

**Minutes of  
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board  
For Tracy Unified School District  
Held on Tuesday, February 9, 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. 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

**7:00 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 Reinstatements: AR#20-21/#09  
3.2.1  
**Action:** **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.  
6b Report Out of Action Taken on Early Graduation: WHS#10353194  
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 Classified Employee #UCL-391, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.  
6d Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Paid Leave of Absence for  
3.3.2 Classified Employee #UCL-392, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.  
6e Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence  
3.3.3 for Classified Employee #UCL-393, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.  
6f Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Non-Paid Leave of Absence  
3.3.4 for Classified Employee #UCL-394, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** Approved. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.  
6g Report Out of Action Taken on Consider Paid Leave of Absence for  
3.3.5 Classified Employee #UCL-395, Pursuant to Article XXIII  
**Action:** Denied. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-2 (Alexander, Hoffert)

**Minutes:** 7. Approve Regular Minutes of January 26, 2021  
**Action:** Erskine, Blanco. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

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

**Student Rep  
Reports:**

8. None.

**Recognition &  
Presentations:**

9.1 Recognize the Outstanding Employees of the Fall Term for the 2020-2021 School Year

Board members read a summary of each of the employees of the term and certificates were mailed to them. They are Ana De La Mora (9-12), Gurleen Kaur (6-8) and Janet Parks (K-5) as Outstanding Certificated Employees; Lidia Chase (9-12) and Elizabeth Cull (6-8) and Ashley Fisher (K-5) as Outstanding Classified Employees and Michael Stagnaro as the Outstanding Management Employee for the Fall Term of the 2020-2021 school year.

9.2 Art Freiler School Presentation

A video was presented by Art Freiler School. Narrated by Principal, Stephen Theall, it showed teachers in their classrooms during distance learning. Several teachers spoke about their challenges while distance learning teaching during COVID. They have worked to make their classrooms interesting, using technology, they have you tube lessons, and problem solution charts. There are also homework help sessions. Students have excelled in their communication skills, use of technology and problem solving. Students are becoming more responsible and are advocates for themselves.

9.3 Tracy Adult School Presentation

A video was presented by Tracy Adult School. Narrated by Director of Adult Education and CTE, Sam Strube. Current there are 1074 students enrolled and they are in a Distance Learning model. This program is designed and funded by the State of California. They offer classes in the daytime and evenings. They teach English, classes to become U.S. citizens and courses to help adults earn their high school diploma. Last year they had over 40 graduates. Classes also prepare many students to transfer to Delta College. They also offer a credit recovery program for our high school students and a summer program each year. He then showed a video of some of the students speaking about their experiences. Many expressed that they wanted to learn English to get a better job and to help their own children with their homework.

**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, presented a power point on the current COVID numbers. Our county is at 33.1 cases per 100,000. We are still in the purple tier and there are 53 counties remaining in the purple tier, 2 counties in red and 3 counties in orange. Our county currently has an average of 29.8 cases per 100,000. As of February 8<sup>th</sup> there were 146 new cases in San Joaquin county and a current total of 6,464 cases in Tracy. We are still in the purple and

will continue to keep you updated.

### **10.2.2** Receive Update on Reopening Plan Guidelines

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Julianna Stocking and Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Tammy Jalique, presented a power point on the COVID safety plan update. They reviewed the background, current reopening guidelines and the reopening recommendations by Dr. Stephens. Ms. Stocking went over the history from March, of 2020, to December, 2020. All of the county superintendents made a collective decision to close all schools on March 13, 2020. On April 6, 2020, through May 22, 2020, we began Distance Learning through packets, zoom and Teams meetings. We had announced that we would be closed for in person instruction through the remainder of the school year. Grades could not be negatively impacted during this time. In the spring of 2020, we developed district blended learning guidelines with our teacher union and consult groups, in anticipation of an August, 2020, reopening. During September of 2020, a plan was developed and negotiated to return cohorts of Special Education students and approved a waiver to allow for reopening of grades preschool to 5<sup>th</sup>. In October of 2020, a special board meeting was held to review the waiver. The board voted to remain in distance learning through the first semester. On October 12 all site safety plans were posted to the school district website. In anticipation to returning January 4<sup>th</sup>, we did a lot of positive collaborative work with our union and consult groups. We have been able to bring small targeted cohorts of Special Education classes, West High SH and our TYAP students back on November 9<sup>th</sup>. They returned on January 25<sup>th</sup> after break to allow for a window of time for anyone that may have traveled during break. Stakeholder engagement was reviewed. This included consult teams, MOUs with our unions, surveys, parent and staff informational meetings, board presentations and community partner meetings.

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Tammy Jalique, then reviewed the current guidance that was released from the CDPH on January 14, 2021. There were 2 key components. The Cal/OSHA Prevention Program. This has been completed with input from both of our bargaining units. It also contained the COVID-19 guidance checklist. This addressed many of the same areas as the prior waiver process with some modifications and requirements based on tier status. Some of the areas that have changed are face coverings, which are not required above age 2. Also, now they recommended 6 feet physical distancing, but nothing less than 4 feet between student chairs. She also addressed why some schools have opened while TUSD has not. Schools that were previously open, were allowed to continue operating in person instruction. Although TUSD had small cohorts attending, we were not defined as being open and therefore must complete a COVID safety plan in accordance with tier requirements in order to reopen for in person instruction. She then reviewed and explained each colored tier and the definition for each. In order to open K-6 we would need to fall

less than 25 cases per 100,000. In order to open K-12, we would need to fall less than 7 cases per 100,000. We have been working with the bargaining units, community partners, principals and students. She also reviewed grant funding considerations. As of today, there has been no legislative action to approve this. If we do get this funding, we would have to test staff and students every 2 weeks while in the purple or red tier. The next steps will be to submit the required documentation to reopen K-6 once we are at the less than 25 per 100,000 case rate. This option requires review and approval of the CSP by the Public Health, County Office of Education and the State School Safety Team. We must also consult with our bargaining units. If funding was made available, an MOU would be required from our unions. TEA does not support an MOU which allows reopening in purple tier status. The other option would be to reopen schools when we are in the red tier OR when employees have had the opportunity to receive a first dose of the COVID vaccine. There is no specific timeframe for administration of vaccines. Again, if grant funding were available, an MOU would be required with our unions. The county office is currently working on a plan once vaccines become available. Another consideration is that if the district cannot announce a return on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> to return by or before April 12<sup>th</sup>, then we would remain in Distance Learning for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Stephens commented that this was a very thorough presentation. He recognized the efforts of certificate, classified, students and parents for helping us through this difficult time of distance learning. They have really stepped up to the plate. He appreciates their efforts. Today, we learned that the governor will be releasing a new plan for the reopening of schools. Tonight, we are not requesting an action, but we can put it on for a vote at the next meeting. We thought we would have vaccines during the middle of the month. They have not come in as planned.

President Kaur requested that we bring this matter back at the next board meeting as an action item.

## Hearing of Delegations

### 11.

Carrie Grover: I am writing to ask you to please stick to the vote that took place in November and commit to opening TUSD as soon as we are in red. I understand that back in November there was not a good option for parents who did not want to send their children back to school. But TUSD put together a great plan so that keeping kids home is totally doable now. So please let those of us who would like to send our kids back do so and do not make the decision for us. Let those who do not want to go back stay home. This is a reasonable and doable plan given that many cities in our county are open and doing fine. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Brandi Hoffert: The presentation on Mental Health seemed to lack a lot of information. How about telling parents what services are provided at each tier? How they go about getting those services. Most parents would not understand the tier's that were explained. If your a parent who has a child on an IEP you may

understand the tiers but even then it is not explained well. When you come to the meeting come with more information so parents can understand what kind of service they can expect to get at each level. Mental Health is super important. Make you you make sure all information is clear across the board!!!!!!!!!!!! HELP EDUCATE PARENTS TEACHERS BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF ON MENTAL HEALTH!!!!!!!!!!!!

Michael Robertson: I am commenting for two reasons. First, the public meeting for special education was not a public meeting as it required a Teams account to access and even calling it I couldn't log in to the meeting. This is unacceptable. Second, I am concerned about the fact that Trustees Hoffert and Blanco were seen on camera texting at the end of the last Board meeting. If they have something to say to each other during a meeting they need to say it publicly. Trustee Hoffert also hasn't disclosed that he is the sibling of a special education student within the district yet he sits on the special education committee and has voted on things that impact that department without disclosing the conflict of interest or excusing himself from voting.

Becky Andrus: Please, please, please open the schools. You have the power to open TUSD. Several schools IN TRACY and in our county have been successfully teaching in person. Our children have learned to be resilient, flexible, and adaptable. It's time to get them back in school. Our kids are suffering from sliding grades and sliding emotional health. Depression among the kids I see and know is shocking- kids are angry because they were once successful students and are now failing. Kids are now listless and spend hours online in zoom, hours online doing homework and now hours online trying to connect with friends. The risk for children contracting Covid is minimal. It's time we put the kids FIRST!! Teachers ARE ESSENTIAL workers!! How many of you are actually in the trenches- a house with school-aged TUSD students? How many of you are now the tutor, teacher, counselor, parent, mental health advisor- all while working full time (from home) to support your family? Think of the kids and families in OUR DISTRICT!! If you aren't with us in the trenches, you shouldn't be deciding for our children. I urge you to send your mental health surveys to the students parents and see what WE have to say about what we see in our kids. I urge you to follow other schools now in session that are making in-person school work. It can be done. What is your excuse for keeping the schools closed and stringing out the mental and emotional damage being done to these kids? OPEN THE SCHOOLS!

**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:** All consents except #13.2.1.

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

**Action:** On Item 13.2.1

Erskine, Abercrombie. **Vote:** Yes -6; No-1(Hoffert)

**13.1 Administrative & Business Services:**

**13.1.1** 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

**13.2 Educational Services:**

**13.2.1** Approve Agreement for Special Contract Services with Sow A Seed Community Foundation to provide Group Counseling for Art Freiler School

**13.2.2** Approve Agreement for Contract Services for STEM Professional Development between McKinley Elementary and San Joaquin County Office of Education for McKinley Teachers

**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

**Action Items:**

**14.1 Administrative & Business Services:**

**14.1.1** Cast Ballot for CSBA 2021 Delegate Assembly Election

**Action:** Motion Failed: Neely and Oase. Abercrombie, Souza.

**Vote:** Yes-3 (Abercrombie, Souza, Kaur); No-4(Blanco, Alexander, Hoffert, Erskine).

Motion Passed: Porter and Oase. Blanco, Erskine.

**Vote:** Yes-4(Hoffert, Alexander, Blanco, Erskine; No-3(Abercrombie, Souza, Kaur)

**14.2 Educational Services:** None.

**14.3 Human Resources:**

**14.3.1** Approve Job Description and Salary for Director of PreK-12 STEM Curriculum and Local Assessment

**Action:** This item was pulled. No vote taken.

**Board Reports:**

Trustee Alexander wished a Happy Valentine's Day for staff and board members. Trustee Blanco commented that this pandemic has taught us a lot. Students, staff, administrators and parents have demonstrated grit and resilience. There may be some learning loss, but she feels they have learned in the areas of technology, problem solving skills and citizenship. She applauds everyone for their work and diligence. Trustee Erskine thanked everyone for the public comments. She feels overall that we can look at the bright side and continue to engage meaningfully. She thanked TUSD unions and management who have contributed so greatly in keeping us going. She feels that at some point we will have a new platform of education. She expects to see new policies and improvement in our programs and services. She feels the board and district staff have done a great job. Trustee Hoffert visited Monte Vista last week. He saw three or four classes. He was impressed to see how the teachers used technology to engage their students. He thanked the teachers at Monte Vista for allowing him to visit. Trustee Souza thanked Art Freiler School and Tracy Adult School for their presentations. She also congratulated the employees of the term that were recognized. Our employees are working hard and deserve to be recognized. Trustee Abercrombie is hopeful that the director position for STEM will come back soon. During recent years he

has seen a deterioration on how we treat each other. Lack of character has become common place. Some feel it is their way of demonstrating leadership qualities. We do not always have to agree, but we should show respect as we serve our district. As this board moves forward, he hopes we do a better job of being true leaders. Trustee Kaur thanked everyone who presented. It profoundly impacts her to see how teachers and students are coping and it is reinforced when we see these videos. The presentations on COVID 19 were great tonight. Also, the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office has a youth leadership program and she encourages everyone to apply online. It is a great program for high school students.

**Superintendent  
Report:**

Dr. Stephens commented that over the last few weeks he has heard from a lot of parents of students who want their kids to return to school. Everyone wants to see kids back in class in a safe manner. We ask for everyone's patience. These are difficult times. As always, teachers and staff are really amazing.

**Adjourn: 8:51 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date