

**Minutes of
Special Meeting of the Governing Board
For Tracy Unified School District
Held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020**

As per Executive Order N-29-20 from Governor Newsom, the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education meetings moved to a virtual/teleconferencing environment using Microsoft Teams. The Governor's executive order on March 12, 2020, waived the requirement for a majority of board members to physically participate in a public board meeting at the same location.

7:00 PM: 1. President Pekari called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: 2. Board: S. Abercrombie, A. Alexander, S. Kaur, B. Pekari, J. Silcox, L. Souza
Absent: J. Costa
Staff: B. Stephens, S. Harrison, T. Jalique, C. Goodall, B. Etcheverry

7:00 PM 3. President Pekari called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Information & 4.1 **Administrative & Business Services:** None.
Discussion Items:

4.2 **Educational Services:**

4.2.1 Receive Report on Distance Learning for the 2020-2021 School Year

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Julianna Stocking, presented a power point on the reopening of schools. We have ordered student devices and hotspots and there will be a 2-phase distribution plan. High school students first and then the balance of students. There will be a distribution plan at each site.

Our Professional Learning team is focusing on relationships. Microsoft Teams and TUSD adopted a digital curriculum. Spring closures were challenging for our teachers as well as families to navigate all of the different platforms so we are going to work only with Microsoft Teams. Strategy around distance learning on short sequences of instruction as well as live student interaction.

Sites working on parent and student orientations. It is important to establish relationships at the beginning of year. These are to be done virtual or one on one, one student family with teacher at a time to ensure safety. Professional Learning has communicated to all staff and will begin trainings the week of July 27 and will be compensating teachers if they choose. The state says that each LEA shall document daily participation for each pupil and school engagement counts as evidence.. In spring, students were held harmless and grades could only be used to help their previous grade improve. This time, our students will be responsible for these interactions. Currently, we are in negotiations with our teachers in defining what synchronous live instruction is. Right now we are guaranteeing 120 minutes person live interaction engagement with our students. Grade levels may vary. Minutes can be counted as live instruction as well as asynchronous. Knowing that a lot

of those students will be home alone as parents will be working. We are not expecting students to be on the computer live for the whole day that would be too overwhelming. Attendance will be taken every morning. There will be a time for meal distribution for students to have lunch and can pick up at the sites. There will be live instruction and also time for teachers to provide learning. The state will provide a form of common logging system. If we do not receive it we will use Microsoft Teams and assignments. If a student does not participate daily, they shall be deemed absent. We will be proactive in communicating to our parents and students. Upon the third day of not checking in, we will make contact and will utilize our attendance system so that students' parents will be contacted via voice messenger.

We are continuing to provide updates in preparing sites for reopening. We will have staff still reporting to sites and make sure that is done in a safe manner. In July and August, we will have Q and A sessions for families and staff and will continue to provide these bi-weekly. All communication for staff training went out today and will be continued through the duration of distance learning. In August we will start student device distribution.

Both independent study and the Independent Study Charter School are still options and open to families. Information can be found on our COVID information web page. We will stay in a distance learning model until the county guidance is changed. We are prepared and ready to implement a transition. Our charter school is a full year commitment for the 2020-21 school year. We will be sending out notices of acceptance and confirming with families to make sure they are continuing with that commitment. Independent study families would commit for a minimum of 1 semester regardless of moving in or out of the distance learning model. Distance learning will have a minimum of 120 minutes and we are working this out with our negotiation teams.

Our charter school would be online using Edgenuity. Independent study will be assigned work using TUSD curriculum and any special programs that students may be currently enrolled in. In the past, students would meet 1 hour a week. We will be able to offer more support to our students so it will be more than 1 hour. Contingency plans are also being made and we will follow the guidance of our state and county for reopening when we are able. There are also plans in place if a teachers, student or staff person becomes ill or comes in contact with someone who has tested positive. The three indicators are symptoms, direct contact or indirect contact. Our schedule ensures that we will not be overlapping times. We will be distributing devices to the most vulnerable students first.

We have published a tech survey so that we know the needs of our families and will have devices and hot spots available for student use. We will also be training parents and staff. Tutorials will be live and recorded for them to view and will have ongoing support throughout the

year. We will be transitioning in and out of these models as guidelines require. We are prepared for all 3 scenarios and will make adjustments and transitions as needed. There will be a consistent schedule in place.

Hearing of Delegations

5. Tiffanie Heben: At a recent meeting of the Jefferson School Board, the superintendent and school board discussed how to structure a school day under distance learning. The proposed plan recommended that students attend school virtually (via computer) Monday through Friday on a set time schedule. It also recommended that more direct instruction be provided by classroom teachers and that there be teacher/peer engagement in a way that is equivalent to in-school instructional minutes. I am not sure that holding students to a set schedule every day of the week is reasonable given that many families have multiple children and/or may have work schedules that make assisting their children online difficult or impossible at times. However, I do believe that Tracy Unified must provide direct and substantial interaction between teachers and students and between students and their peers on a regular basis for social distance learning to be useful. The structure of distance learning must be vastly improved from what TUSD students received in the spring.

I look forward to hearing the plans for TUSD schools and how teachers will be connecting regularly with their students. My understanding is that TUSD is required by the CDE to hold two public meetings where the district will present its plan to meet the requirements of the newly-revised Learning Continuity and Accountability Plan, which was designed to “ensure pupils have access to a full curriculum of substantially similar quality regardless of the method of delivery.” It will include descriptions of the following:

How connectivity and a computing device will be provided to all students.

How staff will receive training, resources and technical support

What extra academic support will be provided for those who have had the most difficulty adjusting to distance learning, including English learners, special education and homeless students.

Sharon Jackson: I have watched the board meetings, the informational meetings for parents, and staff, all held with the majority of the panel virtually participating from separate homes. I would hope this is to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We are in Stage 2 of opening up the state, per <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap> reads “offices may open when telework is not possible”. I implore the Board to follow the state opening, and offer the same safety to teachers and allow them to telework. This would allow to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, (in the last 24 hours positive COVID cases rose by 478, and 1 death in SJ County), emotional needs that can be met best with in person learning. Allowing us to work 1 day from home is a start, but I don’t believe thought has gone into what it takes to telework from home for a teacher. It would take me at the very least an hour to pack up what I would need, to work from home, then set up at home. I would need to be in my classroom on Thursday by 6:30, to reset up my classroom. My site is not open that early.

Michelle Kammen: I just wanted to know what my job as a security person will look like, with no students on campus?

Lydia Lloyd: Please clarify what the distance learning is going to entail. I have a 8th grader and an 11th grade student. It hasn't been clear what the learning process will be. One of my students has learning disabilities and this will be an important piece of information as we decide what will be best for their education. We do not support being in campus at this time. Using computers with cameras we would like to encourage zoom classes. What is the opinion on this?

Alina Chavez: I am Alina Chavez, the mother of an 11th grade child, a Junior, a crucial grade to apply to college. What I'm requesting is that teachers take their work seriously and strive for children to learn. During this contingency I wish that they can give their classes in the corresponding periods for high school and in real time in each of their classes so they use that specific time to give the lesson live, then to give homework and clarify the subject so that our children are not so much time in a computer. Thank you.

Action Items:

- 6.1 Administrative & Business Services:** None.
- 6.2 Educational Services:** None.
- 6.2.1** Approve Distance Learning Model for the Start of the 2020-2021 School Year
Action: Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-6; No-0; Absent-1(Costa)

Board Reports:

Trustee Abercrombie thanked Julie for an outstanding presentation. Trustee Alexander commented that during the pandemic a lot of jobs have been lost and hopes the security guards can get back soon. Trustee Silcox thanked Julie for all that she is doing and thanked the taskforce for reopening. Trustee Souza commented that Julie has done an outstanding job and answered a lot of questions. She looks forward to bi-weekly meetings. Trustee Kaur thanked Julie and appreciates all the work she and the taskforce are doing in this every changing situation. Trustee Pekari thanked all staff and Julie for moving from 100% returning to distance learning. He thanked parents and teachers for answering the surveys as the district receives information that is helpful.

Superintendent Report:

Dr. Stephens commented that Julie did a great job presenting our plan and thank our team and all of the teachers meeting and classified for getting our schools ready. This is an all-in by everyone in the district. These are unusual times and he is proud of all of the efforts by everyone. It is important that we get off to a good start this year and we are well on our way.

Adjourn: 8:09

Clerk

Date