

**Paso Robles Joint Unified School District  
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
January 4, 2021**

**MINUTES**

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

**A. OPENING CEREMONY**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. The President announced that School Board meetings are permitted under COVID protocols as an essential government operation.

**B. ADOPT AGENDA**

**1. ADOPT AGENDA**

A motion passed unanimously to adopt the agenda as published (motion by Dorian Baker, second by Tim Gearhart)

**C. CLOSED SESSION - 5:05 PM**

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS - Govt Code 54954.3**

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

**2. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:05 p.m.

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Government Code Section 54957.6**

The Board conferred with its representatives on labor negotiations.

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION - GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9**

The Board conferred with legal counsel on a matter of potential litigation.

**D. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

**1. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION ACTION**

The President reported the Board met in Closed Session to confer with its representatives on labor negotiations and to receive legal counsel on a matter of potential litigation.

**E. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Trustee Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**F. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**1. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Board received public comment criticizing the fact that in-person instruction has not resumed as well as other factors regarding COVID restrictions. Speakers included an Atascadero preschool worker (unnamed), Peter Byrne, Shannon Gonzales, and Dale Gustin.

**2. CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, CHAPTER #254**

Jeannine Manninger, CSEA President, informed the Board a letter they received last week does not represent all classified employees. Classified staff want students back on campus but are concerned about rising case numbers and personal exposure. CSEA's labor representative and Jeannine met with Dr. Dubost and Mrs. Gaviola about their safety concerns. She noted that classified staff do not have option to work remotely so there is some resentment that teachers had that choice. CSEA proposes bringing secondary students back on campus in the same way elementary students returned - grades 6 and 9 then grades 7 and 10, then grades 8 and 11, then 12th grade. The unions can take time to put together a plan that will work for everyone.

**3. PASO ROBLES PUBLIC EDUCATORS**

Justin Pickard and Jim Lynett provided written comments regarding PRPE's position on returning to in-person instruction and safety of teachers and students.

**G. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION OF SECONDARY HYBRID INSTRUCTION COMMENCEMENT DATES TO EARLIEST DATE AS PERMITTED UNDER REASONABLE STATE GUIDANCE, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO SUPERINTENDENT TO DEVELOP EXPANDED SECONDARY STUDENT IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT THIS PENDING HYBRID INSTRUCTION COMMENCEMENT**

Dr. Dubost shared that the district has opened all elementary sites under hybrid instruction. The Public Health Dept. denied the District's request to commence hybrid in-person instruction at secondary sites, and the majority of secondary students continue to be served virtually. He noted that many staff wish to return but cannot because of their individual circumstances such as a COVID-19 exposure. A limited pool of employees able to work and a severe shortage of substitutes compounds the issue. Of the following options Dr. Dubost recommended #3:

OPTION #1: Reopen without Public Health's approval, risking a costly legal battle.

OPTION #2: Commence secondary instruction in distance learning on January 11, 2021, and reopen to additional secondary students only when we have returned to the Red Tier for two weeks or at an earlier date if permitted by upcoming state guidelines.

OPTION #3: Continue to provide distance learning and negotiate immediately with both unions to craft plans for voluntary return to specific classes using cohort guidance staffed by employees choosing to be at school.

A motion was made to approve Option 3. Board discussion ensued. Board members shared their strong desire for students to return to in-person instruction. The motion to approve Option #3 (by Mr. Gearhart, seconded by Mr. Williams) passed 6-1.

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

NOES Jim Reed

ABSENT Chris Bausch

**H. SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF COMMENTS**

Dr. Dubost thanked the Board for their understanding of a difficult situation, and thanked staff for their hard work in preparing for a number of special and regular board meetings.

Mrs. Gaviola mentioned two losses over the winter break, including the adult child of a staff member. She asked everyone to recognize that people in our community are hurting and to be kind. She shared that CTE teachers worked with students on a virtual SkillsUSA regional competition which is a reflection that, even in distance learning, teachers are still doing lots of work with our kids.

**I. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Baker noted that she heard Superintendent Dubost on KPRL radio, which she appreciated.

Mr. Gearhart commended staff for their exemplary work in this difficult situation. He offered congratulations to Dr. Dubost for his work with the unions.

Mr. Williams thanked Mrs. Gaviola for the information on career competition as many families are unaware those things are still going on.

Mr. Gannon also thanked Mrs. Gaviola for the career/technical competition information. He commented that moving forward with option 3 should get more people working together on a solution.

Mr. Arend reminded everyone of next Saturday's special board meeting. He shared his frustration there has been no response from CDE on the District's letter asking for guidance.

**J. INFORMATION/AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**


No requests were made.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**1. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

  
Board Clerk

  
Board President

