

**Paso Robles Joint Unified School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
February 23, 2021**

MINUTES

A. OPENING CEREMONY

1. Meeting Protocols Under COVID-19

The Board Chair read the protocols for meeting operations under COVID-19 guidance, and Assistant Superintendent Erin Haley read the same in Spanish.

2. Attendance/Call to Order

Present: President Arend, Clerk Bausch, Trustee Baker, Trustee Gannon, Trustee Gearhart, Trustee Reed, Trustee Williams

3. Adopt Agenda The agenda was adopted as published.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT (for Closed Session Items)

- 1. Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items** - To allow public comment prior to the Board's consideration of any closed session agenda item. Govt Code 54954.3
There were no requests to address the Board on Closed Session topics.

C. CLOSED SESSION

1. Certificated Personnel Actions - Govt Code 54957:

Resignations/Retirements/Terminations/Leaves/Position Closures
Recommendation: Approve certificated personnel actions as presented.

2. Classified Personnel Items (Govt Code 54957) -

Assignments/Replacements/Resignations/Retirements/Terminations/Leaves
Recommendation: Approve classified personnel actions as presented.

3. Conference with Labor Negotiators - CSEA (Govt Code 54957.6)

4. Conference with Labor Negotiators - PRPE (Govt Code 54957.6)

D. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION – The meeting convened in Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

1. Report on Closed Session Action

Clerk Bausch reported the Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:38. The Board approved two motions: first to approve certificated personnel actions (motion by Tim Gearhart, seconded by Dorian Baker, with unanimous approval); and second to approve classified personnel actions (motion by Dorian Baker, seconded by Lance Gannon, with unanimous approval). The Board also received reports on labor negotiations with both CSEA and PRPE. Closed Session concluded at 6:03 p.m.

E. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

President Arend led the pledge to the flag.

F. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

1. School/Program Presentation: Winifred Pifer Elementary School

This item was tabled due to a family emergency.

2. Update on Translation Services for School Board Meetings

Erin Haley updated the Board and community on real-time Spanish translation services being introduced tonight for the entire board meeting agenda. Community members can log into Zoom to watch the meeting and choose English to hear the meeting live, or Spanish to hear a translator interpret as the agenda progresses. Real-time public comment is also available in both English and Spanish.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Comments from the Public

Public comment was received from several citizens including Peter Byrne, Susan Holt, Marta Leester, Jill OgorSolka, and Michael Rivera. Some urged reopening schools, others critiqued Board behavior, and Ms. OgorSolka specifically spoke on behalf of SwimPaso to request the Board place the aquatics project on the agenda in March. They request only affirmation of the original Phase I Measure M budget allocation and a statement of support for SwimPaso's fund-raising efforts so they can pursue fundraising opportunities. A State grant of \$3 million may be possible.

2. California School Employees Association, Chapter #254

President Jeannine Manninger updated the Board on the MOU to return to in-person hybrid learning which is pending approval from the field office.

3. Paso Robles Public Educators

President Justin Pickard commented on COVID control efforts, the increase to daily substitute pay, the recent staffing report, and ongoing negotiations to agree on an MOU for in-person instruction.

4. Correspondence Received

A letter dated February 9, 2021, from County Supt. James Brescia was received: "2020-21 Second Quarterly Report of Four Required Areas and Optional Reporting of Uniform Complaints Data for the Arts Academy at Bauer-Speck Elementary."

H. ACTION/CONSENT AGENDA

A motion passed unanimously to approve Consent items H3, H4, H5, H9, and H10; and pull H1, H2, H6, H7, and H8. Motion by Trustee Gannon; seconded by Trustee Williams.

1. Approve New Classified Job Description: Office Manager

This item was pulled for discussion. A motion to approve the job description for Office Manager passed unanimously with a motion by Lance Gannon and a second by Tim Gearhart.

- 2. Approve Student Conference Request to Attend CTE National Youth Leadership Forum**
This item was pulled for discussion. A motion was adopted to approve conference attendance for Lainey Callahan, Lexi Keller, Jacyn Lehr, Zoey Manninger, LiliJane Montoya, Debra Rosa-Dominguez, and Isabella Swarthout to attend CTE Health Science Pathway National Youth Leadership Forum for one week during June or July 2021 at a cost of \$3,700 per student, paid by grant funds. Passed with a motion by Nathan Williams and a second by Mrs. Dorian Baker.
- 3. Approve Purchase Order Listing**
Recommendation: Approve Purchase Orders 211105-211160 in the total amount of \$254,369.60.
- 4. Approve Payment Listing**
Recommendation: Approve warrants for accounts payable, batches 90-97, in the total amount of \$449,457.65.
- 5. Approve Williams Uniform Complaint Act Quarterly Report - 12/31/20**
Recommendation: Approve the Williams Act Quarterly Report for period ending December 31, 2020.
- 6. Approve Service Agreement with JIM Enterprises**
A motion passed unanimously to approve a service agreement with JIM Enterprises, Inc. Passed with a motion by Lance Gannon and a second by Tim Gearhart.
- 7. Approve 2020-2021 School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs)**
Trustee Baker pulled this item from the Consent agenda in order to offer congratulations and discuss some areas of concern. Dr. Dubost suggested schools could make their presentations individually to the Board over several meetings rather than all at once. That would provide a more in-depth discussion opportunity. Trustee Gannon asked how the concerns listed are addressed. Mr. Pawlowski responded that district staff accompany County representatives during the inspection so they can note those things and submit work orders. Maintenance staff is addressing the findings now, and coding them in the work order system for monitoring. Trustee Bausch requested quarterly reports to update the Board on maintenance efforts and consider during the Facilities Master Plan review if some items might be eligible for Measure M. Mr. Pawlowski suggested each of his departments could provide a quarterly report on their operations. School Accountability Report Cards for all school sites were approved unanimously. Motion by Lance Gannon and a second by Nathan Williams.
- 8. Approve School Safety Plans**
Trustee Baker commented on the enormous volume of material, and explained she could not approve the plans since she did not have time to read and digest all the material. Mr. Maas acknowledged that and explained three specific areas that vary from site to site, while the bulk of the plans are the same. Trustee Gannon suggested the table of contents should include where the recommendation section can be found as that would facilitate review. Trustee Bausch noted that building identification has been an issue for several years. There had previously been a suggestion to add roof-top identifications, and Mr. Pawlowski responded that has not been done.

Safety plans were adopted with a motion by Lance Gannon and a second by Tim Gearhart. Trustees Arend, Gannon, Gearhart, and Williams voted AYE; Trustees Baker, Bausch, and Reed voted NO.

9. Approve Revisions to Board Policy 2110

Recommendation: Approve revisions to Board Policy 2110.

10. Approve Revisions to BP/AR 6020: Parent Involvement

Recommendation: Approve revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6020.

I. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Approval and Acceptance of Donations

Donations were gratefully accepted. Passed unanimously with a motion by Lance Gannon and a second by Dorian Baker.

2. Approval of Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

Corrections were offered to the January 12 minutes near the bottom of page 1 to indicate “the Board reviewed Recommendation #7 [not 8]...” and to the final paragraph to read “...accept...the recommendations as follows: “Chapter 1, Findings 1-8; Chapter 2, Findings 1-7 (disagreeing with #8); and Chapter 3, Findings 1-6 and 8 (disagreeing with #7).” A motion was adopted to approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of January 12, and February 9, 2021, as corrected; and to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 26, 2021, the Special Meeting of January 30, 2021, and the Adjourned Special Meeting of February 2, 2021, as presented. Motion by Chris Bausch and a second by Lance Gannon.

3. Approve Pandemic Increase in Certificated Sub Rate for In-Person Instruction

A motion passed unanimously to approve a pandemic increase in the certificated sub rate for in-person instruction through June 30, 2021. Motion by Lance Gannon and a second by Nathan Williams, with Chris Bausch voting NO.

4. COVID-19: Return to School (Plan B)

Superintendent Dubost presented the MOU with PRPE to return sixth grade students to in-person learning, as soon as permitted by Public Health. Board members had requested an agenda item, once the MOU is approved, to make a decision to open schools on March 9 – partly in frustrated recognition of the repeated changes in direction coming from County Health and the State. He sought Board direction on whether he should develop a Plan B to take such action if next Tuesday’s public announcement fails to move schools into the Red Tier.

Motion 1: Dorian Baker moved that the Board direct the Superintendent to develop a plan to open all schools, K-12, to in-person or hybrid learning by March 9, with an accommodation for teachers and students who wish to remain in distance learning. The motion was seconded by Jim Reed.

Discussion followed with cautions over the great potential risk to the District in opening contrary to public health directives. Public comment was received from Jim Lynett, PRPE Executive Director, urging the Board to use caution. Dr. Dubost asked the Board to table any decision to open schools unilaterally until staff can complete negotiations and see what the health guidance is.

Board members expressed their strong desire for students to be back in class and shared feedback they are receiving throughout the community as well as concerns for risk to the district should we reopen contrary to guidance. Delaying action for two weeks would give the district time to gain clarity on the risk factors and safety issues. Mrs. Gaviola shared that signs point to the County moving into the Red Tier next Tuesday which would allow districts to move to in-person learning for K-12 on March 16. Mr. Gannon suggested an amendment to defer action for two weeks. Mr. Williams concurred citing the enormous liability if we were to lose insurance. Mrs. Baker agreed to such a delay but no further, and Mr. Reed accepted the amendment as well. The motion to amend the resolution passed unanimously.

A further discussion resulted in clarifying language to the amended motion, to wit: The Board recognizes staff's work to reopen schools, grades 7-12, on March 16. The Board directs the Superintendent to bring contingency Plan B for board approval on March 9 to reopen all schools in hybrid model if the March 16 reopening fails. The amended motion by Dorian Baker and seconded by Jim Reed passed with Trustees Arend, Baker, Bausch, and Reed voting YES; Trustees Gannon, Gearhart, and Williams voting NO.

5. Approve Tentative Agreement with PRPE: Return of 6th Grade Students to In-Person Services

A motion was adopted to approve the Tentative Agreement with PRPE: Return of 6th Grade Students to In-Person Services. Passed unanimously with a motion by Chris Bausch and a second by Tim Gearhart.

6. Approval to Purchase Upgraded Staff Devices for Instruction

A motion passed unanimously to purchase upgraded teacher devices, not to exceed \$350,000, for use in classroom instruction. Motion by Chris Bausch and a second by Nathan Williams.

7. Adopt Resolution No. 21-19 Approving Use of The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Contracts

Resolution No. 21-19 approving the use of the TIPS contract was adopted unanimously on motion of Tim Gearhart and a second by Lance Gannon.

8. Approve Change Order No.1 for the Marie Bauer Project

Mr. Bausch expressed concern about the overall Measure M budget, and the difficulty in approving change orders without seeing a full accounting of each project's budget.

Mr. Pawlowski indicated he could bring such a review to the March 13 study session.

Updates had been planned on the previous two board agendas but were tabled for lack of time. Change Order No. 1 for the Marie Bauer Project at a cost of \$36,200.18 was approved on motion of Tim Gearhart, seconded by Lance Gannon; Chris Bausch voting NO.

9. Approve Change Order No. 2 for the Marie Bauer Project

Because appropriate paperwork was not available for the agenda, a motion was adopted to table this item to the March 9 agenda. Passed unanimously with a motion by Chris Bausch, seconded by Nathan Williams.

10. Approve Change Order No.10 for the Flamson Classroom Project

A motion passed to approve the Flamson Classroom Addition Change Order No. 10. Motion by Lance Gannon; second by Tim Gearhart, Chris Bausch voting NO.

11. Schedule Facilities Study Session

Mr. Pawlowski presented a proposed agenda. The Board discussed their individual availability to ascertain a timeframe for Friday's site tours. Mr. Pawlowski will develop a specific tour schedule. All trustees will drive individually to maintain social distancing. A motion was adopted to schedule a Facilities Study Session with site visits on Friday from 11-3, and a Saturday study session from 8-12. Passed unanimously with a motion by Lance Gannon and a second by Dorian Baker.

12. Staffing Report Update

Dr. Dubost reported retirements and relocations, despite representing a loss of quality staff, mitigates the need to reduce staff and avoid the need for layoffs. He will have an updated organizational chart at the next Board meeting. Mr. Gearhart asked if there are projections on how Almond Acres will affect our enrollment. Dr. Dubost reported their current enrollment is 247 but they expect to double that. It is difficult to know when because their new campus will not be available for some time. A motion to table this item to March 9 passed unanimously on motion of Chris Bausch, seconded by Nathan Williams.

J. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Staffing for 2021-22 School Year

Mrs. Gaviola reviewed considerations used in planning staffing which assumes continued declining enrollment, continued online and in-person offerings for 2021-2022, reductions in elementary PE (only 4th/5th grade will have PE with a PE teacher), and expanded summer school offerings for credit recovery at the high school level. District priorities include mitigating learning loss, K-12; transitioning to full in-person instruction while continuing to support distance learning options and expanded home school; and recruitment and retention of both staff and students. She reviewed recommended staffing reductions of 5 elementary teaching positions, 2 middle school teaching positions, and 3 high school teaching positions; all of which should be achieved through attrition.

2. Monthly Financial Budget Update

Mr. Pawlowski shared a report through January 31, 2021.

3. Monthly Enrollment Update

Mr. Pawlowski explained careful planning for enrollment.

K. SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF COMMENTS

Dr. Dubost thanked classified staff for all they have done to keep the district afloat. He has visited the sites and observed all the staff both there and at the District Office who are helpful and maintain their cheerfulness.

Mrs. Gaviola shared information on sports with new guidance that, with some safeguards, allows red/orange tier sports to be played in the purple tier (football, water polo, baseball, softball, soccer). Volleyball, wrestling, and basketball moved to the yellow tier because they are indoor.

There is a state requirement for weekly COVID testing prior to competition (but not practice). Cross Country started last Saturday as did Swimming. Golf and Tennis are also starting. The restriction of students not playing in two sports simultaneously remains. Athletic Directors will meet Thursday, and Superintendents are also meeting to work out some of the details.

Mr. Pawlowski reported on the shortage of drivers to fill vacancies in Transportation. The Board had approved some mobility vans which were deferred for lack of funding, but staff has determined they can be purchased with CARES funds.

L. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Reflecting on a parent's email about students thriving in distance learning, Trustee Williams recognized those students and their families, in addition to students who need extra support. He noted that Dr. Dubost is working with Nate Maas for some positive videos featuring some of these students. Mr. Williams visited several schools lately as well as the Transportation Dept.

Mrs. Baker commented on Board requests for information that are provided in the Friday Report. She noted the public does not receive those answers and asked for some way to publicize those for families who follow the Board agenda and District activities. Staff will consider options. Trustee Bausch suggested there may be a way (similar to how the Agenda Review Committee used to fill out an agenda request with the date expected) that might be used to serve the public interest.

Mr. Gearhart noted that a recent email response from him was unintentionally sent to multiple recipients. He recommended deferring to counsel to determine whether this action means he will need to recuse himself on any potential vote. He reported he will be visiting selected schools. He has had good responses from people regarding our efforts to get kids back to class, and suggested a common set of responses for trustees to provide to people. Regarding the Grand Jury Report, he recommended the Board include legal counsel at all board meetings to avoid missteps which would ultimately save taxpayers money in the long run. He complimented the Board on an effective meeting tonight.

Trustee Gannon thanked both certificated and classified staff who are working so hard.

Trustee Bausch reported receiving much correspondence regarding reopening schools, building the aquatics complex, and support for failing seniors. Part of that involves summer school, makeup classes, and counseling. He suggested this might need to come back to the Board with a specific plan. He asked what is being done on a county, state, and local level to allow parents to reenroll students for a makeup year because of COVID. Parents have pointed out that some students are thriving despite the pandemic, and should be celebrated. Regarding facilities, if the Board adopts the 7-11 Committee's recommendation and we have to merge campuses, he questioned whether there enough room on those campuses, or if we need to build another building. If so, cost estimates need to be part of the 7-11 discussion. Mr. Pawlowski responded that would be included in the March 13 study session. Once the Board adopts a recommendation, we will begin to examine what the site needs. Finally, Mr. Bausch requested a closed session review of workers compensation claims.

M. INFORMATION/AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

Trustee Williams shared a request from the SwimPaso organization for the Board of Trustees to place the aquatics complex on the March 9 agenda. Their interest is in obtaining the Board's support for the project to go forward as originally planned so that SwimPaso can pursue grant funding. They do not seek funding beyond the original allocation, nor do they seek permission to proceed with the project; merely to confirm the District's support for the project concept so their grant applications will have merit.

N. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

1. Continuation of Closed Session Items, If Necessary

There was no need to reconvene in Closed Session.

O. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

1. Report on Closed Session Action

There was no need to reconvene in Closed Session.

P. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Gearhart, seconded by Trustee Williams, and unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.



Board Clerk



Board President