

**Minutes of  
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board  
For Tracy Unified School District  
Held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

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. The intent is not to limit public participation, but rather to protect public health by following the Governor's Stay at Home executive order. (Public Comments were available by online submission).

**6:15 PM:** 1-3. President Kaur called the meeting to order and adjourned to closed session.

**Roll Call:** 4. Board: S. Abercrombie, A. Alexander, A. Blanco, N. Erskine, Z. Hoffert, S. Kaur, L. Souza  
Staff: B. Stephens, R. Pecot, T. Jalique, J. Stocking, B. Etcheverry

**7:15 PM** 5. President Kaur called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Closed Session:**

**6a** Report Out of Action Taken on Approve Settlement Agreement for  
**3.2.1** Special Contract Services Contractors for Compensatory Education Services and Attorney Fees  
**Action:** **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

**6b** Report Out of Action Taken on Reinstatements: #20-21/#08  
**3.2.2**  
**Action:** **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

**6c** Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence  
**3.3.1** for Certificated Employee #UC-1224, Pursuant to Article XX  
**Action:** **Vote:** Approved. Yes-4(Alexander, Blanco, Erskine, Hoffert); No-3(Abercrombie, Kaur, Souza)

**6d** Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Paid and Non-Paid Leave of  
**3.3.2** Absence for Certificated Employee #UC-1225, Pursuant to Article XX  
**Action:** **Vote:** Approved. Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-1(Blanco)

**6e** Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence  
**3.3.3** for Classified Employee #UCL-355, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** **Vote:** Approved. Yes-7; No-0.

**6f** Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence  
**3.3.4** for Classified Employee #UCL-380, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** **Vote:** Denied. Yes-6; No-1(Hoffert)

**6g** Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Paid Leave of Absence for  
**3.3.5** Classified Employee #UCL-381, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** **Vote:** Approved. Yes-7; No-0.

**6h** Report Out of Action Taken on Release Probationary Classified  
**3.3.6** Employee #UCL-379 Food Service Worker

**Action:** **Vote:** Yes-6; No-1(Hoffert)  
**6i** Report Out of Action Taken on Terminate Employment of Classified  
**3.3.7** Employee #UCL-382, School Supervision Assistant, Pursuant to  
Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 4218  
**Action:** **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

**Minutes:** **7. Approve Regular Minutes of December 15, 2020.**  
**Action:** As amended. Erskine, Alexander. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

**Visitors:** None. Meeting was live streamed via Microsoft Teams.

**Student Rep Reports:** 8. None.

**Recognition & Presentations:** 9. None.

**Information & Discussion Items:** **10.1 Administrative & Business Services:** None.

**10.2 Educational Services:**

**10.2.1** Receive Report on San Joaquin County COVID19

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Julianna Stocking, reported that COVID cases as of yesterday were 212 new cases. Total deaths 724 with 53, 994 total cases. Tracy cases total 5,287 and Tracy deaths are a total of 45. These are increasing as testing has been more accessible. She reviewed the process of vaccines and phased implementation of allocating them. We are in phase 1, tier 1. Our information has been given to our county so that vaccines can be ready for us to take part .

**10.2.2** Receive Report on Cyber Security

Tom Quiambao, Director of Technology presented a power point on cyber security. Our firewall is a network security device. Cyber security refers to the process or preventive techniques used to protect the network. He reviewed a diagram of our firewalls. The Firewall determines what is good. When information is rejected, the process will state this is bad and block or reject it. It will detonate the malicious traffic and will tell all users that this is not good. Cisco umbrella is our second line of defense. It learns, sees the traffic and blocks the threats. This is mostly used for our student devices because they are out of our network. On email, we have the email security gateway such as barracuda and Microsoft Office 365 in the cloud that also filters our emails. He also reviewed examples of phishing and spoof emails. He is most concerned about links that may be in these emails that can lead to ransomware. Several districts have been attacked and it will cause a lot of issues. We need to prevent this. Our staff portal has information for staff to read defining what this looks like and how to avoid it. When we get these emails, he notifies the staff and shows what it looks like and

the signs that shows you this is malicious. We have also added a banner saying this is not from TUSD.

### 10.2.3 Receive Report on STEM Implementation in TUSD

Director of IMC, Dr. Debra Schneider, presented a power point on STEM. TUSD received a \$4 million grant from Education Innovation and Research of the U.S. Department of Education. This grant was to focus on giving STEM to every student in TUSD. She showed pictures of students engaging in STEM experiences. All students will get a common set of STEM experiences from grades pre-k through high school. The grant has 3 primary drivers. We will develop STEM curricular units, provide field-based learning experiences and provides site with site specific support for teachers and administrators. She reviewed short term outcomes. All work is student center and inquiry based. The long-term outcome would be increased achievement in STEM as well as ELA and increased enrollment in upper level math and science courses in IB and AP classes, as well as more students completing their A through G requirements. She reviewed the implementation schedule. Some sites are implementing, and some are comparison sites. Each year sites are added. She explained additional funding opportunities and the status of each. She also shared many positive comments from students, parents and teachers. In every unit, students also learn outside in the natural world. All of this gets done by contributions from all of our departments, Educational Services, Business Services and Human Resources. Dr. Stephens thanked Dr. Schneider for doing a fabulous job. Our teachers have been amazing. He has been in so many classrooms and has learned STEM units. It is very powerful.

### Hearing of Delegations

11. The following comment was submitted online and read aloud during the meeting:

Gloria Rios: Superintendent Stephens and honorable Board Members, I would like to please ask that you not open up our schools prematurely even with the offer of extra funding from the Governor. I am concerned about the kindergarten classes who do not have individual seating they have tables which do not allow for ample distancing which means students are sitting side by side. Also they little students share the same toilet how is a teacher supposed to go in there after every use and disinfect. My daughter is a teacher who has spent her own money for supplies to make desk shields, bags, extra face masks, air filter for her class, etc. She has a daughter at home who has a compromised health condition in which we are very concerned.

### Public Hearing:

12.1 **Administrative & Business Services:** None.

### Consent Items:

13. **Board approval of any agenda item requiring insurance is conditioned upon acceptance of appropriate insurance accepted by Tracy Unified.**

**Action:** Blanco, Erskine. Approve Items 13.1.1 through 13.1.4.

**Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

**Action:** Erskine, Alexander. Approve Items 13.2.1 through 13.2.2.

**Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

**Action:** Erskine, Abercrombie. Approve Items 13.3.1, 13.3.2, 13.3.3, and pull Item 13.3.4.

**Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

**Action:** Erskine, Alexander. Approve Item 13.3.5.

**Vote:** Yes-6; No-1(Hoffert)

**13.1 Administrative & Business Services:**

**13.1.1** Approve Accounts Payable Warrants (November, 2020)  
(Separate Cover Item)

**13.1.2** Accept the Generous Donations from the Various Individuals, Businesses, and School Site Parent Teacher Associations Listed Herein with Thanks and Appreciation from the Staff and Students of the Tracy Unified School District

**13.1.3** Approve Payroll Reports (November, 2020)

**13.1.4** Approve Revolving Cash Fund Reports (November, 2020)

**13.2 Educational Services:**

**13.2.1** Approve Agreement for Contract Services between Health Connected and Tracy Unified School District for the 2020-2021 School Year

**13.2.2** Approve Revised School Site Plan and Budget for South/West Park School for the Remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year  
(Separate Cover Item)

**13.3 Human Resources:**

**13.3.1** Accept the Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence for Certificated, Classified and/or Management Employees

**13.3.2** Approve Classified, Certificated and/or Management Employment

**13.3.3** Approve Declaration for a Provisional Internship Permit

**13.3.4** PULLED: Approve a Variable Term Waiver for Speech Language Pathologist

**13.3.5** Approve Speech-Language Pathology Unpaid Intern Agreement with CSU East Bay

**Action Items:**

**14.1 Administrative & Business Services:** None.

**Board Reports:**

Trustee Alexander commented that with what happened at the Capitol last week, everyone should be mindful and hopes that the district and all staff stay safe during the inauguration. This year, since we are not having the MLK Breakfast, he wanted to announce that Rhodesia Ransom was awarded the MLK Image Award. Trustee Blanco thanked everyone for the information provided. She thanked students who are agile during these uncertain times with various issues. They are doing a phenomenal job in their educational learning. She also thanked the students and teachers for learning a new way of teaching. Trustee Erskine agrees with Trustee Blanco and gave a “shout out” to the student that sent us a strong purposeful email to our board. He spoke profoundly and represented himself and other students. In spite of transitions, TUSD teachers, administrators and students have done exceedingly great in overcoming obstacles. This demonstrates collaboration and the ability to do what is best for our students in providing the best quality education. She thanked teachers for being flexible and supporting and

classified who have been a supportive anchor as well as administrative staff for acknowledging the work of the team. Trustee Hoffert commented that over the past few days he had the pleasure of visiting classes at TYAP, Kimball, Williams and Hirsch. These have been very insightful. He enjoyed seeing first-hand how our teachers are navigating. He saw a kindergarten class who were working on identifying shapes. The teacher would ask for them to go and find a shape which was a hands-on approached. One of the most common concerns were about what will happen next. We can never predict what will happen, but he believes committee meetings need to be open to public. He also thinks it is important to talk about our students' mental health and to look at the data. We can help these students in the long term. Trustee Souza thought it was a great meeting tonight. She has been working with Dr. Pecot, Mr. Doyle and Mayor Nancy Young. On MLK Day they will be presenting a video called *Courage* and will have a round table talk with educational leaders to talk about the impacts of MLK. They hope to do more of these each month to get kids involved in complicated conversations. She will have flyers out tomorrow. She concurs with Zach about mental health. She works one-on-one with kids in foster care and they are suffering. She hopes we can open when it is safe to do so. Information is ever changing but she wants to be sure we are aligned with what Dr. Park is telling us to do. Trustee Abercrombie thanked all staff for all of their diligence and providing all of the information. He also echo's a lot of what has been said. We have phenomenal teachers. He appreciates the parents and students making the efforts that they have and thanked the administration for their support. As a board, we need to come together and focus on providing administrators and teachers with tools to assist our students. He hopes that everyone is on the same page. Trustee Kaur reiterates everything said. She knows that technology can be difficult as she has had a hard time logging into board meetings herself. She thanked Tom Quiambao who is helping everyone. She and the other trustees are here for the students and for their mental health. She thanked the administration during these difficult times.

**Superintendent  
Report:**

Dr. Stephens commented that there are a lot of good words about work of staff, teachers and students. The first semester is behind us. He never imaged that the entire semester would be through distance learning. With everyone working together we have had an amazing semester. He is hoping that during the second semester, we will be able to get back on campus. He thanked everyone for their efforts.

**Adjourn:** 8:29 p.m.

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Clerk

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Date