

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
Oakdale Joint Unified School District
Technology & Staff Development Center
331 Hinkley Avenue, Oakdale, CA

ATTENDANCE WAS LIMITED TO ESSENTIAL PARTICIPANTS WHICH INCLUDED BOARD MEMBERS 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, this 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>

Link to OJUSD Board Reports: <https://www.ojUSD.org/boardreports>

PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE ABLE TO BE TAKEN VIA PHONE BY CALLING (209) 848-4205, Ext. 106
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 President Barbara Shook and she led the pledge of allegiance. |
| TRUSTEES PRESENT | 1.2 | Larry Betschart, Diane Gilbert, Mike House, Tina Shatswell, and Barbara Shook. |
| TRUSTEES ABSENT | 1.3 | None |
| VISITORS PRESENT | 1.4 | Teresa Hammond of Oakdale Leader |
| BARBARA SHOOK | | Board President Shook read the following statement: "The Board has had several e-mails from parents, some have been suggestions on how we might better serve our students, some have been questions and ideas on scheduling for our students, a few have been laced with anger and frustration. We've been asked why we aren't individually responding to each e-mail. Each of us handles correspondence by taking the information in and trying to use that information in comments productively. We don't respond individually because we need a consistent voice as a Board. It has always been the practice of this district to have our Superintendent respond to all inquiries concerning school business. This is according to Board Bylaw 9010, which are all posted on the district website. Not responding doesn't mean we don't care. This has been uncharted waters, but working together, we are diligently trying to work toward getting all of our students back in school full time. The Board asked Marc to research with our school district lawyers and professionals what would happen if we decided to defy all the guidelines and mandates, and simply put our kids back in school. This was done some time ago, and we heard in no uncertain terms how the state would react, and how the county would react. The bottom line was we would be putting our district in jeopardy, and therefore our students in jeopardy. Each Board member has a vested interest in our district. Mine is over 40 years in education. I know first hand how important contact is between students and teachers, and I truly believe |

we have a district that can serve our students well.” She then opened to comments from other Board members.

LARRY BETSCHART

Board member Betschart stated that he agreed with Board President Shook 100%. It is frustrating to sit here and have our hands tied the way they have been. We have pushed everything we had, every avenue we are prepared, which he understands a lot of districts aren't. As soon as this thing clicks and times out, we are going.

BARBARA SHOOK

Barbara Shook agreed it has been very frustrating. She agreed with Mr. Betschart that we have all been working our tails off trying to move forward.

MIKE HOUSE

Trustee House stated he thinks Ms. Shook covered it in her statement.

BOARD DISCUSSION ON 2.0
STUDENT REQUIREMENTS
OF GUIDED INSTRUCTION
PORTION OF 7-12
RE-OPENING PLAN

Superintendent Malone reported that the San Diego Superior Court Court on March 15th issued a temporary restraining order in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of reopening framework and guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health on January 14. The temporary restraining order restrains the defendants from enforcing or applying the CDPH framework orders, statutes or laws that include the prescriptions or provisions of the CDPH framework and applies to all local educational agencies in California. While this order means LEA's are temporarily not obligated to follow the CDPH framework, CSBA (California School Boards Association) urges Boards to continue to use best practices for safety with respect to COVID-19 for school reopening plans. With that, with the Board's permission, on our agenda, we are going to talk about the student requirements for guided instruction, but would also like to morph this into a recommendation to the Board for a reopening. The reopening would be as soon as March 22. He noted we have consistently said that when we got a window of opportunity to reopen, we would do so. We have heard and he has answered the question of why we did not open up previously, and that was because there was no school district our size or larger that could reopen under the requirements that we had under the California Department of Public Health at that time. With this, with the Board's permission, he will move forward and will address the agenda item but will also talk about a recommendation for reopening.

Superintendent Malone reported that we received information earlier this week in regards to the San Diego Court decision and he got an immediate update from Stanislaus County Public Health saying it is permissible to open grades 7-12 using the established safety protocols. Tonight, we are going to talk about a reopening strategy and reopening plan that will be effective March 22 if the Board sees fit to move in that manner. He noted that we are still mindful that the virus is still out there and we are still dealing with infection rate. With that, we aren't going to just do whatever we feel like doing; we are going to continue to follow all of our established safety protocols and they will continue to be in place. This guidance was proven by

County Public Health that we can move forward under our current safety protocols which includes masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing, and surface sanitation. He noted that as he talks about our reopening plan, which is in 2 stages, all of our current safety protocols will be in place as we move forward. Social distancing will be a component of that, especially as we get to phase 2 of reopening. In response to a question from Trustee Gilbert about the date for reopening, Superintendent Malone restated the proposed date for reopening would be Monday, March 22.

He reviewed the OJHS and OHS Hybrid Block Schedules which is how we are proposing on reopening Monday, March 22. Under this schedule, Mondays are still Distance Learning. We've had questions about why we would continue with Distance Learning, we have to have a Distance Learning portal for quarantine processes. In order for us to be able to quarantine kids and classes, we still need to be able to have this portal live. If we get later on into this spring and we find the virus is moving away, we will turn that into a regular instructional day. We would have Distance Learning in the morning on Monday, then we would have optional office hours in the afternoon. With the morning block schedule, we would have 3 blocks, each block is about 70-75 minutes long. Students would progress through those blocks, get a lunch at Noon, and then progress to optional office hours. With the optional office hours, we did have some language that was not clear at our last board meeting, with the language that was posted on our website and what was said at our Board meeting. For that he apologized to the Board and the community. Any time there is communication that is inconsistent, that falls on him. We are here tonight to be able to rectify and clean up that language. To be clear, in the afternoon, teacher office hours are optional. We have a significant portion of our community that expressed a desire to have more structure in the office hours. We heard them, but are going to encourage them to maximize their use of the office hours, and they will find their structure there. Our teachers are ready to help kids, so these optional office hours will be exactly that. Kids can log in and go to a teacher's class of their desire, and get the help they need. This will run for a 9-day period; we'd open Monday, March 22, and run through Thursday, April 1, which is the day before our Spring Break starts.

After Spring Break, we will be able to make a transition. In the past we knew we had an issue at the high school to be able to create an all-day long learning session because most of us are aware we have an open campus at lunch and because of that we don't have a cafeteria large enough to host all of those students. Because of that we gave an example of a way to get around that, and it was not considered to be safe for kids or the community. That stance has changed, so we will be ready to

transition and will close the OJHS and OHS campuses at lunch to prepare students for a Full Day Hybrid Schedule. This will help reduce need for contract tracing with students leaving campus and returning after lunch. Additional points of sale will be established on both campuses so we can quickly move through lunch. At the Junior High, their lunch schedule has 2 lunch periods in it for 7th and 8th grade lunch so it will be easier for them to maintain. They have lots of outdoor space and if there is inclement weather, because they have 2 lunches, they have the ability to go inside and social distance, and they can also use their gym, library, and classrooms if needed. At the high school, we have a very small cafeteria. With good weather we have a lot of outdoor spaces, picnic tables, places for people to spread out, and our football stadium has been marked for social distancing. If we have inclement weather, we have indoor hallways, 2 gyms, and more than enough places to be able to house those students. He wanted to make clear this is not a permanent closure of the high school lunch. This is a way to try to get kids in school all day, as many days as we can. This court decision allowed us the authority to do what we needed to do to be able to position ourselves to move to the next schedule.

Effective April 12, when students come back from Spring Break, we would do a Full Day Hybrid Schedule. This schedule is pretty much the same schedule that we successfully and safely opened our TK-6 schools. On Monday, we have Distance Learning in the morning and optional office hours in the afternoon. With the Full Day Hybrid Schedule students will attend all their periods. On the day they are on site, they will go through Period 1-6 or 0-6 at the high school. At the junior high, they will go through Periods 1-7, and in their 4th or 5th period class there is a lunch. On Wednesday, when they're off site, that is when they do independent practice, and will be given assignments from Tuesday to do on Wednesday.

He noted that with this particular model, there are a number of things to consider. He has heard numerous complaints about screen fatigue; this is an opportunity for students to get away from screen fatigue. We've also got a situation where other districts who may do simultaneous instruction, it takes kids this age about 5 minutes to figure out that if I can see instruction at home I will not go to school. That is why the State of California has a compulsory education law. He noted that since we've start our whole COVID plan, we have landed independent study that is basically independent practice in design. We have had up to 500 students and now down to 400 students on independent study that has landed successfully; kids are able to get away from the screen, do independent practice, then contact their teacher, and move through. This has also allowed teachers to focus solely on the students that are there. As we open 7-12, and in particular 9-12, there are number of classes

that cannot effectively be taught from behind a screen. He noted this schedule has been vetted, this was a decision that our Board made very early on, and this model has proven to be successful. It may not meet the need of every single student, but it has met the need of a majority of our students.

The high school Full Day Hybrid Schedule is more complicated, they have a 0 period, we have removed the brunch because we are trying to minimize social mixing as much as we can. We do have to navigate lunch, and we will be talking to students about the necessity of following the protocols. The last thing we want to do is to open our schools and then have to shut down. He reported we have been navigating a protocol for contact tracing. Previously, if you had one positive test in an entire class, you might have to shut that entire class down. Now, we have been approved to execute a seating chart contact tracing. If any student has a positive test, we can go back to that class and see if they have been in close personal contact with any other students in their immediate area and they would also be quarantined if needed, but we would not have to quarantine the entire class.

He reported that we are staging in TK-3 transition from 2-days in class instruction to a 4-day model on March 22; grades 4-6 will transition from 2-days in class instruction to a 4-day model on April 12. He noted he has received many e-mails about the 3' protocol that is now being talked about by the CDC; we are well aware of everything out there and if we get to a 3' protocol that gives us more flexibility. When we get that flexibility, just as we got this flexibility this week and are opening schools on Monday, we will execute that flexibility. He made clear this has no impact on our phased reopening for our elementary schools.

In response to a question from Trustee Betschart, Superintendent Malone clarified that at the elementary schools, every student will be returning to in-class instruction 4 days a week, with Distance Learning on Mondays; TK-3 effective March 22 and grades 4-6 effective April 12. He explained that we finally got clarification and notice from the County that they were able to support 4' instead of 6' distancing, and we are able to apply that and combine our cohorts to return elementary students to in-class instruction 4 days a week. Trustee Shatswell stated she's had a couple questions asking why we can't have grades 4-6 start 4 days at the same time as TK-3. Superintendent Malone explained that a phased reopening was recommended.

Superintendent Malone reported that TK-6 Extended Short-Term Independent study will continue to be provided for families that are uncomfortable with in-class instruction, and Grades 7-12 can go through their independent study process, which is Edgenuity. He noted that we do have some students who are going through Edgenuity and taking those courses, as well as some extra courses for credit recovery.

Superintendent Malone noted that it has been a team effort, and Cabinet has worked diligently to try to find a way to get students back in school. Assistant Superintendent Larry Mendonca reinforced that all safety protocols are in place, we implemented at elementary schools and they are working, all provisions have been set up for the junior high and high school, additional supplies have been ordered to make sure we are well stocked, and we are making sure everyone is trained in protocols and procedures, and Health Offices have been established with additional staffing.

Deputy Superintendent Dave Kline reported that we've had preliminary discussions with the associations and they have agreed upon agreements and are in support of moving forward with the district's plan. Assistant Superintendent Kristi Rapinchuk took the opportunity to commend our teaching staff and other instructional support staff, as she looked over the last year and a half, the different transitions they have navigated, going into enrichment opportunities and learning from home, anticipating a traditional return to the classroom, and having to pivot quickly to 100% Distance Learning, and then the elementary transitioning into the hybrid and now 4-day model, all those are pacing changes and it requires some conversation behind the veil to be cohesive. Armida Colon, Director of State & Federal Programs, reported we are ready, it is time, and we are moving in the right direction.

Trustee Betschart asked at what point and what needs to happen to get our 7-12 back in school 4 days a week. Superintendent Malone explained there are a couple of things; this restraining order is a temporary one and they go back to court March 30 and at that time will determine exactly what that scenario is. We are also waiting to see if there will be some additional movement in the social distancing guidelines; now we are 4'-6', being no closer than 4', but there is substantial talk that that would move to 3', and if that is the case we can start to move those cohorts together. We would have to look at being creative with some spaces, but because it's spring time, we'll have more creativity than we would in the winter.

In response to a question from Trustee Betschart about the Tiers, Superintendent Malone stated that at this point, when we open on March 22, we no longer have to abide by the Tier system. We do have to continue to work through the county, to identify positive tests and to do associated contact tracing. Trustee Shatswell asked if we vote on this to get back and once we get going, they can't make us go backwards; Superintendent Malone confirmed that is the case. He also stated that with this written document, we have very strong evidence to open and to stay open.

Board President Shook commented that we have all heard from some students who are concerned about coming back; they have voiced that they are concerned about their safety and the safety of others. We have counseling staff and nursing staff available and she is assuming that will still be the protocol to help students who are nervous about all of this and help them get through, especially the first couple of days, and hopes we can reinforce the safety protocols for those kids and make them feel more at ease at being back in school full time. She felt that doing it in phases is a smart move.

Trustee Gilbert commented that despite that there is still ample opportunity and staff available to administer independent study if a student decides they are not comfortable for health-related reasons to return to in-person instruction; it would be the student's choice and the family's choice.

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

3.0 Board President Shook opened the Public Comments portion of the agenda at 7:04 p.m.

Callers called in ask questions, advocate cases on issues related to returning students to school, not returning students to school in order to keep them safe, student comfort navigating new campuses, and clarification of questions about the schedules.

KIRILL KOVALENKO

Kirill Kovalenko, OHS senior, called with some questions about the hybrid schedule: 1) when he goes to the OJUSD website, under hybrid schedule it shows a different schedule than the one shown on the slides. Superintendent Malone explained this is the most current edition of the schedule. If the Board approves it, this will be posted to the website; 2) how does 7th period work in the schedule? The schedule he was looking at there was a divide between 4th and 7th period, and there was a cohort that would have 7th period and one that would not. Superintendent Malone responded that as he's looking at the OHS Full Hybrid Schedule, starting with 0 period and working our way down through 7th, the closed campus starts at 11:18 – 12:03, and then we pick up 5th period, 6th period, and then 7th period. In response to a question from Kirill about where he can find the schedule to review it, Superintendent Malone responded it is currently posted on the district website under Board Reports.

Trustee Shatswell stated she believes the student may be referring to the OHS Morning Hybrid Block Schedule, Red Cohort has periods 1-3 on Tuesday and 0, 4th, 5th, & 6th Period on Thursday, while Gold Cohort has periods 1-3 on Wednesday and 0, 4th, 6th, & 7th Period on Friday; there is no 7th period shown for Red Cohort and no 5th period for the Gold Cohort. Assistant Superintendent Rapinchuk stated that was her mistake and she will adjust that. Kirill wanted to clarify that they would have a 7th period, because with the previous schedule they were worried they wouldn't have a 7th period, sometimes it's not just an extra-curricular class like Drama, it can be a class like Math or English or Science. Ms. Rapinchuk apologized and said she will fix the chart.

EMMA LOWE

Emma Lowe, OHS Junior, called to urge the Board not to open on the date currently scheduled and on the hybrid schedule. The job of the school board as stated on the district website is to provide a quality public education program for the residents of the OJUSD. Opening schools so soon and under this hybrid schedule would contradict this responsibility. It would put health and safety at risk and unnecessarily expose thousands of students and staff to coronavirus. The hybrid schedule also jeopardizes students' quality of education. Students will be juggling a mixture of in-person and online classes as well as extra curriculars and homework. The changing schedules have also made it difficult to understand how school is returning. With all of these and many other challenges created by opening on March 29 with the hybrid schedule, it will be impossible for OHS students to receive a quality education. Although neither students nor teachers want to continue online learning, we recognize it is the best mode of education for the current circumstances. For many students we have no other option for school as Edgenuity doesn't have our classes. She trusts the school board cares for the well-being of students and hopes they will hear out the concerns mentioned.

GUY STUEVE

Guy Stueve called to commend the Board and everyone present for this special meeting to deal with this important subject, our kids. He stated he is a 1992 OHS graduate, born and raised in Oakdale, one of his mentors comes from Oakdale High, and he has a lot of respect for his mentor and staff at Oakdale High. His oldest daughter is a freshman at Point Loma Nazarene College, in classrooms with professors; he understands it's a private school, but there is a pathway here, and we need to proceed with the pathway. He stated you cannot be a leader if no one is following you; being a leader has been instilled in him being a Mustang. He stated you need to get it done, do your job, there are no excuses here. We are seeing other schools open; there are a lot of dynamics here, and he doesn't care about different tiers. He stated the Board should do what's right for these kids and get them back into school. Teachers would love to teach these kids, kids want to go back to school. His daughters that are still in school in this district are doing quite well, but that is not the case for all kids, and online school is a joke.

Trustee Gilbert addressed Mr. Stueve to state she was confused; we are having discussion about opening schools on Monday, so we have heard and appreciate your comments, and the comments of the community in this regard, and that is exactly what we are doing here. We are having discussion to open up on Monday, March 22. Mr. Stueve said his point was to be a leader, do what is right, get kids back in school, I don't want to hear any excuses.

OHS STUDENT

The student called to say she is an Oakdale senior who is unable to transition to independent study due to Advanced Placement classes. Knowing that her peers and teachers would bring up their dissatisfaction with the convoluted nature of the schedule as it is currently presented, she wanted to bring up a separate point about school opening in general,

and that is the blatant disregard for the safety of students. We are in a pandemic and while COVID-19 is particularly dangerous for the elderly, that by no means excuses to expose kids and families and coworkers to it while Stanislaus County is still in the Purple Tier and considered one of California's main hot spots. Simply because legal loopholes can be found due to vaccinations becoming acceptable for some people, that doesn't mean those rules weren't put in place for a reason. If proper precaution was taken I can see your argument; in your opening statement and slide show you claim that these precautions are a priority, the masks, the social distancing, the sanitization. But as it stands now with the hybrid cohorts, classrooms will have 17 or more kids in them at a time without proper space for social distancing. Even looking past the violations from elementary schools, sports teams have been observed gathering in close quarters, with and without masks during practices without repercussions from coaches. She asked how we are supposed to expect administration will be any different with onsite instruction? Maybe if it meant missing out on an entire year one could argue coming back was essential to our learning and therefore worth the risk posed by these precautions being broken, but with less than 2 months left in school, it makes little difference for us educationally in the long run. The Board member quote "they can't make us stop once we start up" mentality proves where Board priorities lie. Claiming that you care about the students and their well-being, but to many of us it feels more that your actions have a lot more to do with keeping up appearances to COVID-denying locals.

ANONYMOUS PARENT

This parent called in with questions regarding TK-3 starting; she has 2 kids there and one at the high school. It's great they are going back 4 days a week and she's really excited about it and sure most parents are as well. She was wondering why they are returning 4 days a week and not 5. She also asked why there are no more electives for them once they go back to school; they have computer, library and music online right now; even if they do online in their classroom she wasn't sure they would still be getting them.

Ms. Rapinchuk responded to her first question asking why we are still continuing to have Distance Learning on Mondays. She explained that, as discussed earlier, we want to have Distance Learning established if classrooms continue to have to quarantine occasionally; having a distance model in sight and secure is very important. We all hope we are able to go back to 5 days a week, even this school year, that is what we are wanting to move into.

Ms. Rapinchuk responded to her second question which had to do with the electives, explaining that she met with elementary principals, and in that discussion they requested that we would not offer our elementary electives on the on-site classroom days. That is actually an intent to intervene for students who have been struggling. It does not mean that we don't honor music, band, computer and library, but for the 4 on-site days we want the students to be with their teacher as much as possible and gain some core content. She has met with the elective teachers, and they are going to continue to offer choir, because it happens during lunch on Distance Learning Monday.

They are going to continue to have some band opportunities on Distance Learning Monday afternoon. GATE will also be available during certain windows of time on Monday Distance Learning afternoon and Mrs. Combs is trying to identify some periods of time at the end of the school day when other GATE students can participate in some offerings that she will provide. It is true electives will no longer be offered during the school day while we are in the 4-day model, and that is considered to be an academic intervention, but they will be offered either on Monday afternoon or Choir at lunch on Monday, or after the school day ends Tuesday - Friday.

The caller stated her kids are in Kindergarten and 3rd grade and are not eligible for any of those programs because they are too young; she doesn't understand how some are available and some are not. She stated they are all important, but cited the Library program where the kids are getting read to and having discussions about stories. She stated they are going to be doing testing where there will be days they are not doing school work, and felt that kids having Library time, computer time, and Music class is as important as taking tests. Ms. Rapinchuk explained that the difference would be that we are required by the State of California and the Federal Government to have a system of standardized testing in place. We may start to see headlines that the Governor of California has pressed forward for additional flexibility, but essentially what that means is you can either administer the standardized tests that are already in place or you can put together your own standardized system that will do the same thing, a system of testing that will provide results to parents, school sites, aggregated results by student group. For a district the size of Oakdale, we are better suited to go ahead and administer the testing schedule and standardized tests unveiled to us as opposed to spending time and training for teachers and staff to administer a system of tests that doesn't exist.

The caller stated she understands that part, but her inquiry is that on Mondays some things are going to be offered online but not everything. She stated that by 10:00 her kids are no longer in school on Mondays, so she didn't understand how there is no time between 10:00 when they "get done teaching" and 2:00 which is the normal end of school to have Library or Computers or some type of musical activity; she feels there should be room for all 3 of those on that day.

Superintendent Malone stated we have to prioritize the core curriculum, and that's what we've done. Starting on April 12, when we get back, we have approximately 6 weeks to the finish of the year. We have to prioritize what we need to get done within that 6 weeks to try to position ourselves for students to move into possible summer learning if they choose to do it, and then position themselves again for the start of the year. There is going to be some prioritization that has to take place, and we are going to prioritize the core curriculum.

The caller indicated she understood that, but again stated that nothing happens Mondays after 11:00 online, and if those teachers aren't doing

anything else, why can't they do electives on Mondays after that time; that would not interfere with core curriculum. Ms. Rapinchuk explained that in talking to the elementary principals, she had specific conversations regarding music, band and GATE because those are staff that are actually shared across 4 elementary sites. The way that the Librarians and the Computer teachers will be used is at the discretion of the site principal, so whatever is made available, you will be made aware of that, but it won't be any pull-out time Tuesday–Friday given our emphasis on core curriculum between now and the end of the school year.

The caller again indicated she understood that, but her question is on Mondays, after Distance Learning, at 10:00 when it ends, why there can't be 2 hours in the afternoon. She asked Ms. Rapinchuk if she is saying that she has no control over this and that she needs to talk with her principal about this. Ms. Rapinchuk stated that she believes all the elementary principals are listening, her voice has been heard, and they will take that into consideration.

OHS STUDENT

A student called in about how 7th period will work with the partial Hybrid schedule we will be going back to on Monday. As of now, the 7th period schedule was never aligned in school, it was always online, which goes against fair, equal, and appropriate education laws that would allow for all students to be back in person with a fair, equal opportunity. He asked why 7th period has to stay online when everyone else can be back in person partial. Ms. Rapinchuk responded that in the previously presented schedule, you are correct, 7th period was going to be offered only via Distance Learning online and spread across 4 days. In the schedule that was presented tonight, 7th period students will be included during on-site campus time. She asked the caller to watch for that to posted on the school site and district websites tomorrow morning.

The caller stated that in addition, 0-period has never been outlined in most schedules, it has been discarded and kind of forgotten about, but in the new schedule it is there. He did not feel 6:15 is an appropriate time to have a 0-period class and couldn't understand why we can't do it after school one day or another time; 6:15 is early for students who have other things going on throughout the day. The caller understands it is optional and it is only 2 classes, but it is interfering with a lot of other things. Ms. Rapinchuk responded that 0- period will be reflected on the schedule that you see posted tomorrow. It will be included on on-site instruction days as well as Distance Learning. Concerning 0-period starting early, it is true that historically 0-period has started early.

The caller's final concern is on Monday Distance Learning, as of right now, 7th period is right after 6th period which bumps into lunch time; instead of getting an hour lunch, you will get 19 minutes before you get office hours. If students have questions they will have a 19-minute lunch to eat and hopefully have time to ask questions for the full 2 hours and didn't feel that is fair to 7th period students who have questions and concerns. Ms. Rapinchuk responded that no longer is the Monday afternoon required guided practice or instruction; it is now

optional office hours to ask questions of your teachers. She has heard some rumors that some students actually eat and have a snack now and again even while they are participating in Distance Learning. It is true that there will be a smaller lunch break but no longer are the afternoons required for attendance, they are optional office hours for asking questions. The caller stated that for the students who cannot do that and do not have access to that, do the students have to go someplace else who cannot get home in time for office hours in the days where in-person. He did not feel that is fair for everyone; some students live further away than others, some students don't have access at certain times, some students need more than 19 minutes of a lunch, some students cannot eat while they are asking questions because classes are just too short and do not give enough time for other questions in class. Ms. Rapinchuk responded that it is true that one day a week, whether you're a Red Cohort or a Gold Cohort person, by the time you have finished 7th period, you will have a shorter period of time to get home and have full access to office hours and eat lunch. There have been many things about this school year that have been less than optimal, and that is a concession of being a 7th period student.

Superintendent Malone called to the student's attention that, if the Board moves forward with this, you're only going to have to navigate that from March 22 until April 1. We realize that the block schedule has some concerns, as every schedule has some concerns, even the fully traditional schedule, as the student has mentioned with the 0-period, has some concerns. The caller didn't feel that coincides with the right to have a fair, equal and appropriate education. Ms. Rapinchuk asked the caller if they are a Red or Gold Cohort student and the caller responded that he is a Red Cohort student. Ms. Rapinchuk responded that for Red Cohort students that means that 2 lunch periods will be impacted between now and the end of the school year. For a Gold Cohort student, it will be one lunch period, because we have 9 days in that 2-week period and one Friday is a Holiday.

MELISSA GOODMAN

Melissa Goodman called in and wanted to start by thanking the Board for listening to parents, coming up with the schedules, and hearing what we are saying, opening the schools as soon as Monday. She also wanted to thank the parents who filed this lawsuit for San Diego, wanted to thank parents of the Oakdale schools who have showed up, showed up tonight in the rain, to make sure that everything that is being done is in the best interest of the kids. She did want to address the people calling in ridiculing about opening the schools; everybody has a choice, you have a choice not to go into the path of the kids who want to be back on, who need to be back on, you have that option, so thank you for giving those kids the option. She would like the Board to reconsider the kids on independent study; they should not have sports and extracurricular taken away from them especially during this time. She would like the Board to reconsider that rule that when you're on independent study you cannot participate in extracurriculars. She also had a question, based on what President Shook said in the beginning

that you will not be responding to parents individually, you have one voice; you are all trustees in different regions, and we have a trustee that represents our region, so are you telling me that when we address a trustee of our region, that we will never get a response, and when we will never get a response outside of the Board meeting when you can all have respond together, what's the point of having different Board meetings if you're all going to get together and have one response?

Superintendent Malone addressed the independent study question; he does not have the answer to that immediately, but he will investigate that and will have the site get back to her.

Board President Shook responded that her statement at the beginning was simply to try and explain that we have to speak with one voice when we are speaking about issues that are affecting everyone. If you call us and ask us about an individual student or an individual item that's going on, we are going to try and respond in the best way we can, but we have to speak as a Board, and that is how we were elected, not as individuals, and appreciated her comments. Ms. Goodman stated that if you're elected by the public and you're elected by voting, don't you want to know what the public thinks, how the public feels, what your constituents that you are representing in your area think? Don't you want to have those conversations to be able to get that information back? How would you know how the constituents in your area feel, how would you know how the people you are representing feel if you don't have those conversations? Ms. Shook responded they've received lots of e-mails and phone calls telling us exactly how people are feeling. Ms. Goodman stated that is a one-way conversation; you're not having a conversation with us, and then when we confront you outside a Board meeting we are told we have misinformation. You have not provided the information and she has asked for information and it has not been provided. That open communication is what we're asking for. We don't want to battle this Board, or fight with this Board; we want to work alongside this Board. We want to work together, but when that's closed off we are left with no other options, so just moving forward, she really appreciates this Board taking a different stance, and reaching out to parents to figure out another way to mend this relationship and work more together instead of at each other because it's not beneficial for anyone and especially the students. She would like to work together and figure out a way to do that better in the future.

PRESIDENT SHOOK

Board President Shook addressed the Board to let them know we've gone 32 minutes at this point, and initially had indicated we would allow 20 minutes total, and asked if the Board would be willing to continue on if we have more calls. At that time there were 2 calls coming in and the Board agreed to take those 2 calls.

TOIREASA

Toireasa called to say she has a freshman at the high school, and wanted to say thank you to all the board members; she knows you have all worked extremely hard in the last year. There are a lot of parents that do appreciate you and she wishes they were more vocal, but she thinks they outweigh the negative. She appreciated

that you all have been very logical, and followed the science, and that brings her to her question. She and her husband feel it's important to stay the course, and open the junior high and high school when our county is in the Red Tier. She feels it would be risky to open beforehand, even with the hybrid model being discussed. She was drawn to have her voice heard and felt you all are doing a good job; you need to stay the course and don't let anybody pressure you, follow the science and be logical, don't open too soon. The adults in our town and county know what to do to get to the Red Tier, and it's up to them to do that.

REBEKAH REMKIEWICZ

Rebekah Remkiewicz called to say she the parent of an elementary student and an 8th grader and wanted to share a couple thoughts and ask a couple of questions. She stated that last week and earlier this week we were informed that the hybrid model would begin no sooner than March 29, she already felt it was a bit potentially overwhelming for students by giving them just a week on that model and then putting them out on vacation. Now we're talking about rushing them into this and having 2 weeks of it and going on break in an entirely new schedule. She thought people were concerned about the social/emotional well-being and the mental health of our students, and this seems to throw that aside completely, and really doesn't think that multiple schedule changes at a rapid click is in their best interest for their social/emotional well-being and their mental health. She asked why not wait and start the full-day hybrid model after spring break that way it would give you a chance to officially meet on this. Her further question is the published agenda included only a discussion item, which now appears moot and is not being discussed. Her question is, is it legal and ethical for the Board to vote on an item that was not on the published agenda and was not added officially to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Superintendent Malone responded that we have said since the onset, we would follow the imminent expert in Stanislaus County in regards to infectious disease and that is our County Public Health Officer. Our County Public Health Officer is on record for supporting 7-12 schools reopening, with all our current county case rates as a result of this court action. We have followed the science, we have followed this every step of the way. As far as Brown Act and as far as the agenda goes, the public just needs to have a general awareness of what's being conducted. The Board can have any discussion that they want after the agenda item is brought up. He brought that up, he talked about student participation in guided instruction, and he told how that was miscommunicated, and that was on him. Secondary to that, it talks specifically in the agenda item about a reopening; that is exactly what we are talking about. As far as Brown Act goes, the public needs to have a general awareness of what's going to be discussed, but the Board isn't pinned to just one subject, because reopening is actually mentioned in the agenda item, and that is what we are discussing.

Ms. Remkiewicz asked for a point of clarification, her question was about the multiple changes in schedules over the next 3-4 weeks, and the impact on the social/emotional and mental health of our students. Superintendent Malone said he would continue to answer the same thing; this is our pathway and we have communicated that we were going to use a hybrid block schedule to open schools. We have communicated that since November, so that part is consistent. This is our avenue to get kids in school on March 22, under the advisement of our County Public Health Officer. In conjunction with that we want to be able to transition to the full-day instruction. In order for us to transition into that full-day instruction, we have to have some time to be able to organize the high school to be able to have a lunch because we are going to close that campus. The junior high campus is already built for it; the high school campus is not and it's going to take us just a little bit to prepare to feed 700 kids in a cohort in one lunch and make sure that they are socially distanced. It's going to take a little bit of time, and that is why we are staggering them.

ANONYMOUS PARENT

An anonymous caller called in to publicly thank the parents of the San Diego Unified School District; it's because of them and the lawsuit they filed that our high school students and junior high students are able to return to school next week. They went and fought, they fought their Superintendent, they fought their School Board, they hired a lawyer, and they fought the entire State of California and they won. For months, parents have been e-mailing Marc Malone and the Board and asking what we can do and how we help. She knows a parent that offered to write a \$100,000 check to hire an attorney to fight the state. We have all been left with no answer on how we can help and what we can do. She stated San Diego had an answer for their parents, because they were able to file the lawsuit and win, and thinks that we are all in a great debt of gratitude to them. On behalf of herself, her students, every student, she wants to say "Thank You" to them. We can only hope that in the future, this is going to demonstrate to this Board and this Superintendent, and school boards everywhere, that you can and should fight back against the status quo, and that the state guidelines are not always right, they are not always fair, they are not always appropriate, they are not always equal, and that we should fight back against that when we know it to be true; we shouldn't be fighting school districts on that, we should be fighting the state together. Parents are a vital and necessary component of the district and this proves that. She noted a Board meeting in the fall when Lisa Greenhow noted parents were not included in the equation and discussion of the hybrid model. That is not something that just happened in the fall, that is something that has been happening the entire school year. Other school districts like Patterson, Turlock, Modesto City, have all held parent forums in which their parents have been able to come into the gym, or done virtually on Zoom, before a schedule or new change is voted on. They are able to offer input, ask questions, provide alternatives, and all of that happened before one plan is put in front of the Board to be voted on. This district has refused to do that; they have refused to include parents every single step of the way, other than after the fact and we have to deal with it. She thinks it is time now for this district to join the majority of other school

districts in Stanislaus County and also including Oakdale City Council, and the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, in resuming public open meetings in person. If the high school kids can have lunches in the gym, surely you can have a Board meeting in the gym where parents can attend in person. She also wanted to thank Larry Betschart for stopping on his way in and actually having a conversation with parents, asking what their concerns were, and having an open dialog. Hopefully he has set an example for the other Board for the future.

ANONYMOUS PARENT

A parent called it to say she is the parent of a freshman and like so many other freshmen, has never stepped foot on campus and is a little concerned. She has called before to the school and was told there was going to be a plan in place for all the freshmen to understand how to navigate, find their classes, and know what they are doing. With this being rushed through, it's great for some, but for others maybe not. She asked how kids who have never even set foot on campus are supposed to be able to find their classes before Monday or Tuesday?

Superintendent Malone responded there are 2 things that could be done: 1) our student activities group will be out to help our freshmen as they typically do before school but we did not have that opportunity. He knows that will be a priority of our student activities coordinator, and to make sure that there is communication to those students; 2) he encouraged her daughter to contact the OHS counseling office. Previously, we certainly could have had her walk on campus because people have done that. To self-assure her from a mental health standpoint, or social/emotional standpoint, he would encourage her to have a conversation with the counseling office.

ANONYMOUS GRADUATE

The caller called in as a student who has experienced this as a 2020 graduate; as a senior last year they didn't get very much, they got a little graduation. As a student who has been through this, it's ironic today it is a year from the last day of school last year. She asked the Board to think about the students; they really need to get back into school. She understands there are a couple students who are very uncomfortable going back to school but it's been stated that if there are students that are uncomfortable coming back to school they don't need to come back; you have all the equipment to keep them right at home. She asked the Board to think about the students who are struggling; there are many students that are struggling and they really need to get back into school and the school environment.

PRESIDENT SHOOK

The Board allowed taking 3 more calls and Public Comments extended to @ 45 Minutes. Public Comments closed at 7:49 p.m.

It was **M/S/C (Betschart/Shatswell)** to approve recommendation to open schools on March 22 with the Block Hybrid Schedule, with the adjustments made as was noted by public review, and then school would reconvene on April 12 with the Full Hybrid Schedule as presented. Passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

4.0

Board President Shook adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.