

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

MINUTES

A. OPENING CEREMONY

1. Meeting Protocols Under COVID-19

President read the protocols for operating public meetings under COVID restrictions, and the District's translator read them in Spanish.

2. Attendance/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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 - 5:30 PM

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:45 p.m.

1. Certificated Personnel Actions- Govt Code 54957 - Resignations/Retirements/Termination; Leaves

The Board received and unanimously approved the certificated personnel actions as presented in the attachment. Motion by Mr. Chris Bausch; second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

2. Classified Personnel Actions- Govt Code 54957 - Assignments/Replacements/Resignations/Retirements/Terminations/Leaves

The Board received and unanimously approved classified personnel actions as presented in the attachment. Motion by Mr. Lance Gannon; second by Mr. Chris Bausch.

3. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release - Government Code Section 54957

The Board considered an employee discipline matter.

4. Conference with Legal Counsel: Anticipated Litigation (2 cases) - Govt Code 54956.9

The Board received a memo from legal counsel on one matter of anticipated litigation, and conferred with counsel on another.

5. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Govt Code 54957): Superintendent

The Board discussed Superintendent Dubost's proposed goals.

D. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

Closed session concluded at 6:23 p.m. The meeting convened in Open Session at 6:25 p.m.

1. Report on Closed Session Action

Mr. Bausch reported the Board unanimously approved the Certificated Personnel actions on motion of Trustee Bausch, seconded by Trustee Gearhart; unanimously approved the Classified Personnel actions on motion of Trustee Gannon, seconded by Trustee Bausch; and received information but took no action on a personnel discipline matter. The Board reviewed a memo from legal counsel on a matter of anticipated litigation and gave counsel direction to follow up with staff. On a second matter, the Board received legal counsel but took no action. The Board received the Superintendent's first iteration of proposed goals for the year.

2. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was adopted as published.

E. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Trustee Baker led the pledge of allegiance.

F. SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

1. School/Program Presentation: Independence High School and Paso Robles Independent Study Center (PRISC)

Principal Dan Sharon provided highlights of programs at Independence High School and Paso Robles Independent Study Center (PRISC).

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Comments from the Public

The Recording Secretary announced that, due to the volume of written comments received in advance of the meeting related to Items I8 (Ethnic Studies course) and J2 (Aquatics Complex), those were printed and distributed to Board members, and were uploaded to the relevant agenda items in the online system. She read comments received from Frank Gaudi of the Paso Robles Ag Advisory Committee regarding FFA, and comments opposing possible closure of Georgia Brown Elementary School from Sandra Bautista-Floyd, Yadira Mendoza, and Kat Schroeder. Student trustee Endejas of the Cuesta College Board spoke on the Georgia Brown closure and the 7/11 committee as well as the proposed Ethnic Studies course. Maggie Payne referenced how the pandemic has seen many child care facilities close down and forced (mostly) mothers to leave their jobs in order to stay home with children. She urged the Board and community to get involved through First Five.org and the We Are The Care Act.

2. California School Employees Association, Chapter #254

CSEA President Jeannine Menninger submitted a written report acknowledging the custodial challenge of meeting COVID sanitizing requirements and looking forward to in-person school board meetings in the future.

3. Paso Robles Public Educators

PRPE President Justin Pickard reflected on positive changes related to COVID where students are returning to class and athletics programs are restarting. He solicited qualified community members to step up as substitute teachers as the need is great.

4. Correspondence Received

The Board received 49 letters from PRHS students on school reopening and an email from Ric Oberlink regarding Californians for Stabilization Population. Michael Rivera spoke to the latter correspondence. Mr. Arend noted Board members have received correspondence about the CDC reducing required "social distance" spacing from 6 to 3 feet but cautioned there is much work to do with County Health before normalcy is restored.

H. ACTION/CONSENT ITEMS

Consent agenda items H1 and H2 were unanimously approved on motion of Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Nathan Williams.

1. Approve Purchase Order Listing

Recommendation: Approve Purchase Orders 211232-211307 in the total amount of \$412,524.62.

2. Approve Payment Listing

Recommendation: Approve warrants for accounts payable, batches 106-111, in the total amount of \$336,409.25.

3. Approve New Job Description: Literacy Coach

This item was pulled for discussion. Mr. Bausch requested clarification on the \$450K listed for the position which staff indicated would allow for 6 positions, 1 at each elementary school. A seventh position is being considered for Liberty High School. The \$450K cost is for one year, but the proposal is for a 2-year term. CARES, grant, and other alternate funding will be used. Concerns were expressed about funding personnel with one-time funds and how the District would either phase out the program or seek additional funding options. The new job description for Literacy Coach was unanimously passed with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

I. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Acceptance of Donations

The following donations were gratefully accepted: \$200 from Frank L. Johnson to PRHS Drama; and a tractor from C&N Tractors valued at \$31,772.23 donated by Paso Robles FFA Boosters. Passed unanimously with a motion by Mr. Nathan Williams; second by Mrs. Dorian Baker.

2. Approve Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 9, 2021, and the Study Session of March 12-13, 2021, were unanimously approved. Motion by Mrs. Dorian Baker and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon.

3. Approve 3-Year Service Contract for Fiber Transport Services to the Marie Bauer Elementary School

A 3-year service contract for fiber transport service to Marie Bauer Elementary unanimously passed with a motion by Mr. Lance Gannon and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

4. Approve Wireless and Network Electronics Purchase for Marie Bauer and the Ten New Classrooms at FMS; SPURR Master Contract for E-rate Contract Reimbursement

The purchase of CISCO wireless and network electronics from AMS.net, utilizing the SPURR master contract, for Marie Bauer Elementary and the 10-New Classrooms at Flamson Middle School passed unanimously with a motion by Mr. Lance Gannon and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

5. Approve to Purchase New Production Line Machine for Child Nutrition Department

The purchase of a food production line machine from Platinum Packing unanimously passed with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Nathan Williams.

6. Approve Purchase of Elementary iPad/Chromebook Charge Carts

The purchase of iPad and Chromebook charging carts for grades TK-2, at a total cost of \$163,375.02, funded through ESSER funds from the CARES allocation, unanimously passed with a motion by Mr. Chris Bausch and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon.

7. Approve 6-8 Grade Science Curriculum Adoption: Foss Next Generation

Mrs. Baker indicated she could not approve the adoption due to not having sufficient time to study the curriculum because of other agenda items. Mr. Bausch added that the Grand Jury Report said the Board needs more time to study agenda materials. FOSS Next Generation was adopted as curriculum for use in 6th-8th grade science classes on motion by Mr. Tim Gearhart and a second by Mr. Lance Gannon, with Mrs. Baker voting NO.

8. Approve Ethnic Studies Course at PRHS: Multicultural America

The Board acknowledged receiving 30 written comments that were distributed in advance of the meeting and uploaded to the agenda system for public review. A group of speakers addressed the Board including Mel Gonzales, Juanetta Perkins, Laura Esquivel, Dr. Denise Isom (via email), Carey Alvord, and Dr. Susana Lopez in support of the course. Additionally, favorable comments were received from Katie Bravante Cervantes, Lisa Jouet, Debra McPherson, Laura Parker, Itzel Santos, and Lovella Walker. Peter Byrne and Jay Packer spoke against the course.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction Erin Haley was present with PRHS Principal Dale Overton and teacher Geoffrey Lands who would teach the course. Mrs. Haley explained that AB 2016 was signed by then-Governor Brown in 2006 to adopt such a course which was just recently approved by CDE. She explained the process whereby new courses come forward through site, staff committee, and curriculum council for the Board's consideration.

A motion (Williams/Gearhart) was made and seconded to approve the Ethnic Studies course. Discussion continued.

Board members shared their impressions of the course materials and discussed concerns that the course focuses on a limited group of ethnicities and negatively characterizes whites. Additional authors were suggested to bring balance to the curriculum including Thomas Sowell and others. The course appears to use present-day standards to judge Americans whose actions in their historical time were the accepted, if not global, standard.

Mr. Land explained how he would present the reading excerpts to encourage a broader discussion with students, and that he sees the course as an American approach to a difficult history. He explained that he chose the young readers text over others available which are more academic/collegiate and felt this one did not seem to not finger-point or present a negative view of American history. Despite his statements, Board members felt the stories lack context and attributions.

Board members acknowledged Mr. Land's teaching excellence but were concerned the course might change if a different instructor took over. Mrs. Haley interjected that PRHS did have an ethnic studies course in the past but dropped it when the instructor retired in 2013. She added that when new courses are presented for Board approval they do not usually include the supplemental materials that have sparked tonight's debate. The course outline is

not exclusive and can be expanded/modified to include areas addressed tonight. Mr. Land committed to including context and balance in the curriculum, and said he would review additional supplementary materials in consultation with others. He added that he expects to remain at PRHS for a number of years to come.

Suggestions were made to modify the motion "with the understanding the books and authors mentioned would be included." Mr. Williams, who made the original motion, declined that suggestion, and the motion stood in its original form.

Regarding a question on gender, Mr. Land replied that the identity section is a jumping off point to introduce students to the idea of identity and the many factors that make up identity including where one lives, ethnicity, language, as well as gender and gender identity.

The Board debated possibly revising the motion to include language to add balance and a revised reading list. Mr. Williams again declined to amend the motion, and the question was called.

The motion to approve the Ethnic Studies course: Multicultural America for offering at PRHS in school year 2021-2022 failed (motion by Mr. Nathan Williams; second by Mr. Tim Gearhart).

AYES: Mr. Christopher Arend, Mr. Tim Gearhart, Mr. Nathan Williams

NOES: Mrs. Dorian Baker, Mr. Chris Bausch, Mr. Lance Gannon, Mr. Jim Reed

A motion passed to approve the Ethnic Studies course: Multicultural America for offering at PRHS in school year 2021-2022, contingent upon Board approval at the next meeting of a more balanced curriculum and revised reading list (motion by Mrs. Dorian Baker; second by Mr. Tim Gearhart), with Mr. Lance Gannon voting NO.

9. Approve Revised Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Federal Addendum

The revised Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Every Student Succeeds Act Federal Addendum unanimously passed with a motion by Mr. Lance Gannon and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

10. Adopt Resolution No. 21-20 Condemning Racism in PRJUSD

Board discussion centered on how the resolution would create change and what processes are or should be in place to allow employees, parents, and students to report incidents. Staff explained that the Board's resolution strengthens existing policies by demonstrating the Board's strong anti-racism position, and that administrative regulations will lay out procedures.

At 10:29 p.m. Mr. Gearhart, seconded by Mr. Bausch, moved to extend the meeting to 10:45 p.m. pursuant to Bylaw 9323. Motion passed, with Lance Gannon voting no.

Discussion continued including a notation on any forms used to report concerns that parties are protected under the District's Whistleblower policy.

Resolution No. 21-20 condemning racism in the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Passed with a motion by Mr. Christopher Arend and a second by Mr. Tim Gearhart.

AYES: Mr. Christopher Arend, Mr. Lance Gannon, Mr. Tim Gearhart, Mr. Nathan Williams

NOES: Mrs. Dorian Baker, Mr. Chris Bausch, Mr. Jim Reed

J. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Proposed Revisions BP 7310: Naming Facilities and Buildings (1st Reading) and Rescission of BP 1331

Mrs. Gaviola explained that Board Policy 1331 and 7310 are contradictory, and recommended rescinding 1331 and expanding 7310 instead. The current policy specifies a lifetime appointment for membership on the naming committees, and staff recommends those be two-year terms with categories to define representative constituencies, with some original members grandfathered. Mr. Bausch indicated a two-year term is too short as these committees do not meet frequently. This item will be presented for Board action on the next agenda.

2. Measure M Project Priorities: Aquatics Complex

Public comment was received from Jill Ogorsolka who expressed SwimPaso's disappointment this was not the action item they had requested. She noted the Board did not visit the pool site on their facility tour. SwimPaso is working to submit a grant application under Prop 68, and the DSA approval on blueprints will expire, so time is critical. Board approval is necessary to let the project move forward as currently designed, if and when funds can be raised. SwimPaso needs an MOU with PRJUSD to manage the facility if the grant is approved. She also clarified that SwimPaso identifies operational costs as those related to the physical plant, maintenance, and chemicals; while programmatic costs relate to staffing and scheduling. Additional callers Tara Quinn and Gwen Severson were not heard due to adjournment.

The meeting ended without concluding this topic at the stipulated adjournment time of 10:45 p.m. Motion by Mr. Bausch; seconded by Mr. Gannon, Mr. Gearhart voting NO.

K. SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF COMMENTS

This item was not heard due to adjournment.

L. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

This item was not heard due to adjournment.

M. INFORMATION/AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

This item was not heard due to adjournment.

N. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (if necessary)

1. Continuation of Closed Session Items, If Necessary

There was no additional closed session.

O. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

1. Report on Closed Session Action

There was no additional closed session.

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. Unfinished business will be carried forward to the next agenda.


Board Clerk


Board President