



DIRECTLY SPEAKING

SUPERINTENDENT DUBOST'S COMMUNITY UPDATE

Volume 1

Issue #3

April 16, 2021

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Superintendent

Feel free to send questions to me at cdubost@pasoschools.org.

Board Meeting Recap
Reopening Schools
Ethnic Studies
Translation Services
Trustee Elections
Transportation
Aquatics Complex
Grade Reconfiguration

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

SCHOOLS TO STAY IN HYBRID MODE

After much discussion and public input, the Board voted to remain in our current hybrid model for the remainder of the school year. This decision was based on staff input and parent surveys. **We believe we will be able to and are unequivocally committed to operating summer school and opening next school year with 100% in-person instruction.**

ETHNICS STUDIES COURSE

PRHS teacher Geoff Land has worked tirelessly to develop this course and make the adjustments requested by the Board during their first review on March 23. After much debate, the Board voted to approve a compromise by which the Ethnic Studies course will move forward next year as a pilot course, offered only to 11-12th graders. I believe this was a productive process that has resulted in a balanced curriculum on which most folks can agree.

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION SERVICES

We want to let the entire community know that all school board meetings are now being translated into Spanish, live during the meeting. When you join the meeting on YouTube, simply select "Spanish" at the bottom to be routed to a live translator who will provide ongoing translation as the meeting progresses.



This means callers no longer need to speak in Spanish to reach the Hispanic community – all comments are translated into Spanish as they are made. Non-English speakers may continue to speak in Spanish and their comments will be translated into English for the Board and audience.

There were some technical issues with the translation at our last meeting that we hope will be resolved with the purchase of a new microphone for the translator that should block out surrounding noise.



CHANGING TRUSTEE ELECTION AREAS

VOTE Most school districts traditionally elect their trustees "at large." This means trustees can reside anywhere within the district boundaries, and are voted on by all the registered voters. Threats of litigation based on the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) prompted many districts (as well as cities and counties) to modify their system to designate trustee areas, thereby ensuring representation of various constituencies that are often underrepresented on elected boards.

On advice of legal counsel, the PRJUSD Board of Trustees voted in 2019 to pursue a change to a "by trustee area" voting system (similar to the City of Paso Robles) using 2020 census data to determine what those areas should be. COVID has delayed the census data, so the Board will be moving forward using 2010 census data to determine trustee areas. Then maps will be reviewed in 2022 using 2020 census data for possible revision. This change means future candidates running for school board will need to reside within specific areas; and only voters residing in those areas will vote on those candidates. A professional demographer will develop maps for review by the community and approval by Board. It will take several School Board and public meetings for this to be formulated. Stay tuned for further announcements. These changes will be effective for the November 2022 election.

MORE



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As you may know, trustees are elected for 4-year terms, with 3 elected in one election and 4 in the next election, every two years. Any trustee whose term does NOT expire with the 2022 election but who does not reside within the newly drawn boundary will retain their seat until the 2024 election. At that point, all trustees will be elected based on residency in specific trustee areas. We encourage interested citizens to consider running for school board.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The Board approved the purchase of six additional transit vans which will help us expand our transportation services for special education and athletics. We have been severely impacted by COVID restrictions limiting the number of students we can carry on any vehicle. This requires more vehicles and more drivers.



In a related matter, the Board directed the administration to work with CSEA to improve salaries to make driver recruitment more attractive. Please contact [Transportation Supervisor Kelly Stainbrook](#) if you have any interest in the [free training available](#) to become a bus driver, or are already a qualified driver. Van drivers require only a regular Class C license. The revised pay scale for van drivers is \$16.55-\$19.19 and for bus drivers \$20.16-\$23.38.

AQUATICS COMPLEX



The swimming pools remain projects of high interest to the Board and our community. It is unfortunate that project costs exceeded estimates and cannot be funded fully by Measure M. Nevertheless, the Board affirmed their desire to see this project become a reality. By doing so, Swim Paso and the District Administration will work to craft an agreement that will allow Swim Paso to apply for grants and reenergize their fundraising efforts.

We are hopeful these joint efforts mean Paso High students will have a quality facility on their campus, which can also be shared with the community.

Be assured no project will be approved for any purpose without the District confirming, without a doubt, there are sufficient funds to build and then maintain them.

GRADE RECONFIGURATION COMMITTEE

The Board learned about the upcoming Grade Reconfiguration Committee that [all parents were informed about](#) by Erin Haley, Director of Curriculum & Instruction. This committee is an outgrowth of the 7/11 Committee's report and will examine three possible configurations of K-8 instruction:

- TK-5; 6-8 (our current model)
- TK-6; 7-8
- TK-6; 7-8; TK-8 dual immersion

The committee's first Zoom meeting will be April 22 at 6:00 p.m., with a goal to review the three options and develop pros and cons of each. The committee will include 1 administrator and 2 staff members from each K-8 site, 2 parents

from each K-8 site, plus 5 at-large community members. Community members may observe the Zoom meetings and may offer input, but will not participate in the committee's discussions and votes. Committee members will be selected by lottery.

This committee's only task will be to examine grade levels for educational purposes; they will not consider which sites will host which programs. A second committee will be formed in the Fall to study possible district attendance boundary adjustments subsequent to board acceptance of the grade configuration report.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

