

Hanford Elementary School District
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
November 2, 2020

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Hanford Elementary School District Board of Trustees on November 2, 2020 at the District Office Board Room, 714 N. White Street, Hanford, CA.

Call to Order President Strickland called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Trustee Garcia, Garner, Hernandez and Revious were present.

HESD Managers Present Joy C. Gabler, Superintendent, and the following administrators were present: Doug Carlton, David Endo, David Goldsmith, Jaime Martinez, Karen McConnell, Jill Rubalcava and Jay Strickland.

Public Comments

- First comment was sent via public website email – Janet Eckels stated “I was wanting to know with all the other schools and school districts returning to the classroom, when my 8th grader will be returning? I have a high schooler returning part time next week and want to see my junior high schooler do the same soon. Thank you.”
- Second comment was sent via public comment email – Rachel Capello (Jefferson Parent) stated “HESD Board, all students should have the option to return to in-person schooling, including 7th and 8th graders. Their education and mental health matters too. Students have been out of in person schooling since March 2020. In August 2020, a survey was given to parents to CHOOSE which is best for their student, online or in-person. Then, no choice was given, and students started the 2020-2021 school year all online. It has been horrible! The school district network doesn’t support online learning to the quality it should. We have had so many technical difficulties, on our third chrome book and not switching it out anymore. Classroom has been hacked. More social media bullying exists than ever before. My 8th grade daughter does okay socially dealing with things but I’m speaking up for all the students I know and see who are not okay. It’s very concerning. This is an age group dealing with a lot, trying to mature at home and transition for high school. It is very disappointing to learn of the plan on your agenda today which you most likely will pass. We have been patiently waiting and hoping to be in a safe tier to return to school, to find out everyone has a plan to return through Nov. 30 except 7th and 8th graders. This is NOT right, NOT acceptable. Why aren’t you offering a CHOICE like you were in August when you thought schools would be open? ALL students should have the RIGHT to return to school! You realize even the Hanford High School District is returning Nov.9 on a Cohort schedule? That’s ALL grades, ALL students. Why don’t you at least offer such an option for our 7th and 8th graders? Your plan officially makes 7th and 8th grade students the ONLY students in Hanford not allowed ANY in person schooling. You realize all these students will be sitting home ALONE while their siblings go to school and parents are working. Please fix your plan. Do the right thing for ALL Students! Thank you for your time.”

Trustee Revious said he had two calls las night regarding the same situation. They want 7th & 8th grades back to in-person instruction. He knows admin is doing the best they can.

Trustee Strickland stated they know its an issue, mainly its logistics not enough teachers and classrooms. We need to get them back in the classroom, but it is a real logistics problem.

Board and Staff Comments April Silva, HETA President, stated HETA appreciates the work they did with the District and collaborative plan that the District has, they feel this is the safest plan that ensures staff and student’s safety. HETA does plan to meet with the District to address 7th & 8th graders returning, they first wanted to make sure they got the little ones back first. April also added, they know and are aware there is going to be issues, but they are confident in the plan. She sees a lot of signs on her campus that state masks need to be worn and they should practice 6-ft social distancing. She wants to ensure that everyone in the District is practicing both. Also, teachers voted on the plan and 86% of teacher agree with the plan that is going to be presented today.

Trustee Strickland stated getting the 7th and 8th grades up and running is our priority and we are working on it. But safety comes first.

BOARD POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION

Resolution #14-a) 21 Joy Gabler, Superintendent, shared a power point presentation highlighting the HESD instructional choice survey for parents. 5,650 responses were received out of 5,671. 70% of parents chose in-person instruction and 30% to remain in distance learning. They are recommending a phase-in reopening approach to allow younger kids to come on first:

- Monday, November 9th: Grades TK, K & 1st and a program of specific group of students at JFK and WW
- Monday, November 16th: Grades 2nd & 3rd
- Monday, November 30th: Grades 4th, 5th, & 6th
- Grades 7th & 8th: they will continue to work on a plan to bring these students back

Joy also reviewed the instructional day schedule. Trustee Revious asked what the logistics are for 7th & 8th not returning to in-person instruction. Joy said it’s all based on the numbers of students requesting in-person and the number of teachers requesting distance teaching due to underling medical reasons. Trustee Garner asked if transportation will be available. Joy said yes, the transporation department is working on a route for parents that absolutely need it.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to adopt the #14-21: Declaring Schools Open for In-Person Instruction. Trustee Revious seconded; motion carried 5-0:

- Garcia – Yes
- Garner – Yes
- Hernandez – Yes
- Revious – Yes

Strickland – Yes

Adjournment There being no further business, President Strickland adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Gabler,
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:



Greg Strickland, President



Tim Revious, Clerk

