

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board
For Tracy Unified School District
Held on Tuesday, January 26, 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).

- 5:30 PM:** **1-3.** Vice-President Abercrombie 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 (present online, vice-president Abercrombie lead the meeting), L. Souza
Staff: B. Stephens, R. Pecot, T. Jalique, J. Stocking, B. Etcheverry
- 7:03 PM** **5.** Vice President Abercrombie called the Tracy Unified School District Board of Education to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Closed Session:**
- 6a** Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence for Certificated Employee #UC-
3.3.1 1226, Pursuant to Article XX
Action: Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.
- 6b** Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-
3.3.2 383, Pursuant to Article XXIII
Action: Denied. **Vote:** Yes-4; No-3(Blanco, Erskine, Hoffert)
- 6c** Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-
3.3.3 384, Pursuant to Article XXIII
Action: Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.
- 6d** Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-
3.3.4 385, Pursuant to Article XXIII
Action: Denied. **Vote:** Yes-4; No-3(Blanco, Erskine, Hoffert)
- 6e** Consider Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-386,
3.3.5 Pursuant to Article XXIII
Action: Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.
- 6f** Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-
3.3.6 387, Pursuant to Article XXIII
Action: Denied. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-2(Blanco, Hoffert)
- 6g** Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-
3.3.7 388, Pursuant to Article XXIII 8.5.19
Action: Denied. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-2(Blanco, Hoffert)
- 6h** Consider Paid Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-389,
3.3.8 Pursuant to Article XXIII
Action: Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

6i Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence for Classified Employee #UCL-3.3.9 Pursuant to Article XXIII
Action: Denied. **Vote:** Yes-4; No-3(Blanco, Erskine, Hoffert)

Minutes:

7. Approve Regular Minutes of January 12, 2021

Action: Erskine, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

Visitors:

None. Meeting was live streamed via Microsoft Teams.

Student Rep Reports:

8. Students Prepared Video Presentations:

Tracy High: Sophia Alejandre wished everyone a Happy new year. Everyone is excited to welcome in the new year. Students studied hard in December for finals. To thank their teachers, the leadership class sent holiday cards to them and the mascot uploaded an appreciation video on his You Tube channel. New changes with the new year include classes ending at 12:50pm. Last week Ms. Herman set up a panel of teachers and students to discuss issues with Distance Learning. Their teachers are awesome. Students felt they could express themselves. Students needs to make sure they keep their cameras turned on. The seniors are the first class to virtually present their senior projects. Everyone is eager for life to return to normal.

West High: Kaitlyn Durant and Gianna Uribe commented that in their last update they reported that they were having a canned food drive. They collected 1800 pounds of donated food. Before winter break, they held a winter coat drive and donated them to the McHenry House. To thank all of their teachers, they were given a goodie bag to show appreciation. The senior hall of fame nominations were held and winners were announced. This semester they have a whole new schedule and have class with all of their teachers every day, with an earlier start time and later end time. They were able to chat with their counselor and get classes picked out for the upcoming year. Some students and teachers have seen each other quickly while stopping by to pick up supplies for art class. Teachers are being pro-active and trying to safety get students met up. They showed a clip of teacher, Ms. Shade, taking about a cohort of students working in a small group while socially distancing in the empty quad. Representatives from the E-Sports Club spoke about their teams that are in the finals and playing for the championship. They congratulated students for being the top teams out of 54 in the country. Student in first place receive \$1,000 scholarship and students in second place receive a \$500 scholarship. They congratulated the students

Kimball High: Julian Steffens commented that before finals week students had a stress-free week to help students relax. They held small events every day to have students relax and take a break. They also had media posts about self-care. They had a movie night and made ornaments for the residents at Astoria Gardens. Next week will be Game Show Week and will end with a trivia night where students can answer questions from several different categories. Students are excited about these events.

Alternative Ed Campus: Aime Valencia Munoz is a Junior at Stein High on the Alternative Education Campus. Students have transitioned to a hybrid bell

schedule and completed a semester of Distance Learning. Teachers have encouraged and shown appreciation to students during this pandemic. Teachers have given student awards for various things, such as most participate, perfect attendance, and academics. Principal, Ms. Mitchel, announced the awards via video. Teachers work hard to provide assignments and curriculum to learn content and catch up on credits so that students can graduate on time. Science students use Edgenuity daily in addition to regular class assignments on various topics. On MLK Day students were asked to imagine what his message would be today. Edgenuity has an additional class called Strategies for Academic Success which teaches skills students can use beyond high school. Every student is required to have a college or career portfolio. Each student builds a website with this information and shares it with a counselor and then present it to a board of teachers. The yearbook will look different this year. Staff is looking for pictures from students to share. Before break, students were able to make ornaments out of clay. Mental Health is important, and many students are struggling. Their counselor and principal gave students counseling information in the event they need to talk to someone. The Tracy Young Adult Program, in person instruction, will reconvene on January 25, 2021.

Recognition & Presentations:

9.1 Jacobson Elementary School Presentation

Jacobson Principal, Derek Sprecksel, submitted a video presentation He showed the SDC team, Ms. Caffese, Ms. Jacinto and Ms. Ortega, whose goals are to have students succeed. They support each other and share ideas, as they each have different strengths. They also collaborate with the general ed teachers to try and mainstream their students. The video then showed 5th grader, Kalani Kabir, who has been at Jacobson since Kindergarten. He was being interviewed and talked about what he did in each class and what he learned. He feels ready for 6th grade.

9.2 Monte Vista Middle School Presentation

Monte Vista Principal, Barbara Silver, presented a power point on Distance Learning technology. She showed pictures of the school prior to the pandemic with classrooms full and various groups at the school. Now rooms are empty. Teachers faced a steep learning curve for Distance Learning. This presentation is about how we have used and learned technology to ensure equal access in the curriculum. She is bringing the school to you. Currently there are 822 enrolled with 35% being English Language Learners and 20% being special education students. Counselors have played a vital role in creating a master schedule for distance learning. Mr. Espino has collected all Microsoft Teams codes so that they can be enrolled and ready to go. This has helped streamline the process. She showed the interactive page of Ms. Hoffman which contains many links which are connected to get appropriate help needed or make an appointment. She showed an example of a teacher using 3 screens to see students, present a lesson, and using a spinner for questions. There is a virtual classroom with links and shortcuts for students to get to what they need. One of the favorite applications is Padlet. This increase student participation and engagement. Students can see who is participating and see all of the other students questions and thoughts. She also reviewed other platforms and applications such as Digits, Nearpod, Virtual Whiteboards, CNN10, Flipgrid and Kahoot. She also showed a kick boxing class for PE.

It is imported to recognize our scholars who are working very hard with awards. The Tracy Press took pictures. This year they added the award “Digital Citizen”. Students participated in a drive by award ceremony with admin and teachers cheering them on.

**Information &
Discussion Items:**

10.1 Administrative & Business Services: None.

10.2 Educational Services:

10.2.1 Receive Report on San Joaquin County COVID19

Julianna Stocking, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, reported that we are still in the purple tier with 293 new cases as of January 26. There have been a total of 60,545 cases in our county and we have a positivity rate of currently 63.7. We need to be at 25 per 100,000 to be able to reopen. These numbers are in a window of 2 weeks and then they go back and update numbers. She reviewed the vaccine allocation process. It is varying county to county. Some schools and districts in other counties have already began to give the vaccine to educators. Each county has a different rollout. We are providing information to our county so that when the vaccine is ready for us they will have our numbers.

10.2.2 Receive Report on Distance Learning Impacts on Student Achievement

Julianna Stocking, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, presented a power point that showed attendance data, teacher & learning resources, student engagement trends, failure rates and next steps. The attendance rates are very similar this year to 2019-2020. Prior to COVID, students and teachers had materials such as textbooks, workbooks, posters, and libraries, gyms, labs, etc. In this school year, we have laptops, notebooks, online assessments and resources, virtual platform, and learning from their family home and technology apps. Student centered engagement included development positive relationships, student centered learning, marking up text, clubs, sports and programs. With Distance Learning, not all students are logging on or not participating, some cameras are off, less questioning and interaction, digital notebooks, sports have been paused and clubs and programs restricted. She reviewed the failure rate data for high school and middle school. The number of Fs has often doubled in looking at English, Math, Science and Foreign Language. Our sites have had a practice of looking at running grade reports and having conversations with teachers and students to try to understand what the challenges are. When looking at data we need to talk about the “why”. It’s important when looking at grades we need to see the trends that we are seeing across the board. We also need to look at instructional strategies to see what is best for the students and increase communication with students and families. West High is looking at hosting small learning pods. Tracy High facilitated a peer to peer mentoring panel. As a district we need to allocate the necessary resources to credit recovery programs, summer intervention programs, consider reducing number of credits to graduation in 2021 and student support interventions.

10.2.3 Receive Report on Mental Health Services

Dr. Deidre Hill, Coordinator of Prevention Services, presented a power point which reviewed mental health services and referral processes and the need for continued work. She showed a video clip about the definition of Social Emotional Learning. She then reviewed the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for Academics and Behavior, including the MTMDSS Model which address the needs of all students in academic, college and career and social/emotional. She reviewed the referral process where referral would first start with either the student parent, teacher, counselor or admin. Students 12 years or older can consent for their own counseling. She then showed the amount of student referrals and school sites for Axis Community Health, Community Medical Center, and Valley Community Counseling which are for individual counseling. She also provided referral process and numbers with Crossroads (individual substance use and anger management counseling). For small group counseling she reviewed the data for Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) which is suicide prevention and awareness' Sow A Seed which is group anger management and Point Break's substance abuse counseling. Continued work includes outreaching via mass emails, text messages, posting on social media and websites, etc. Sites continue to have student videos, parent trainings, liaisons outreaching to families and sharing resources during home visit. There is a questionnaire for families with housing insecurity to complete so that we can best meet their needs. Commercial slides for each site have been created to post on websites, social media and posted at the beginning of classes if needed. Next steps include collecting and reviewing data to identify students with critical needs; ensure that therapists continue to transition to in person one-to-one and small group counseling; and communicate to increase advocacy and awareness.

Hearing of Delegations

11. The following comment was submitted online, read aloud, and copy and pasted into these minutes:

Jacqui Nott: My name is Jacqui Nott and I am President of Tracy Educators Association (TEA). As I am sure you are well aware, Governor Newsom has proposed a grant program to incentivize the reopening of schools. A key requirement of this program is that districts must have a negotiated MOU that has been ratified by the certificated and classified bargaining units. TEA has conducted a survey of our members regarding feelings of safety with respect to in-person instruction and sentiment toward the Governor's program. I submit this public comment to you now to share the following survey results.

* 90% said they are concerned for their safety if made to return to in-person instruction while in WIDESPREAD purple tier.

* 96% did not choose WIDESPREAD purple tier as safe for them even when combined with other safety protocols such as social distancing, mask wearing, and vaccination.

* 86% do not agree with Governor Newsom's plan to reopen.

TEA will not agree to any reopening plan while our county is in the WIDESPREAD purple tier. This means our new cases per 100,000 must be below 7. Currently, our county metrics show 63.7 new COVID cases per 100,000. Teachers desperately want their students back in classrooms with them but not until it is safe for ALL. Thank you.

- 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: Erskine, Alexander. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.
- 13.1 **Administrative & Business Services:**
- 13.1.1 Approve Accounts Payable Warrants (December, 2020)
(Separate Cover Item)
- 13.1.2 Ratify Measure B Related Expenditures and Notice of Completions Which Meet the Criteria for Placement on the Consent Agenda
- 13.1.3 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
- 13.1.4 Accept and Review the Status of School Connected Organization/Booster Club Applications Submitted for the 2020/21 School Year
- 13.1.5 Approve Payroll Reports (December, 2020)
- 13.1.6 Approve Revolving Cash Fund Reports (December, 2020)
- 13.2 **Educational Services:**
- 13.2.1 Approve Agreement for Contract Services with Core Collaborative to Provide Math Training for the 2020-2021 School Year
- 13.2.2 Approve Increase to Existing Master Contract with Nonpublic Agency-360 Degree Customer, Inc.
- 13.2.3 Receive Update on Quarterly Williams Uniform Complaint Report for the Quarter ending January 15, 2021
- 13.2.4 Approve Master Contract (MC) for Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School Services with Haynes Family of Programs Inc-S.T.A.R. Academy
(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 Administrative Fieldwork Agreement with Concordia University
- Action Items:** 14.1 **Administrative & Business Services:**
- 14.1.1 Approve Resolution No. 20-10 Support of Applications for Eligibility Determination and Funding in the School Facility Program When Bond

Authority is Exhausted

Action: Erskine, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

14.2 Educational Services: None.

14.3 Human Resources:

14.3.1 Approve Tentative Agreements with the Tracy Educators Association

Action: Souza, Alexander. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

Board Reports:

Trustee Alexander would like more information on employees to make more informed decision. He would like to see a comparison of what other districts are paying for their legal fees. Trustee Blanco enjoyed the student presentations and school sites. She would also like to look at legal fees on a yearly basis and request to compare to other districts. Trustee Hoffert thanked everyone for the presentations on the impacts of distance learning and mental health. He commented on the police blog in the Tracy Press about a West High hacked account. It frustrated him as it was near the time of a cyber security presentation and he was unaware of it. He thinks that it was not being transparent. He also wanted to acknowledge that tomorrow is the 76th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945. This happened during his grandparents’ lifetimes. Less than 100 years ago a group of people inflicted unspeakable suffering should not be ignored. He wonders what if more people asked questions and voiced concerns if there would be different results. Trustee Erskine thought the presentations were meaningful and engaging. She would like to see our legal fees reduced. She also feels that it is important to continue to provide as much information as we can in the areas of HR decisions. She wants to change things to improve. Trustee Souza thanked Jacobson, Monte Vista and the high school students for their reports. She also thanked Julie, Deidre and Mary for the Distance Learning and Mental Health reports. We are often offered trainings and attended one on the Brown Act by CSBA. It is good for board members to attend these trainings. She thanked the people involved in the MLK event. It was a great panel discussion and looks forward to doing more with students. She feels we should always keep our students in mind and that should be our main goal. Trustee Kaur thanked everyone for the reports, they are appreciated. Trustee Abercrombie passed.

Superintendent Report:

Dr. Stephens thought the reports were outstanding and had great information. He always enjoys the school and student reports. He wanted to address the comments made by Trustee Hoffert implying that Mr. Quiambao was not being transparent in his cyber security report was incorrect. It was not a cyber security issue. It was an issue where an employee did not set up the Teams meeting correctly. Mr. Quiambao’s character is without question and he was not being deceptive. I’m sorry that was raised because it was not an accurate reflection of what occurred.

Adjourn: 9:32 p.m.

Clerk

Date