

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020, 6:30 P.M.
Oakdale Joint Unified School District
Technology & Staff Development Center
331 Hinkley Avenue, Oakdale, CA

ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO ESSENTIAL PARTICIPANTS WHICH INCLUDED BOARD AND CABINET MEMBERS

On March 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Order allows state bodies covered by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to hold public meetings covered by the Act via web and/or audio teleconferencing. As such, the July 27 OJUSD Special Board meeting was held as an audio/video teleconference with a live webcast :
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZdB-OF9xQSDVe3Csc84K0w>
The meeting held at the OJUSD Technology & Staff Development Center was closed to the public.

THIS MEETING WAS WEBCAST LIVE: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZdB-OF9xQSDVe3Csc84K0w>

PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE TAKEN VIA PHONE BY CALLING (209) 848-4205, Ext. 26
Members of the public were able to view the live-stream of the meeting and call in during public comments.

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| CALL TO ORDER | 1.1 | The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Board President Diane Gilbert. |
| TRUSTEES PRESENT | 1.2 | Larry Betschart, Diane Gilbert, Mike House, Tina Shatswell, and Barbara Shook |
| LATE ARRIVALS | 1.3 | None |
| TRUSTEES ABSENT | 1.4 | None |
| OTHERS PRESENT | 1.4 | Marc Malone, Dave Kline, Larry Mendonca, Kristi Rapinchuk, Kassandra Booth, Kevin Brown, Debbie Galvan-Benbow |
| PLEDGE | 1.5 | The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Diane Gilbert. |
| DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION ON OJUSD DISTANCE LEARNING PLATFORM | 2.0 | Superintendent Malone explained that the topic of tonight's meeting is Distance Learning and how we arrived at this point. He noted that there is a single source of information that directs the steps of the Oakdale Jt. Unified School District; the County Public Health Officer is the recognized, single authority in Stanislaus County on public health and infectious disease. On July 13, the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer determined that it is not safe to open our schools with in-person instruction. This was followed up by a similar determination from the Governor on July 17. With this knowledge, the OJUSD cannot put their students, staff, and community in harm's way. The unsafe for in-person instruction determination by our County Public Health Officer has directed us to Distance Learning. The County Public Health Officer will determine when we can transition out of Distance Learning. There has been mention of a waiver for elementary schools to start in-person instruction. This waiver must be approved by the County Public Health Officer who already has determined that live instruction is unsafe in our county. As of today, the County Public Health Officer said she would not entertain approval of a waiver for schools to start in-person instruction. In the coming weeks |

there may be some small schools that pursue a waiver due to their ability to provide all instruction outside, but the OJUSD does not fit that category. We will continue to stay in close contact with our County Public Health Officer and advocate for all students to return to classroom instruction as soon as it is determined safe.

Superintendent Malone explained that Assistant Superintendents and the Chief Business Officer will now address their respective plans for implementing the OJUSD Distance Learning Platform. He also noted the time and place on the agenda for public comments will be Item 5.0., and we will take public comments at that time.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Assistant Superintendent Kristi Rapinchuk explained that we cannot have students coming back to instruction in classrooms at this time and teachers have been and are being training in Distance Learning. She started her presentation with a video that will be posted on the school district's website tomorrow morning to introduce what Distance Learning will look like for all grade levels.

She demonstrated how students will log in to school on August 6 by logging in at the child's district Google account, go to the school's website, click on the Distance Learning icon, and click on Google classroom. They can log in from any device. They will then click on the "waffle" and go through the "front door" to the Google classroom. There will be a Distance Learning column where teachers will post curriculum they will be learning that week. Attendance can be entered in a simple one-step "click if you are here" form; teachers will remind kids to check in to attendance forms. If a child doesn't have an account, if they were enrolled last year accounts have not changed from last year; incoming students have not received their district account yet. We will be notifying students of what that is via card handed out during drive-thru pickup or letter that will be mailed out. If you have not received by July 31, please contact your child's school site. Parents may view their child's schedule by accessing their AERIES Parent Portal.

Included in her report was a schedule for all grade levels. Elementary students will receive three hours of learning from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. with a lunch break 11:00 a.m. to Noon, then Noon to 2 p.m. office hours with teachers and supportive instruction. Junior high students will have class periods from 8 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. with lunch from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. and students will then have access to teacher's office hours via Google classroom. High school students will function similarly, with class periods running from 7:40 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. with the same lunch and office hours schedule as their junior high counterparts.

Distance Learning classrooms open August 6 and she acknowledges significant support will be needed to make sure we are up and rolling and students are able to connect. New course graded content will initiate August 10. She noted this will be different than Distance Learning we finished the school year with last spring. Instructional methods will need to expand and improve. Any parent will be able to check in and see the content that will be delivered. This will foreshadow what we might do when we are finally allowed to bring kids back but not all at the same time, possibly with a Hybrid or split schedule with half the students coming back MW and half on TTH, with Friday being for intervention and assessment. The amount of training teachers will have received by August 6 will enable

them to teach from their Google classroom very professionally. We spent last week training teacher leaders who will be training their staff August 4th. Teachers in Oakdale care about their kids and will step up to the mark to keep instructing going.

Families will be receiving site-specific information on Chromebook and textbook pick-up soon. More information can be found on each school's website.

In response to a question from Trustee Betschart about the split schedule Friday being a total Distance Learning Day or day off, Ms. Rapinchuk explained that if allowed we might be able to bring back intervention groups, but we don't know what we would be allowed at this time. It still would be Distance Learning on that day; it would focus on intervention and assessment.

In response to a question from Trustee Shatswell about when the County Public Health Officer will allow us to go back to school, Superintendent Malone reported we will follow her leadership. Current protocols are 14 days off of the state watch list; after 14 days we can begin to plan to make the transition. We would have to send a waiver to the County Public Health Officer, and it has to be approved by the State Public Health Officer as well. The waiver would initiate our request to open up and determine to open with a hybrid or split or traditional schedule.

In response to a question from Trustee Shatswell about subs, Deputy Superintendent Dave Kline responded he sent an email to active subs to see if they would like to participate in trainings and had over 30 responses. Academic Coach Linda Kraus will train subs; if someone is not able to operate the Distance Learning function a trained sub would be called to come in. Classwork will be posted on the Google classroom.

In response to a question from Trustee Gilbert about how teachers can deliver the same instruction in the Distance Learning schedule which is similar to a minimum day schedule as they would in a full-time schedule, Ms. Rapinchuk explained that her greater concern is that we try to deliver too much. We are going to have to identify the most essential content necessary in order for them to progress to the next grade as well as drop back into a conventional schedule when we are able to do so. Along with balancing this learning adaptation, the district assured that this is the best balance between getting enough content to enter into the next grade without getting too much screen fatigue. She also noted we will meet with site administration teams and go over the Google classroom Distance Learning platform.

In response to a question from Trustee Shatswell about what OJHS and OHS PE will look like, Ms. Rapinchuk explained there will be instruction in various sports and activities and how to do exercises. There will be a Google form to identify what they did that day and how many minutes.

In response to a question from Trustee Shook about whether a student who is sick can make up time, Ms. Rapinchuk explained the column for DL curriculum provides activities and videos to support student learning if they were sick that day. Many teachers are talking about recording instruction, especially ELA, Math, and Earth Sciences, and post in Google classrooms. Also, if students had connectivity problems they could watch later. Training for teachers will go over how to record in Google classrooms and post. We will train and we will support until they are able to provide.

Superintendent Malone noted in DL model, there are teacher office hours for students who are absent. We know we are going to experience some small slide. We designed the DL platform the way we did so it can be addressed during office hours. They will find out where kids have gaps. We will identify when kids can move back into classrooms at pace, and there will be activities to address gaps.

In response to a question from Trustee House about whether parents call the school if the child is absent, it was explained they would call to notify the school of any absence as they have in the past. Attendance and grades will continue to be entered in AERIES.

In response to a question from Trustee Gilbert about time for assessment, Ms. Rapinchuk stated that we need to rethink assessment; identify who needs intervention and who needs to move on.

In response to a question from Mike House about whether once kids check in you can still tell if they are logged in, Ms. Rapinchuk indicated you can.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Deputy Superintendent David Kline reviewed aspects of Human Resources including the Memorandum of Understanding that has been negotiated with both unions. He explained that OTA's MOU was signed today and CSEA is working with the district on theirs. The MOU covers: General Expectations, Safety and Personal Protective Equipment, Reporting Unsafe Conditions or Work Issues Related to COVID-19, Compliance with Governmental Orders, Expectations for Employees, Instruction, Grading Guidelines, Classroom management and Student Discipline, Teacher Attendance, Evaluations, and Stipends.

Under Expectations for Employees – Flexible Work Environment, employees who are in or care fore a high-risk group (as verified by a health care provider) or with children 0-12 years shall have job site flexibility to choose from working from home or their school site. Upon approval of the site administrator, employees with children 7-12 grade and working in the classroom will be allowed flexibility to have their children in their work space.

In response to a question from Trustee Gilbert about certificated employees who have children 0-12 having ability to work from home, it was noted they would need to address distraction issues and have quality internet access. Site administrators will have access to virtual classrooms and will be monitoring.

He addressed general expectations for teachers, especially noting that they will be monitoring their health each day, will answer a COVID questionnaire before classes, and will be provided with face coverings (masks and shields) as well as an abundance of hand sanitizer. Most teachers are expected to teach from their classroom, which will be thoroughly cleaned.

BUDGET

Chief Business Officer Cassandra Booth reviewed the latest update on the budget. She reported that we did not get the 10% budget reduction initially proposed in the Governor's May Revise, so our projected 2020-21 LCFF revenue increased by \$3.9 million as compared to Adopted Budget. However, we had projected to deficit spend by \$2.8 million in 2020-21 so the additional LCFF dollars will assist the district in covering the projected deficit.

She also noted cash deferrals which means that school districts across the State will only be receiving 68% of their state aid apportionments during the year. If the State does receive additional federal dollars, the deferral would be rolled back to the proposed deferrals outlined in the Governor's May Revise.

She reported that based on the Enacted State Budget and other assumptions used in our Adopted Budget, our reserve is projected to be around 19% for the next few years. The reserve will be used to supplement the reduction in cash we will be receiving from the State which will allow us to continue to pay our employees. She noted that as the economy continues to take a beating due to COVID-19, there is always a possibility of mid-year cuts and/or additional reductions from the State starting in 2021-22.

In response to a question from Trustee Gilbert about money owed in deferrals, Ms. Booth explained the state can hold off in paying or receiving a percentage.

PUPIL SERVICES

Assistant Superintendent Larry Mendonca reviewed how we will meet the needs of our students with special needs through Distance Learning, including IEP management. During school closures last spring, we were restricted to providing services to students remotely. We provided parents with written notice to make sure parents were aware we would provide services to the extent feasible. Ed Code says special ed is also provided during Distance Learning to the extent feasible. He noted it is a challenge because special ed services are designed to be in person, but for the most part, services can be provided remotely. He reported that we sent out written notice to parents of students with special needs on July 24 to let them know how they can expect services to be provided.

Each case manager is going to call each student on their caseload, speak with the parent, and discuss (the details of teaching). Parents will still be receiving a report on how students are progressing according to their goals. We have IEP assessments and meetings that need to occur, and IEP's will have to be done remotely through Zoom. If a parent has difficulty, we can make accommodation to bring them to school and provide PPE, etc. He reinforced that once we return to school, we go back to the original IEP.

In response to a question from Trustee Gilbert about elementary special ed, Mr. Mendonca explained that resource kids will still go through regular class. The resource teacher work with the regular teacher and provide push-in services and be available in the afternoon. For SDC students, it will be a lot more difficult and monitoring will be a lot more difficult.

STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Armida Colon, Director of State & Federal Programs, reviewed some of the work they are doing around student wellness. We know that many students may be experiencing high levels of stress and for these reasons and many others we must highlight the importance of social emotional learning skills and the support that must be provided in order to successfully transition and maintain our time within the Distance Learning model. As we transition to Distance Learning we will be identifying and promoting resources that help support the social emotional learning skills of our students. These include maintaining a contract with the Center for Human Services which provides

counseling and referrals to other community resources; counseling services available remotely, and via phone, and video conference; counselors will be available to meet with student in person or remotely; school administrators will be available to counsel or provide referrals as needed; parents are encouraged to contact the school for information on how to access services. There will be a student webpage with crisis hotlines, tools and strategies for managing emotions and wellness, different mindfulness and relaxation activities, and ways to identify and navigate feelings. Some of these activities include ninja yoga classes and they are working on a virtual calming room link on our website.

Moreover, Colon and Malone assured that school sites still have counseling and referrals available. In fact, school counselors and psychologists can meet with students in person, adhering to proper social distancing and PPE measures, or remotely.

SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Malone noted that as we are navigating Distance Learning, if you see your student is under severe stress or depression, don't ride the storm by yourself; we have resources available including Center for Human Services, counseling staff and school psychologists. Please contact your school site administrator who will begin to initiate contact with appropriate resource to get you what you need.

He noted that before the July 13 announcement enforcing Distance Learning, the district had planned for in-person classes, and within 14 days of learning we had to pivot to Distance Learning, put this online learning plan together.

OTA COMMENTS

3.0

Lisa Greenhow, new OTA President, called in to comment. She shared that teachers are nervous about facing the unknown, but are also really excited because teaching is their passion. She understands the community's concerns but also noted safety is key. She noted the OTA team is working with the district to create agreements to work with and appreciated the intent of the MOU's. She noted that we all want to deliver quality lessons and help our students grow as people. She also appreciated the community's support and the district being flexible.

CSEA COMMENTS

4.0

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

5.0

Board President Gilbert explained that comments would be limited to one minute in length. Public Comments opened at 7:55 p.m.

The public comment section then addressed called-in concerns on a number of issues, ranging from the GATE program, what learning will look like for students of essential workers, "brain breaks" for younger students who cannot maintain concentrated focus, cyberbullying, Distance Learning curriculum links, and absences and attendance.

ASHLEY AVILA

Called in to ask if there would be an elementary GATE Program.

Ms. Rapinchuk replied that we will be having a GATE program; we will have a schedule that blends music and band and GATE. With this new schedule, for the first time, third graders will be able to participate in the same activities. It will be available in afternoons during the 12-2 time and will be scheduled by grade levels, one grade per day. A schedule will be communicated to the elementary principals and incorporated into the day at each school site.

JENNIFER DAVIS

Called in to comment about parents that are essential workers and cannot be there during that time frame; are there going to be exceptions to the rule if they are doing homework in the evening and how will that be handled trying to get 1:1 time with the teacher after hours they aren't there?

Ms. Rapinchuk clarified Ms. Davis's question being what if parents of children are not able to be present with children during the 8-11 instruction time or during teacher office hours. Ms. Davis confirmed that she is an essential worker and her child will need to wait for her to return home if he needs help with his work, and asked if that meant his documents will be late or incomplete?

Ms. Rapinchuk commended her that her intent is that her child will be logging in to the virtual classroom while she is at work. Anything assigned on Monday will not be due that day. We need to have flexibility. There may be families that have connectivity issues, so you would not need to worry about that. Ms. Davis expressed that she was concerned about in-class testing or things of that nature if her child were to need someone to help him log in.

Superintendent Malone added that we should not forget that the traditional mechanism of communicating with teachers are still in place; you can e-mail the teacher with specific questions. If there is a scheduling concern you can contact your site administrator and on a case-by-case basis they will work with each family. We will be benevolent and we are going to try to get our kids through this and get them seamlessly back in the classroom.

Trustee Gilbert asked if teachers will know which parents are essential workers. Superintendent Malone responded that they will not need to make that determination. If our staff get an e-mail from a parent they will respond, it has nothing to do with whether or not they are an essential worker.

AISHAH SALEH

Called in to ask whether the live instruction from 8-11 each day will be recorded for those times when they have connectivity issues or students will be in child care while their parents are working, and thanked the district for making sure students and teachers stay safe by allowing them to do out of their homes right now.

Ms. Rapinchuk explained there will be 2 resources:
One will be the Distance Learning curriculum which should be common across the grade level and across the course. Those should include some instructional videos so if a student missed instruction they can look on a school site website, go to a teacher's name, open the Distance Learning curriculum and there will be some instructional support posted right there. In addition to that, teachers are being trained on how to record themselves when giving instruction in the content areas and they are being trained on how to post those recordings that are unique to their class within their Google classroom.

Superintendent Malone reiterated to the public that if you did not want to make a phone call tonight, contact your site and that site will respond to your question.

KYLEE PALMER

Called in to comment that a couple months ago they had received an e-mail about choosing to get work in packets or doing online, and asked if work will be available in packets instead of online, especially for younger children.

Ms. Rapinchuk explained that some materials students will be engaged with will be paper and pencil and elementary sites will be coordinating pick-up of those materials. Also, we have had conversations with our training teachers who will be delivering training on August 4th that just because they are going to be live with students 8-11, that doesn't mean that students should be glued to their screens during that entire period. We are encouraging brain breaks, and teachers are aware that Kindergarten students will need more brain breaks and more structured breaks in an 8-11 time than a 6th grader will, and learning how to facilitate that. Also, just giving kids time to go and take a break with a countdown timer in the Google classroom. These are things we are discussing and aware of and will trust our professionals to find a way with this. Training and recommendations are being made concerning brain breaks, and general breaks throughout the 3-hour instructional session. There will be no packets in lieu of Distance Learning.

JAKE (TUHN?)

Called in about cyber bullying virtually and what kind of ramifications there will be and how those type of situations will be handled during Distance Learning.

Mr. Mendonca explained that Student Conduct Code is still in effect. If a teacher observes inappropriate conduct within a Google classroom session or there is a situation where students become victims of some type of engagement, that student is encouraged to report that to the teacher. The same investigation process will take place and the Conduct Code will be enforced.

Ms. Rapinchuk added that within the Google classroom if the student is making inappropriate comments within the classroom, the teacher has the opportunity to mute the student or remove the student from the classroom and then notify the administrator that that action was taken.

RACHEL

Called in to comment that her 5-year old son could barely get through 15 minutes of screen time last time, so if they have continued problems with that or if he is unable to do the online learning, will they be docked for that or what will they be able to do instead of being live on the screen with teacher all the time?

Ms. Rapinchuk explained that we won't be able to bring your child to the school site. Rachel said she was hoping she'd have a packet to teach him from like the last time.

Mr. Rapinchuk directed her to go the column called Distance Learning Curriculum, and any time you see an item within that curriculum for Kindergarten that is highlighted in blue, that is a link to a teaching resource. Between items sent home as well as hyperlinks on the Distance Learning curriculum there will be more than enough for any parent to engage their child as much as you like. Rachel confirmed that if they are unable to sit and see during actual structured time as long as they are doing work given to them in the curriculum column, that is what

they essentially need to get done. Ms. Rapinchuk confirmed that is one of the things we wanted to make sure we provided to the community is that curriculum hyperlink so that they know what is being covered that day or that week in its given grade-level and course.

ALISHA

Called in to ask if parents who have multiple children, elementary, OJHS and OHS, how will parents know that children have actually stayed logged in and not just taken attendance and spent a few minutes or an hour and logged out and not finished the school day?

Ms. Rapinchuk explained all families will have the opportunity to enroll as a parent/guardian within their child's Google classroom. We are completing an integration with our student data management system; she cannot say if you will receive an automatic invitation, but if you do not, you can e-mail your child's teacher and request to be added as a parent/guardian. That will result in at least a weekly update of their child's progress within the Google classroom, including the degree to which they have engaged in the activities that have been presented. That weekly update will be e-mailed to you.

Alisha commented that if a child has a dentist appointment or doctor's appointment, before they would notify the school, and asked how that will work with Distance Learning.

Ms. Rapinchuk explained that if they are unable to attend Distance Learning due to sickness or a medical appointment you would call the school site in with that absence for the time they will not be participating, just as you have in the past, and that will still be entered into our student management data system. One of the things they will be discussing when they meet with the site administration teams on Wednesday will be what protocols we will have in place if a child has not checked in at all or checked in and left early. We will be counting on parents checking those updates as well as teachers making sure that students are remaining within the environment and engaged.

Mr. Mendonca added that attendance is required. If there is a situation where our attendance office finds a pattern of students not attending, there will be follow-up with the parent and student on excessive or chronic absenteeism and we have provisions in place to address those scenarios, including attendance review and possible resolution to make sure they attend every day.

Ms. Colon shared that tomorrow morning we are also posting a series of FAQ's on the district website, highlights of the most common questions, and a form to provide an opportunity for parents to submit questions.

Public Comments closed at 8:16 p.m.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 6.0
#20-21-01, RE-OPENING
SCHOOLS WITH DISTANCE
LEARNING MODEL

Superintendent Malone presented a resolution adopting a re-opening plan for the 2020-21 school year that provides for a 100% Distance Learning model.

It was **M/S/C (Betschart/Shatswell)** to adopt Resolution #20-21-01, Re-opening Schools with Distance Learning Model. A Roll Call Vote was taken and all board members voted in favor. Passed 5-0

ADJOURNMENT 7.0 The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Superintendent Malone finalized by stating that any question that was not answered, call your school site and your site administration team will get your question answered. It was noted that tomorrow morning the district website will have Distance Learning FAQs, the Distance Learning Video, as well as a form where parents can ask any more specific questions they may have.