



DIRECTLY SPEAKING

SUPERINTENDENT DUBOST'S COMMUNITY UPDATE

Volume 1

Issue #7

June 11, 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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END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM DR. DUBOST

With this last “Directly Speaking” issue of the school year I want to express my sincere appreciation to all who have exhibited patience, understanding, passion, and grit while trying as best we could to make the best of a very difficult year. My remarks at commencement will be a quote from Charles Dickens A Tale of Two Cities “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...” At first one might legitimately ask, “What was good about this year?” A global pandemic, racial riots, worsening drought, divided politics nationally and locally...it would be easy to dwell on the negative. How, however, was it the best of times? Despite all of the above many of our students have excelled both academically as well as in athletics and co-curricular programs. Teachers and families found unique and creative ways to work together. Tech dinosaurs like myself had to learn how to communicate in ways we'd previously resisted.

Let's all commit to coming back in



August better than ever. The future of the district is bright despite any issues. To that end let's commit to work together and forge compromises and consensus to do what is right for our kids and our community. We have no more important goal than the highest quality education of our youth. I congratulate all graduates on

achieving this important milestone, especially during this trying time when it likely was very tempting to give up. Well done all.

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENT

At Tuesday night's board meeting we announced the new LEWIS MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL. Mr. Michael Vogenthaler was named the newest Lewis Leopard. Mr. Vogenthaler comes with years of site and district level experience at both middle and high school levels. He was also a math teacher for over 17 years at the middle school level. Welcome!



UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

CALL-IN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING AT 805-608-4230

Zoom link for English or Spanish:



<https://pasoschools.org.zoom.us/j/85393319050>

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, June 22 nd	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 13 th	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 10 th	6:00 p.m.

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



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CRIMSON NEWSMAGAZINE AWARDS



PRHS teacher Jeff Mount has been the Crimson Newsmagazine advisor for over 20 years. As one of our Career Technical Education Pathways, the Crimson Newsmagazine competes at both a state and national level. Mr. Mount and his journalism team including Editors in Chief Jackie DiMatteo and Tyler Seidel shared the results of the 2021 Journalism Education Association of Northern California (JEA NORCAL) Journalism Awards. The Crimson staff members competed with 25 other high schools in the Northern California area. Crimson brought home 14 awards for 2021, tying Palo Alto High School. Congratulations to staff members Bricen Chitty, Reily Lowry, Rayvin Wulfin, Malia Gaviola, Miguel Muniz, Jackie DiMatteo, Tyler Seidel, Cole Eberhard, Ashley Paulsen, Maicah Cabello, and Crimson Staff as a whole who won awards.

PUBLIC HEARING #2 ON TRUSTEE AREA SCENARIOS

The Board of Trustees held the second public hearing to review the four maps developed for voting areas that were prepared by our consultants at Cooperative Strategies. All of the maps were designed to increase representation on the board of trustees for underserved populations. PRJUSD staff had no role in the development of these scenarios, which was entirely based on the demographics of the community. The Board has narrowed the options from four to two, which can be found on the PRJUSD website. Additionally, an interactive tool can be accessed at <http://districtr.org/tag/prjUSD> where you can see the variables that went into creating these maps and even create your own map. At the next meeting on June 22, the Board will be making a final determination on the mapping area.



2021-24 LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)

The second of three public hearings addressed our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The system of school finance in California was fundamentally changed several years ago by then-Governor Brown. School districts like Paso Robles are funded by the state based on enrollment and receive in our case approximately \$8,000 per student, per year. In place of the "categorical" programs which used to be added onto what was then called our "Revenue Limit", the state now adds a supplemental grant of about \$2,000 per student to fund additional programs and services to our

"targeted" students who are our English Language Learners, our kids from families who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches, and homeless/foster youth. These programs must be research-based and include objective means by which to judge their effectiveness. Added onto these funds for this year and next, we have a huge infusion of money for learning loss mitigation, social-emotional recovery, and other costs resulting from the pandemic. These amounts combine to give us more money than we have ever had to support student learning and we have developed the following goals for the 2021-24 LCAP:

- Student and Family Connection to School and Learning
- College and Career Readiness
- Reclassification of English Learners as English Proficient
- Reading by Third Grade
- Algebra 1 Readiness

All of the LCAP documents from the board meeting can be found attached to the agenda [HERE](#)

I have been a school administrator for almost forty years and this is the best opportunity in my career for us to be able to fully finance programs to help all kids and we must not squander it. Our critical need will be the people to staff what we want to implement. We need credentialed teachers. We need substitute teachers. We need paraeducators. We continue to recruit Bus Drivers. Positions will be available both full-time and part-time. Please see [our website](#) to view current vacancies, and help us help our kids reconnect with school, get physically and emotionally fit, learn to read, master English, and complete Algebra.



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PROPOSED 2021-22 FINANCIAL BUDGET

District staff reviewed the draft budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year. PRJUSD maintains a strong financial position due to previous cuts and the large infusion of one-time federal and state funding. However, with declining enrollment and the end of a "hold harmless" provision, the district will face deficit spending in future years. We will continue to monitor enrollment and will adjust expenditures to address the anticipated excess spending. The 2021-22 Financial Budget will come to the Board of Trustees for approval at the June 22, 2021 Board meeting.

2021-22 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

The Board heard a detailed report on negotiations with our labor partners in Closed Session. Their direction was reflected in the "sunshine" items on the agenda to share with the public the areas of each unit's contract on which we will be focusing in the coming negotiations. Pay and issues related to the return to school will be priorities.

2021 SUMMER SCHOOL

PRJUSD Summer school is being offered at Virginia Peterson and Bauer Speck (temporary campus) as well as Flamson Middle School and Paso Robles High School. The dates of our K-8 program are June 21st- July 16th (excluding the July 5th holiday), and our high school program runs June 17th -

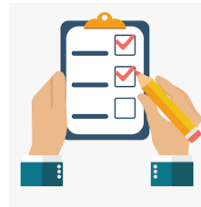


July 15th (excluding the July 5th holiday). We are pleased to have over 90 teachers supporting our

efforts this summer to reengage students and revisit priority standards for success in the coming year. We do nevertheless have a waiting list and are partnering with the Boys & Girls Club, the City of Paso Robles Rec Department, and other groups to provide additional opportunities for kids both during the summer and next year after school and Saturdays as possible.

HEALTHY KIDS SURVEY

We have had questions from the Board of Trustees and some community members regarding the annual Healthy Kids Survey. One of the intentions of the survey is to gauge the level of harassment, if any, of students who self-identify as other than heterosexual as well as other demographic data. All individual questions as well as the survey in its entirety are strictly voluntary and no one may be required or pressured to complete it. We have determined we will take additional steps next year in our preparations and communications. This will include:



- The survey in its entirety with both supplemental and mandatory portions will be made available to the Board of Trustees for review and possible direction as soon as it is available.
- All parents will be notified at the same time district-wide of the purpose of the survey, its

contents, and their right to opt-out for their child.

- This will be accomplished well in advance of the survey release date so that all parents have ample time to review the materials and make their decision.

No student will ever be pressured to complete the survey; it is entirely voluntary and up to parents who will be asked to formally affirm their approval rather than only be excluded if a denial is received.

ENCOURAGING VACCINATIONS

A complaint was received and an investigation was completed regarding staff celebrating or rewarding students for being/getting vaccinated. PRJUSD has existing board and administrative policies regarding Academic Freedom /Controversial Issues. These policies, along with a freedom of speech memo that I wrote to staff and the community last August, were sent to all of our campuses as a reminder that unless there is a clear nexus to the approved curriculum, this topic need not come up during class time. Any practice of a teacher encouraging or rewarding students for being vaccinated potentially creates hostility or negative peer pressure toward those who either choose not to be vaccinated or may be advised by their physician not to be vaccinated. I appreciate the concerned citizen bringing the potential problem to my attention and it led to a healthy discussion and a solution we all can support. No student should in any way be explicitly nor implicitly punished nor rewarded by staff for being vaccinated nor should they be harassed or bullied by others. Contact your student's site principal or me at with any questions or concerns.