



DIRECTLY SPEAKING

SUPERINTENDENT DUBOST'S COMMUNITY UPDATE

Volume 1
Issue #8
June 25, 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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PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board received hours of public comment on a variety of issues including the future of Georgia Brown Elementary, adherence of teachers to the prescribed/board approved curriculum and Critical Race Theory.

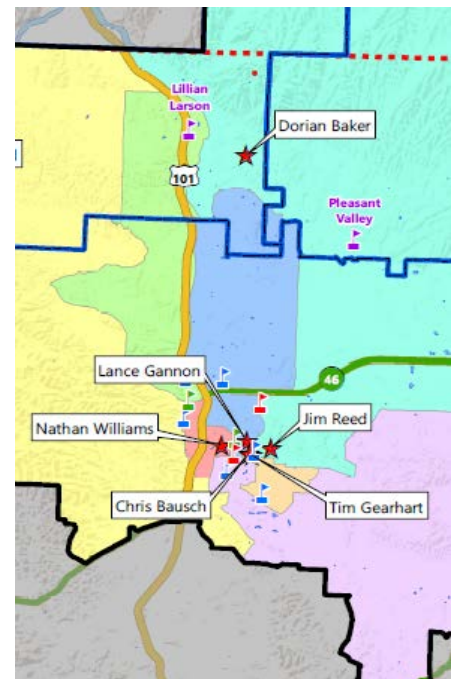


Concerning Georgia Brown and the Dual Immersion Program, I once again wish to remind all that **NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE on the future of Georgia Brown Elementary.** That decision will be made after all of the preliminary work on Grade Configuration, Attendance Boundaries, and an update of construction projects and cost in the Facilities Master Plan. In no scenario, however, does the Dual Immersion Program not continue. Several proposals to rebuild Georgia Brown as a smaller neighborhood school with Dual Immersion moving to a larger site have also been proposed.

BY-TRUSTEE VOTING AREAS

At its June 22nd meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a final map and sequencing option as the district transitions from at-large elections to by-area elections in advance of the November 2022 election. Trustees received information from the district's legal counsel and demographer allowing them to pass Resolution 21-26. This action approved Map #4 and Sequence A. (Trustee areas 1,2, and 4 will be up for election in 2022, and Trustee areas 3,5,6 and 7 will be up for election in 2024.) This final vote was

made after a series of five public hearings. There were two pre-map hearings on April 27 and May 11 and then three post-map hearings on May 25, June 8, and June 22. During this time, the community had an opportunity to provide feedback to the board of trustees and provide suggested maps, via a public mapping tool. These maps were created using 2010 census data because of the delayed release of 2020 data. Once the 2020 data becomes available, the district's demographer will review the information and provide an update to the board.



The Board of Trustees began this transition to by-trustee area elections in February of 2019, to comply with the California Voting Rights Act, promote diversity and ensure minority representation and avoid future litigation. For a complete summary of the California Voters Rights Act and the mapping process with all available information, please [see our website](#).



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LEARNING LOSS MITIGATION

A series of purchases were approved in support of the return to school of students after COVID. Specifically, our number one priority for the district continues to be early literacy with the goal of all students reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade. This is when kids make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Research shows conclusively that students reading at grade level at that critical point have very high odds of finishing high school successfully and on time. Programs and training for teachers to help kids still struggling with reading are also included as is training for all teachers in best practices to support kids in class. Accelerated Reader is also being reinstated to encourage students to read outside of class.



LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)

The Board approved, again after a series of public hearings both at sites and in board meetings, the LCAP which includes the following primary goals:

1. Student and Family Connection to School and Learning
2. College and Career Readiness
3. Reclassification of English Learners as English Proficient
4. Reading by Third Grade
5. Algebra I Readiness

Read the LCAP Executive Summaries in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

**Our meetings are OPEN to the public!
Broadcast on YouTube – search for
"PRJUSD Broadcasts"**

**Zoom link for
English or
Spanish:**



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

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, July 13th	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 10th	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 24th	6:00 p.m.

2021-22 FINANCIAL BUDGET

The Board unanimously approved the district budget for 2021-22 of \$98,136,783 with a projected ending reserve of \$14,340,859, or 15.11%.



District reserves, which as recently as three years ago showed a reserve of under 1.0%, now have an estimated ending fund balance of \$11,207,101 or 12.6% for 2020-21. State LAW REQUIRES A RESERVE FOR A DISTRICT OUR SIZE OF 3%, and any district not showing at least that reserve for the current year and the next two is subject to takeover by the County Office of Education. This is called Qualified Certification, meaning the district is unable to show ample reserves over the next three years. If the district cannot be certain it can cover its expenses in the current year, it is designated as in Negative Certification. Thanks to the many difficult decisions the Board has made to cut expenses, and the great work of our staff, including Babette DeCou for writing grants and Brad Pawlowski for instituting sound business practices, we are now in POSITIVE certification and no longer under County Oversight. Kudos in particular to Brad Pawlowski and the Fiscal Services staff.



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FACILITIES NAMING COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 13TH

The Board set a Public Hearing for the next board meeting on July 13th for consideration of requests for facilities to be named in honor of some local community members. The committee to review proposals met on June 16th and reviewed four applications for board consideration, all of which are on the high school campus. In addition to the public hearing, the board will discuss the recommendations.



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CRITICAL RACE THEORY

CRT has become a highly controversial issue around the country, and we received over seventy emails from parents and community members, some demanding that the district assure parents CRT will not be taught in our schools. This had previously been debated as part of the recent approval process for the controversial pilot elective Ethnic Studies course. During the discussion of that course, the Board demanded and agreed upon before approval, that the course reading list was balanced. It was agreed at that time that CRT would NOT be part of that curriculum. Following hours of public comment, the Board gave direction that the proposed Resolution banning CRT from being taught in our schools not be brought back for action at the next meeting. We anticipate further discussion of this issue in a venue to be determined, but no further action is immediate.

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

Here is a link to all emailed public comment received for this item.

[Item J.3 Public Comment - CRT](#)