



DIRECTLY SPEAKING

SUPERINTENDENT DUBOST'S COMMUNITY UPDATE

Volume 1
Issue #6
May 28, 2021

This publication is issued on Fridays following each regular Board meeting. All issues can be viewed on [the website](#)

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

Curt Dubost
Superintendent

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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

BOARD TRAINING ON FISCAL OVERSIGHT

The Board met for a study session from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. with Ellen Sheffer from the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education and retired San Luis Coastal USD Business Manager, Russell Miller, for a quick overview of the fundamentals of the board role in fiscal oversight. The study session was requested by Board members (particularly new members) but also satisfied requirements from the District's response to the recent Grand Jury Report.

Highlights of the presentation included some key guidepost data that boards should be sure to follow closely. One is the percentage of the overall General Fund budget allocated to personnel. The District has successfully reduced the total employment expenses from 87% to 79% of the total budget in the past four years. While 80% is a goal for these expenses, the District will be sure to stay at least below 85%, which is a common industry standard. These figures may be skewed by supplemental COVID monies these next two years. Other factors which were emphasized included district overall enrollment. Unlike basic aid districts which are funded primarily through property taxes (San Luis Coastal, Coast Unified, Cayucos Elementary, and Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary), our district is funded based on the number of kids enrolled and attending. Any decrease in enrollment means a decrease in revenue which necessitates a corresponding decline in

expenditures or the district will be on an unsustainable path. This in turn affects the district reserves which were below 1% just a few years ago



but are now at over

10%. The minimum reserve is 3%. Prudence dictates we maintain far above the reserve. This should be an obvious priority given the multiple times in recent years the district has slipped below 3%, found itself in qualified certification, and had fiscal oversight assumed by the SLO County Office of Education.

It was emphasized that although a school district is not a business seeking to maximize profits and monies are to be spent educating children, any deficit spending is unsustainable. The most obvious pitfall in that regard is spending one-time monies such as those we are now getting from state and federal governments on ongoing costs. It is for this fundamental reason that we will insist that all interventions to assist students with learning loss mitigation, social/emotional support, and other programs over the next two years have built into their implementation objective means by which we may evaluate their efficacy to determine at the end of two years if they should be discontinued or prioritized for the General Fund.



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PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations **Kelly Stainbrook!** A 25-year veteran of Paso Robles Schools was named as Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation. She brings great dedication, passion, and expertise to this position!



Congratulations to long-time teacher **Monica Parker Pafumi** who was named as an Elementary Guidance Specialist for Virginia Peterson and Glen Speck. We look forward to your new leadership role in PRJUSD.

The Board has also accepted the resignations of Luke Draper, Director of IT, and Nate Maas, Director of Student Services. These are big losses for our district. We wish Luke and Nate the best of luck in their futures.

REOPENING IN AUGUST

The 2021-22 School Year begins on August 19, 2021. Many parents have expressed concern about possible restrictions on the return to full in-person instruction for next year. PRJUSD will follow all MANDATES issued by the California Department of Public Health. We are currently under the California mask mandate which will presumably be lifted on June 15, 2021. After that, the state plans to allow fully-vaccinated Californians to go without a mask in most indoor settings. We are not sure what recommendations will be provided for school but we do know that children in second grade or below will not be required to wear masks. Please be advised that our school district administration and school board intend to abide by all MANDATES, the violation of which could jeopardize our insurance coverage or risk forfeiture of state funding. Absent such a MANDATE, however, it is the intent of the District to open fully in person with no restrictions not explicitly MANDATED. We intend to treat any GUIDANCE as suggestions to be considered by the Board, not a law that must be followed. Distance Learning options will, of course, always be available for families so choosing. We hope this addresses current concerns; obviously, we cannot be certain what the future holds nor how the government will respond. We under no circumstances believe vaccinations of students can be required and hope masks will be voluntary for those in third grade and above. All staff have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated should they wish. Please direct any continuing questions or concerns to Dr. Dubost at cdubost@pasoschools.org.

DANIEL E. LEWIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

LMS Leadership students presented in person how they are working together to make the school environment great for students and staff despite difficult circumstances. The school climate message of



SPOTS:
Success,
Positive
attitude,
Ownership,
Teamwork,
and Safety-
mined,
along with

plans for future events has the team excited for the 2021-22 school year. Speakers introduced by their Principal Kurt Payne included Braydon Hoier, ASB President; Ava Friedling, ASB Secretary; Kylee Nancolas, ASB Representative; and Leadership Student Parker Craig.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

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

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



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PUBLIC HEARING #1 MAPPING FOR TRUSTEE AREA VOTING SCENARIOS

The Board of Trustees reviewed the four initial maps that have been developed for voting areas as the School District makes its transition from at-large elections to by-area elections in advance of the November 2022 election. Trustees reviewed the demographics of each map and discussed the communities included in each area under the various scenarios. The Board also conducted its first of three required public hearings on map options. The four maps are all available on the PRJUSD website for the public to review. Additionally, a public mapping tool is available from the PRJUSD website (or directly accessed at

<http://districtr.org/tag/prjUSD>)



where members of the public can suggest their own map or make suggested adjustments to the maps already prepared.

The Board is scheduled to hold additional public hearings at its meetings on June 8 and June 22. At its June 22 meeting, the Board is scheduled to select a map for approval. The public is encouraged to provide feedback throughout this process.

ASSEMBLY BILL 86 PLAN

Assembly Bill (AB) 86 introduced two new funding streams to local educational agencies (LEAs) using Proposition 98 resources: the In-Person Instruction Grant, and Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant. The total allocation to Paso Robles in the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant is \$4,632,038, of which 10 percent must be spent on paraprofessionals as defined in Education Code Section 45330.

The district plans to use the some of the funds on extended instructional learning time including things such as:

- Summer school grades 1-12 for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years
- Saturday school opportunities and before/after school tutoring to support any student who requires additional assistance with classes
- Kinder camp and orientation for all students new to PRJUSD campuses
- Hiring additional certificated and classified staff to support the acceleration of progress in literacy and mathematics at the elementary level
- Intervention teachers will be hired at elementary sites, and intervention sections will be incorporated into the master schedule at secondary sites
- Increase the hours of our paraeducators to provide more comprehensive support during the school day and into the on-campus, afterschool programs.



- Leverage early literacy professional development opportunities to all certificated and classified staff at the elementary setting in combination with the purchase of a common intervention program to provide targeted, measurable support through our intervention model referenced above
- Two certificated FTE positions to maintain a distance learning program for those families who elect to continue on this model while the rest of the district returns to in-person instruction in the Fall
- Add a Curriculum Coordinator to support the alignment of our work across sites alongside our Principals, classroom teachers, and paraeducators
- Integrated student supports to address other barriers to learning
- Supports for credit deficient students to complete graduation or grade promotion requirements and to increase or improve students' college eligibility
- Additional academic services for students





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- Training for school staff on strategies to engage students and families in addressing students' social-emotional health and academic needs

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address student needs. If you have any interest in working as a teacher (full-time, part-time, or substitute), paraeducator, campus supervisor, bus driver, or in another capacity, please see our [Current Employment Opportunities](#). Lack of sufficient staffing is limiting our offerings to students.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM

Paso Robles Police Department SROs Tony Ruiz and Dustin Virgil were introduced and briefly described their duties within the district and their commitment to our students.



The cost of the SRO program is shared 50/50 by the Paso Robles Police Department and PRJUSD and offset by grant money. Both officers reported the duties they perform include following up on student issues, protecting staff and student safety, and many proactive, positive, and preventative measures they take on our campuses with

our kids. The District is exploring the possibility of using some of our COVID monies to fund a third SRO position to allow more opportunities for the officers to interact with students when there are no problems and they can act as mentors and guide students to know that law enforcement officers are here to help all of us.

MAY IS BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

Linda Stinson and Bernadette Boddington, in conjunction with the rest of the PRJUSD speech-language therapy team, presented information



on communication disorders and what they do as District Speech Language Pathologists (SLP). Not only are Linda and Bernadette talented District SLP's, but they are both members of the American Speech-Hearing Association (ASHA) and have many years of combined experience assessing for communication disorders as well as providing therapy to students with communication disorders. Board members were provided an overview of their daily functions and even got a video glimpse into a couple of therapy sessions with students. Amy Grace, also a veteran SLP in PRJUSD, was there in support and they all were able to answer questions from the board about communication disorders and the intricacies of their duties. PRJUSD is lucky to have the highly qualified and experienced speech therapists that we do making a difference in our student's lives.

FACILITY NAMING COMMITTEE

The last time a committee convened to discuss the naming of any district-owned facility was in 2014. What was called the "School Naming Committee" is now the Facility Naming Committee. The old committee had lifetime members, some of whom will join new



committee members from our schools and community. The committee will be made up of representatives from community-based organizations, the local area's historical community, PTA/PTO members, district employees and students from the PRHS Associated Student Body. A meeting will be held in June to discuss three current requests for facility names. If you are interested in applying to this committee, please contact Theresa Braden at

TLBraden@pasoschools.org.

GRADUATIONS COMING UP!

SECONDARY GRADUATIONS

PRHS @ War Memorial Stadium

Fri., June 11 6:00 pm (Group A)

Sat., June 12 10:00 am (Group B)

Sat., June 12 6:00 pm (Group C)

LHS/IHS @ War Memorial Stadium

Thu., June 10 6:00 pm

FMS @ Flamson Lions Field

Fri., June 11 8:30 am (Cohort A)

Fri., June 11 11:00 am (Cohort B)

LMS @ Lewis Middle School Field

Fri., June 11 8:30 am (Cohort A)

Fri., June 11 11:00 am (Cohort B)

ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS*

Fri., June 11 1:00 pm (drive-thru)