

**Paso Robles Joint Unified School District  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
January 26, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**A. OPENING CEREMONY**

**1. Attendance/Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

Present: Mr. Christopher Arend, President; Mrs. Dorian Baker, Trustee; Mr. Chris Bausch, Clerk; Mr. Lance Gannon, Trustee; Mr. Tim Gearhart, Trustee; Mr. Jim Reed, Trustee; Mr. Nathan Williams, Trustee

**2. Adopt Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with a change to move the Budget Report to the end of Section J. Motion passed unanimously with a motion by Trustee Bausch, seconded by Trustee Williams.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT (for Closed Session items)**

**1. Public Comment on Closed Session Items (Govt Code 54954.3)**

There were no requests to address the Board on Closed Session topics.

**C. CLOSED SESSION - 5:30 PM**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:37 p.m.

**1. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

**A. Certificated Personnel Report (Govt Code Section 54957)**

**1. Leaves**

Certificated leave requests as presented in the agenda item were approved.

Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Tim Gearhart and a second by Mr. Nathan Williams.

**B. Classified Personnel Report (Govt Code Section 54957)**

**1. Assignment/Replacement: Resignations/Retirements/Terminations**

Classified personnel actions, as presented in the agenda item, were approved.

Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

**C. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Litigation/Complaints (2 Matters) (Govt Code Section 54957)**

The Board discussed two matters of litigation. No action was taken.

**D. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Govt Code Section 54957.6)**

The Board discussed negotiations. No action was taken.

Closed Session adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Open Session convened at 6:21 p.m.

**D. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

**1. Report on Closed Session Action**

The Clerk reported that the Board met in closed session and approved personnel leaves, on motion of Trustee Gearhart, seconded by Trustee Williams (vote 7-0). Additionally, the Board approved classified assignments on a vote of 7-0 on motion of Trustee Bausch, seconded by Trustee Gearhart. The Board also received information on legal matters and labor negotiations but took no action.

**E. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Trustee Gannon led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT (for Open Session topics and general input)**

**1. Comments from the Public**

Translation was provided as to how Spanish speakers may call in for non-agenda topics at this time.

Jesus Endejas spoke regarding Mr. Arend's previous comments that California is an English-only state. He asked Mr. Arend to resign his position from the Board and opined that he should not participate in discussions for the 7-11 Committee.

Mr. Arend responded to Mr. Endejas' statements: that he misrepresented Mr. Arend's position and offered to have a personal discussion with him or anyone else at any time to clarify his position. He felt only that translation services should be reserved for those who need that assistance, and that speakers able to communicate in English should not take up those resources unnecessarily.

**2. California School Employees Association, Chapter #254**

No comments were offered from CSEA.

**3. Paso Robles Public Educators**

Two written statements from the PRPE President and Executive Director were presented and read by the Recording Secretary. Both related to the 7-11 Committee recommendations and the District's ongoing budget challenges.

**G. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

**1. School Activities/Presentations**

No school report was made at this meeting. Mrs. Baker suggested that student presentations (once school is back in session) be heard before Closed Session (around 4:00 p.m.) to allow the young people to get home. The Board gave its consensus for this change, and staff will address in the Friday Update. Trustee Bausch suggested the Board revisit an old policy which set a time limit for these presentations.

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent agenda items H2, H3, and H4 were approved. Items H1 and H5 were pulled for discussion and separate action. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Lance Gannon and a second by Mr. Chris Bausch.

**1. Board Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Dubost explained that several sets of minutes are pending due to absences and staff turnover. These will come forward as soon as they are complete. As no minutes were included for action, this item was tabled to a future agenda. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mrs. Dorian Baker.

**2. Approve Payment Listing – approved under H.**

**3. Approve Purchase Order Listing – approved under H.**

**4. Approve Use of Facilities Agreement – approved under H.**

**5. Approve Change Order No. 1 for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project**

Mr. Bausch asked why several projects are listed in one change order. Mr. Pawlowski explained that there were several similar Measure M projects for multiple sites, and they were bid as a single project, necessitating a single change order for the group. Following discussion, Change Order No. 1 for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approval and Acceptance of Donations**

Trustee Williams acknowledged these generous donations and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board. Trustee Gearhart was assured that thank you letters will be sent to the donors. Donations from the Wonderful Corporation were gratefully accepted. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Tim Gearhart and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon.

**2. Presentation of 7-11 Surplus Property Advisory Committee Report to the Board of Trustees**

Superintendent Dubost assured the Board the District has followed legal requirements to establish the committee. He thanked everyone for their professionalism and help, and expressed the District's ongoing commitment to providing translation services and remaining open to all of our community.

Extensive public comment was received, and the Board extended the usual 20-minute time limit to accommodate the increased need. Many speakers criticized the composition of the 7-11 committee as not in line with legal requirements nor representative of community demographics. Nearly all speakers spoke against the committee's recommendation to close Georgia Brown Elementary School. Speakers included (listed alphabetically as opposed to order of presentation) Martha Arreola, Esmerelda Ayon, Carmen Boutin, Fatima Cervantes, Raleigh Delk, Jesus Endejas, Elena Garcia, Shannon Gonzales, Desiré Harris, Kellen Heny, Simone Huls, Mike Learned, Jim Lynett, Yadira Mendoza, Miriam Remolino, Michael Rivera, Daisy Sanchez, Yeseñia Silva, and Colton Weaver. Most urged the Board to reject the report.

Board discussion ensued. President Arend clarified that tonight's action is merely to RECEIVE the report; not to take a position on its content or findings. Dr. Dubost thanked speakers who took time to research their positions. He acknowledged that a school closure is a lengthy process and there are many discussions and decisions to be taken before a decision is made. He urged the community to keep an open mind.

Mr. Pawlowski reminded the Board that, over the past two and one-half years, staff has brought forward several recommendations to reduce the district budget substantially. As reductions are still necessary, the District is in the difficult position to consider school closure. The 7-11 committee was composed of 11 volunteers who spent many hours and traveled to sites at their own expense to study the issue.

Committee Chairperson Krum noted that the committee was appointed in May and held their first meeting in July, concluding after a total of six meetings plus a field trip to visit all the campuses. Members first ensured they understood their charge pursuant to Ed Code. District legal counsel Devon Lincoln explained to them Ed Code Section 17389 dealing with surplus property, and only surplus property, thus limiting the committee's focus to that issue. Any other areas for budget savings were not under the committee's charge. The committee developed recommendations consistent with ed code and instructions from staff and legal counsel: 1) future enrollment, 2) capacity to serve those students, 3) operating costs, and 4) reconciling everything back to the Measure M budget.

**2. Presentation of 7-11 Surplus Property Advisory Committee Report to the Board of Trustees (continued)**

Mr. Krum reviewed details in the report that depict current and projected TK-5 enrollment should be flat over the next five years. Additionally, the report includes a chart of existing capacity, K-5, which shows a total capacity for 4,000 students with an enrollment projection of 2,900 students, leaving excess capacity for 1,100 students. The committee then explored operating costs to consider possible savings by closing a school.

He and Mr. Pawlowski shared the Committee's review of the Measure M budget which has swollen to \$108 million, well beyond the original \$95 million, a \$14 million shortfall. Georgia Brown was determined to be in great need with a projected of budget of only \$14m, not including a needed multipurpose room. Proceeding with renovation of that campus would certainly increase the budget. Mr. Bausch asked whether agreement can be achieved to adjust areas of the budget to bring it down to its original projection. Mr. Krum cited a few projects in the bond program that the committee felt were not necessary and could reduce the budget; however, those savings would not offset the needs at Georgia Brown. Such projects include not renovating the library and not demolishing and building a new administration building at Lewis Middle School. The Committee voted 10-1 to close one school in order to save operating costs. The committee then moved on to which school to recommend for closure. Looking at all elementary campuses, factors included age and condition, capital costs to bring those facilities up to desired standards, existing campus capacity and growth ability, site location, and unique programs that could suffer from campus closure. The committee was assured by staff the Georgia Brown programs are not in jeopardy if the campus were to close. The committee felt the case to close Georgia Brown was stronger than for any other campus; hence, their recommendation.

Mr. Gearhart asked how much would it cost to rebuild Georgia Brown from the ground up. (Response: The Glen Speck campus project budget is \$19 million plus \$6 million for a multipurpose room, totaling \$25 million.) Mr. Gearhart noted that Georgia Brown does have some classrooms in decent shape but others that should be rebuilt. He asked if there are options other than losing a school on the west side.

Mr. Pawlowski acknowledged this is a very difficult decision. The District has made \$4.2 million in General Fund reductions over the last 2.5 years and has exhausted all the low-hanging fruit. While moving programs or construction budgets can be completed administratively, the consideration of selling a site requires the formation of a 7-11 committee. In addition to the recommendation to close a campus, PRJUSD owns two unused sites (Montebello and Phillips School in Whitley Gardens). There has been public interest in those sites. Fortunately, the State has provided a loophole where the funds received from such a sale could go into General Fund rather than restricted to the Capital Facilities Fund as previously required. The committee unanimously approved the declaration of each of these sites as surplus.

Regarding the committee formation, the District advertised for applicants from April 29-May 19, 2020, and received 19 requests. The maximum of 11 were appointed. The administration did ask for a cross-section of community members but did not ask applicants to disclose socioeconomic or ethnic information as that could have violated the State constitution. The Board's action in receiving the report allows staff to move forward with selling the two unused sites. Regarding school closure, he suggested the District form two more committees to drill down - a boundary committee and grade span and curriculum/program. Eliminating the dual immersion program was never under consideration; in fact, expanding it to TK-8 should be considered. Those discussions are outside the scope of 7-11 committee and need to be handled with curriculum experts as well parents and community. He recommended the Board receive the report so staff can return with an action item on the sale of Montebello and Phillips. A recommendation on potential school closure would come later, with an expectation that such a decision would not be implemented for at least another year. 2022-2023 will be the challenging year of revenue reductions.

**2. Presentation of 7-11 Surplus Property Advisory Committee Report to the Board of Trustees (continued)**

Board discussion continued. Mr. Bausch offered the Board should determine whether the recruitment was flawed as the community alleges, or if it met the legal standard. He thanked the committee members for their work. He asked Dr. Dubost to reach out to the people who expressed concerns and ask them to get involved as we move forward.

Mr. Gannon asked what percentage of Georgia Brown students reside outside the school boundaries. Mr. Pawloski indicated that information is included in one of the report appendices. Dr. Dubost stated his understanding that approximately two-thirds of Georgia Brown students do NOT live in the neighborhood.

President Arend also thanked the 7-11 committee. He affirmed that the committee's advisory recommendation is just one aspect in the Board's decision-making process, which will be to consider all those factors including input from the community. He confirmed that all parents who want to be involved or participate in the process and discussion who need services will receive translated materials and translator services. He clarified that his earlier statements were merely to ask that those translating services should be reserved for those who truly need them. He offered to speak or meet with anyone about that or other issues.

The meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

Mr. Bausch suggested the documents be posted on the district website with a link on the home page for easy access by anyone interested.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the 7-11 Committee Report, solely for the purpose of receiving the report and to allow the Board to develop additional committees for input, bilingual where appropriate. Passed with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Nathan Williams (6-1, Gannon voting No).

**3. Approval of Change Order No. 2 for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project**

Mr. Bausch asked for clarification on dollar figures because there are differences in the amount listed in the recap of ≈\$3,000, but Change Order 4 shows see a deduction of \$2,679. Mr. Pawlowski explained that Change Order #4 is a *potential* Change Order and the other an *actual* Change Order. The potential Change Order is \$32,320.10 which was applied against the unused project contingency of \$35,000 and moved forward based on the Board's previous approval of the budget. The recap is provided so the Board sees a reconciliation of the total project. A full Measure M update will be presented at the next Board meeting. The first three Change Orders increase the project cost, but the fourth results in reduction to the total budget. Change Order No. 2 for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Lance Gannon and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

**4. Approval of Change Order No. 3 for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project**

Change Order No. 3 for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Nathan Williams.

**5. Approval of Change Order No. 4 (deductive) for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project**

Change Order No. 4 (deductive) for the Flamson/Peterson Lunch Shelter Project was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Lance Gannon and a second by Mrs. Dorian Baker.

**6. Approval of the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) Elementary level MOU, 2020-2021**

Stacy Summers explained this item, and it was translated into Spanish by Sandra Yrigollen. The Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) MOU was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon s

**7. Adopt COVID-19 Prevention Program Plan**

Jennifer Gaviola reviewed the plan for the Board's consideration. She shared that the State has come up with additional requirements, specifically geared to staff safety and training, apart from the District's adopted reopening guide. Approval of this plan makes the District eligible for additional CARES funding. The PRJUSD COVID-19 Prevention Program Plan was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mrs. Dorian Baker and a second by Mr. Nathan Williams.

**8. PRPE MOU Leaves/Family First Coronavirus Response Act**

The PRPE MOU - COVID19 Prevention Program passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Lance Gannon and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

**9. PRPE MOU: 2020-2021 6-12 Secondary Cohorts and Voluntary In-Person Instruction**

The PRPE MOU: 2020-2021 6-12 Secondary Cohorts and Voluntary In-Person Instruction was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mrs. Dorian Baker and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon.

**10. Approve Contract to Hire Kim Holmes as Interim Executive Assistant to the Superintendent**

Mrs. Baker offered that she wants the Board to keep in mind the Staffing Study and the Grand Jury Report before committing to a decision to fill permanently this full-time position. Additional discussion pursued that line. The contract with Kim Holmes at a rate of \$40 per hour, not to exceed 960 hours (which equates to \$38,400) was approved. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Nathan Williams and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart

**11. Approve Timeline and Board Member Participation in the Preparation and Review of the Next Board Meeting Agenda**

Following discussion and clarifications, an Agenda Setting Meeting for the February 9 Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, at 4:00 p.m., with a caveat that staff continue to follow Board Bylaw 9322. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

**12. Set Date for Special Board Meeting to Consider the Board's Response to the Grand Jury Report**

After discussion and consideration of several dates, the Board agreed to schedule a Special Board meeting for Saturday, January 30, 2021, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to begin working on their response to the Grand Jury Report. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mrs. Dorian Baker.

**13. Determine Whether Future Board Meetings Should be Held via Zoom**

Mrs. Gaviola informed the Board that County Public Health continues to advise remote meetings, especially for public meetings, only permitting essential staff to rotate into the meeting.

Mr. Arend moved that the Board continue to hold in-person Board meetings with public participation via YouTube and/or Zoom, with limited staff participation, allowing limited press attendance, rotating in scheduled speakers, and restricting public participation to remote attendance. For as long as the pandemic continues all public comment will be taken by phone or email. Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made to table this item to a future agenda so IT staff can further investigate technical issues related to meeting operations. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

**J. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Business and Budget Update**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled and will be presented on the February 9, 2021, agenda.

**2. Staffing Review PRJUSD: Outside Consultant**

Christin Newlon presented her review of PRJUSD staffing. At 10:30 p.m. the Board voted to continue the meeting for an additional 20 minutes to permit her to complete her presentation. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Tim Gearhart and a second by Mrs. Dorian Baker. Mrs. Newlon will return on February 9 to respond to questions, and allow the Board to discuss the staffing study.

**3. Proposed Revisions to Board Policy 2110: Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties (First Reading)**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled and will be presented on the February 9, 2021, agenda.

**4. Proposed Revisions to BP/AR 6020: Parent Involvement (First Reading)**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled and will be presented on the February 9, 2021, agenda.

**5. Board Bylaw 9311**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled and will be presented on the February 9, 2021, agenda.

**6. Employee Code of Ethics**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled and will be presented on the February 9, 2021, agenda.

**K. SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF COMMENTS**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled and will be presented on the February 9, 2021, agenda.

**L. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled and will be presented on the February 9, 2021, agenda.

**M. ADJOURN TO CONTINUED CLOSED SESSION, IF NECESSARY**

This item was moot as the Board completed all business during the preceding Closed Agenda.

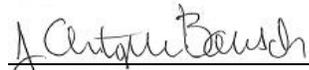
**N. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

**1. Action/Report on Closed Session**

Not applicable.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn at 10:54 p.m. Passed 7-0 with a motion by Mr. Tim Gearhart and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon.

  
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**Board Clerk**

  
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**Board President**