

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board
For Tracy Unified School District
Held on Tuesday, May 11, 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).

6:45 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

7:01 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 Consider Leave of Absence for Certificated Employee #UC-1264, Pursuant to Article XX
Action: **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

Minutes: 7. **Approve Regular Minutes of April 27, 2021.**
Action: Abercrombie, Erskine. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-1(Hoffert) Abstain-1(Blanco)

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

Student Rep Reports: 8. None.

Recognition & Presentations: 9.1 Central Elementary School Presentation
Principal, Nancy Link, presented a video on Central School. Showed pictures of the new campus. They stress literacy but will be talking about STEM tonight and some of the higher-level thinking in our teacher lessons. Wildcats are problem solvers. She showed pictures of students' design challenges such as leaves stuck in gutter and using a gutter sucker that can be attached to your vacuum to get them out. The next student's problem was that the mirror was too high for her to see. She made herself a cute model so that she can see what she looks like. She showed a 5th grade lesson on water filtration and the information from a science notebook. In STEM they have notebooks, reading and note taking. A student showed his video on a water filtration system. He was excited to make this system and enjoyed STEM. He demonstrated his project and the water came out clear.

9.2 Southwest Park Elementary School Presentation

Principal, Ramona Soto, and Assistant Principal, Juan Lopez, introduced their video presentation on Southwest Park Elementary School which highlighted their successes including STEM implementation. Videos and pictures showed a student testing their model house in the strong winds, the pancake challenge and a water filtration challenge. Pictures of their reopening of schools included temperature checks, social distancing and handwashing pictures. The school kept communications open with phone calls, letters, websites information and Facebook. Accomplishments included PIQUE, with 44 parents graduating, the police academy, parent café, and literacy nights. Throughout the year, they continued to build relationships with students, parents and staff.

Trustee Hoffert left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Trustee Hoffert returned to the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

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 showing that Californians are presently moving rapidly in a positive direction. In San Joaquin County, we have made a little more progress in this past week as people are vaccinating. We are still in the red at 7.2 per 100,000 and 2.8 for the positivity rate.

10.2.2 Receive Report on STEM Implementation in TUSD

Director of IMC, Dr. Debra Schneider, and Del Pabalan presented a power point about STEM and our community collaboration. In person learning has many students and we are still providing materials to those students who have continued on with distance learning. Each student gets their own materials, so they do not have to share. We are continuing our Pre K-5 implementation and getting ready for 6-12. The design team for 6-12 has been meeting and working on units. Everything is on target. Making community connections is important to students and we want people in STEM jobs to talk with our students. The community collaboration is made up of people from the Chamber of Commerce, City of Tracy, and various other STEM related fields. They meet once a quarter with the superintendent and herself and brainstorm ideas. It has been a struggle, but this year seems easier by having someone appear virtually to their class. The Kindergarteners and 1st graders are looking at animal habitats and their structure and function. We had our FFA students be the STEM professionals. This was done virtually. They are raising animals as a business. This brought students and teachers together and they explained their project to raise goats. Her goat happened to have kids that weekend. The students loved seeing the baby goat. One of our TOSA's, Ms. Del Pabalan, explained that for Grades 2 and 3, we have been offering educational technology workshops for teachers and parents. She realized there wasn't technology training for students. She asked Microsoft if they could put on workshops for TUSD and they say that they would. The first event

was computer science education week through Microsoft. This was exclusive for TUSD. We have offered STEAM activities of the month. She reached out to KCRA 3 and ABC 10 and Monica Woods replied and said she would present as well as Dirk Verdoorn. Students were able to ask questions in real time rather than have to type in questions. Other grades had projects such as constructing earthquake resistant homes, crashes and collisions, and entry level coding. We are piloting coding workshops for Microsoft, and we provide them with input to make the experience better.

10.2.3 Receive Report on Library and Student Books Fines for the 2020-21 School Year (Action Item 14.2.1)

Dr. Debra Schneider presented a power point. There are 2 implications for waiving fines and fees. Instructional materials are textbooks or class novels. There are also library materials which students can check-out for pleasure or learning. Both have same policies. If you lose it, you have to pay to replace it. If late, there is a \$5,00 fee no matter how late it is. The amount stays at \$5.00. There are replacement fines and late fines. Per Ed Code we are allowed to make these charges. We do not hold back transcripts or grades, but we will withhold the diploma. If a book is late, they are not charged the fee until the end of the school year and have until their senior year to pay for it. There is no interest and it never gets bigger. Last year due to the shutdown from March to June, trying to get books back in a safe way was difficult. There was approximately \$375,000 in books that were never returned. The district gave library techs extra hours, support staff, etc., to try and call and get those books back. If you pay a replacement cost it goes into the instructional materials bucket to buy new. If it goes into library fund, it stays at the site. We got it down to about \$30,000. She expects if we were to do this again and people hear they do not have to pay late fees we would be far over this amount and it is a concern. Some have already paid. From last spring there is about \$5,000 in fines. If someone has a financial issue, we work with them. They can make small payments, etc. We also can make a contract with the student and they can work off their fines in the library. She does not know of any other district that has waived fees. If we do not get books back, then access becomes a problem. The Williams Act requires that all students have access to the same book and if we don't have enough, we are in violation. We have to start placing orders to replace books because we need them in students' hands in August. That's a concern because the board approves that we are Williams Act compliant.

10.2.4 Receive Report on the 2020-21 Senior Graduation Ceremony Participation (Action Item 14.2.2)

Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Julianna Stocking, presented a power point on the impacts of allowing seniors to participate in graduation who are credit deficient. This year started with distance learning and then transitioned to in-person hybrid model. This has impacted students. Currently in order to participate in the ceremony

students would have had to complete 220 credit or 185 at our continuation high school. She reviewed numbers of at-risk students who will not receive a diploma and the number of seniors deficient 20 credits or less. They would still need to complete those credits to earn their diploma. This would be for the 2020-2021 senior class only.

Hearing of Delegations

11. The following comments were submitted online and read loud during the board meeting. They were copied in these minutes as submitted.

Gianna Uribe: 14.3.2 I just want to thank the board for picking a superintendent who cares about students. I have worked with Dr. Pecot and believe he truly cares about student needs. Gianna Uribe ASB President Merrill West.

Izaiah Quiruz. Hello and good evening members of the board, I just wanted to show my appreciation to the board for picking a superintendent that cares about students and their well-being. Dr. Pecot has done so much for our school and community.

Kim Hearn. In regards to item 14.2.1: I hope the board approves this motion to suspend late fees for books. It was unreasonable to expect students to repeatedly go back to a school during this pandemic to pick up and drop off books. If they couldn't, or wouldn't, take the risk of leaving their homes, their grades suffered. And for those that were able to pick up a book, but not return it in the districts time frame, they were punished with a fine. I do not believe this shows students you care. In the future, should this pandemic continue into the next school year, the curriculum needs to be checked so that students are not asked to return to school just to pick up books. Thank you

Public Hearing:

12.3 Human Resources:

12.3.1 Receive Public Comments Regarding Negotiations with the California School Employees Association (CSEA) and the Tracy Unified School District (TUSD)

The public hearing was opened at 8:07 pm.

No comments were received.

The public hearing was closed at 8:08 pm.

Consent Items:

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

Action: All items except for #13.3.1. Abercrombie, Souza.

Vote: Yes-7; No-0; Absent-

Action: On #13.3.1. Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

13.1 Administrative & Business Services:

13.1.1 Ratify Routine Agreements, Expenditures and Notice of Completions Which Meet the Criteria for Placement on the Consent Agenda

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 Accept and Review the Status of School Connected Organization/Booster Club Applications Submitted for the 2020/21 School Year

13.2 Educational Services:

13.2.1 Ratify Agreement for Special Contract Services with Sierra Vista Child & Family Services (Kirk Baucher) NPS for the 2020-2021 School Year (Separate Cover Item)

13.2.2 Approve Agreement for Contract Services for SJCOE STEM to provide FabLab Field Trips at South/West Park Elementary STEM Academy during Summer School 2021

13.2.3 Approve Agreement for Contract Services for SJCOE Language & Literacy to provide 2 days of K-5 EL Summer School Planning Time at South/West Park Elementary

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 the Hire of AVID College Tutors for the 2020-2021 School Year

Action Items:

14.1 Administrative & Business Services:

14.1.1 Authorize the Director of Transportation to Purchase Six (6) Twenty-Four Passenger Buses to Accommodate Additional Special Education Students

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

14.1.2 Adopt Resolution No. 20-19 Authorizing Temporary Loans Between Funds for the 2021/22 School Year

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

14.1.3 Receive Report on Actuarial Study of Post Employment Benefits in Support of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 75 (Separate Cover Item)

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

14.1.4 Approve the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Financial Audit (Separate Cover Item)

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

14.2 Educational Services:

14.2.1 Consider the Waiver of all Student Book Fines for the 2020-2021 School Year

Action: Waived late fees only for the 2020-21 school year. Hoffert, Blanco.

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

14.2.2 Consider to Allow Seniors that are within 20 Credits or Less of the TUSD High School Diploma Requirement to Participate in the 2021 Graduation Ceremony

Action: Blanco, Abercrombie. **Vote:** Yes-7; No-0.

14.3 Human Resources:

14.3.1 Adopt the District's Initial Bargaining Proposal for the California School Employees Association for the 2021-2022 School Year

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

14.3.2 Approve Superintendent's Contract

Action Abercrombie, Souza. **Vote:** Yes-5; No-2(Hoffert, Blanco)

Board Reports:

Trustee Souza thanked Central and Southwest Park for their presentations. She appreciates Dr. Schneider and what she has done with STEM. She also appreciates Dr. Pecot. She is very excited for him to lead our district. It has been a tough year and we have come a long way. She looks forward to Dr. Pecot leading our district. Trustee Hoffert thanked Dr. Schneider and Ms. Pabalan for their presentation and explaining about getting presenters for students to show various careers in STEM. He also would like students to be comfortable in bringing information to the board. Waiving library fees and allowing students to walk both are issues of compassion and recognizing struggles that our families have faced this past year. Trustee Blanco likes hearing from Dr. Schneider and appreciated Del's hard work and diligence. She formally apologized to the Tracy Social Justice group for her not attending the last board meeting to support them. She also commented on the issue of sexual assault and that per California law officers are to ask victims if they would like an advocate before starting an investigation. She thanked the students for coming to the previous board meeting with their requests and she didn't feel they received the response or sensitivity that they would like. Trustee Alexander congratulated Dr. Pecot on being the next superintendent for Tracy Unified. He thinks this was an excellent choice. He is also glad that the board approved the elimination of late fees for the 2020-21 year. He feels it shows they are concerned about our students. He's happy to allow students to walk during the graduation ceremony with their class. He believes that it will have a major impact on them. Trustee Erskine in light of juniors and seniors moving forward, she stated some opportunities that she sent to cabinet and hopes they were disseminated to our sites. The Trade Council is presenting a construction apprentice opportunity. Information is available at your school site. There will be a zoom meeting on May 27th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Another opportunity is the Microsoft Office Specialist Program. It provides student with handyman skills with credentials to help move them forward. Student leaders can apply for 2020-21 online academy for student learners. Delta college is providing \$2 million for 1000 internship initiatives with San Joaquin County providing another \$2 million. This will provide internships to help gain work skills. She congratulated all the work that everyone has done to bring us to this point. She congratulated Dr. Pecot for becoming superintendent of TUSD. She wants to ensure that our EL students get support they need. Our kindergarteners who are enrolled receive support and continue to improve district morale. She believes that he is aware and will address these issues. Trustee Abercrombie congratulated Dr. Pecot. He thinks he is an outstanding choice and wishes him the best of luck. Trustee Kaur thanked Dr. Schneider and all presenting tonight. It is great to see how we are making an impact on students. She is excited that our seniors will have a chance to walk. We realize that with the pandemic happening, it may be difficult for students to receive all of the credits that they need. She congratulated Dr. Pecot and believes this is one of the best decisions the board has made. During interview she thought about whether she would put her own son at a school where he was principal and she definitely would. She looks forward to him being the next superintendent and thanked Dr. Stephens for all of

his work.

**Superintendent
Report:**

Dr. Stephens commented that it is clear that we have made a commitment to STEM education. We have seen good work from our students. Dr. Schneider has taken the lead in this and we look forward to the positive impact on our students. He also congratulated Dr. Pecot on being named superintendent of the district starting in July of 2022. He has known him for a number of years, and he is a high-quality person who will do our district right. He looks forward to working with him over the next year.

Adjourn: 8:44

Clerk

Date