned above to be sold. Any decision on whether to close a school property will be made by the Board of Trustees. No such decision has yet been **discussed**, let alone voted upon.

Q: Why would you consider closing a site with all the new growth approved to the East?

A: The studies we commissioned found that (largely due to high prices) both projected new homes and rentals will likely not be affordable for young families with kids. Therefore, the enrollment projection is flat to slightly upward over the next ten years. If a significant subdivision were to be added in Paso Robles, the developers would need to mitigate any growth. Apart from Georgia Brown which is over capacity, we currently have excess capacity for an additional 700+ students in the five other elementary schools. Additionally, a new

public charter school under construction on Niblick will have capacity of over 500 students. District enrollment peaked about fifteen years ago at 6,900 students and has never been above 7,000. It is currently 6,550.

Q: Why would you even consider closing the Dual Immersion campus when it is so very successful?

A: We aren't. IN NO SCENARIO IS THE DUAL IMMERSION PROGRAM DISCONTINUED. The current campus is far too small with an inadequate MPR and lunch space. Kids must cycle through three lunch periods starting in the morning and lasting into the afternoon. The Board will take this into account in determining how to maintain this popular program and provide students with facilities that meet their needs.

Q: The existing Georgia Brown campus can be repaired with the \$14 million approved in Measure M. Why not just do that?

A: Unfortunately, our current estimates show the cost to make Georgia Brown what it would need to be with an MPR and all needed repairs would cost way beyond \$14 million, and it would still be on the smallest site without adequate field areas.

### UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

March 2021						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Regular Mtg	10	11	12 Site Tours	13 Study Session
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Regular Mtg	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Tentative Study Session
11	12	13 Regular Mtg	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Regular Mtg	28	29	30	