

MINUTES
Special Board of Trustees' Meeting

January 13, 2021

5:30 PM - CLOSED SESSION; OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
Zoom Webinar Link: <https://www.ovsd.org/boardmeeting>

Trustees:

Patricia Singer, President
Jack Souders, Vice President
Gina Clayton-Tarvin, Clerk
John Briscoe, Member
Norm Westwell, Member

Administration:

Carol Hansen, Ed.D., Superintendent
Michael Conroy, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Administrative Services
Felix Avila, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Julianne Hoefer, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

A. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by President Patricia Singer at 5:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Members present: John Briscoe, Gina Clayton-Tarvin, Patricia Singer, Jack Souders, Norm Westwell

C. Agenda Adoption - Special Board of Trustees' Meeting of January 13, 2021

Passed with a motion by John Briscoe and a second by Jack Souders.

Yes John Briscoe
Yes Gina Clayton-Tarvin
Yes Patricia Singer
Yes Jack Souders
Yes Norm Westwell

D. Closed Session

Board Clerk Clayton-Tarvin read aloud the items listed under Closed Session. As there was no one wishing to speak on these matters, the Board moved to Closed Session at 5:33 p.m.

D.1. Government Code Section 54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiators - Agency designated representative: Felix Avila, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Employee Organizations: CSEA and OVTA

E. Return to Open Session/Report of Closed Session Action

The Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 6:00 p.m. There were no Closed Session actions to report.

F. Pledge of Allegiance

President Singer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

G. Public Comments

Clerk Clayton-Tarvin advised there are seven speakers who wish to address the Board in person. In addition, there are 65 submitted comments, with 41 in favor of continued Distance Learning, 29 in support of a return to In-person learning, and 5 others. Per Board Policy and in the interest of time, she recommended the Board hear the comments of the speakers who have come in person; read the first 10 comments submitted on both sides; and also read the 5 other comments.

After Board discussion, a majority of the Board members concurred with this recommendation.

Heather Dowland, staff member, expressed concern with continued Distance Learning not being in the best interest of students; explained difficulties experienced in this venue of learning, and urged the Board to return students to school.

Katherine Gilkey, parent, talked about the disservice being done to our children's education and recommended the return to in-person instruction for the sake of the students.

Elizabeth Carr, staff member, spoke in support of continuing Distance Learning for two more weeks, and include special education staff and students in Distance Learning during this time.

Jack Sokolov, community member, talked about government overreach, the relationship between the economy and schools, and suggested there be some type of hold harmless grading system.

Julie Bernstein, staff member, stressed the need to continue Distance Learning, as she shared the latest COVID-19 statistics.

Kari McLaughlin, staff member, noted the rising COVID-19 statistics and recommended special education students and staff also be in Distance Learning.

Trina Trace, staff member, shared successes her students are having as they actively engage in Distance Learning.

The following comments were read into the Public Record by President Singer and Clerk Clayton-Tarvin.

Comment in support of keeping Special Day Class in person and not extending Distance Learning beyond February 1 for any child:

Karleen DeGroot

Comments regarding mental and financial impacts of Distance Learning on families; suggested schedule changes; special education staff and students; and Virtual Academy options:

Anonymous
M.R.
Anonymous
Joe

Comments in favor of returning to in-person schooling:

Brooke
Jessica Moran
Lara Davis
Stephanie Ware
Shannon Pollacchi
Anonymous
April
Bob Myers
Janie Celentano

Comments in favor of extending/returning to Distance Learning for all students and staff:

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Jesse Dahl
Heike A. Corpuz
Autumn Hise
Anonymous
Anonymous

H. New Business

H.1. Superintendent's Office: Temporary Distance Learning Update (Action)

Dr. Hansen narrated a PowerPoint presentation that provided an update on Temporary Distance Learning, including the high employee absenteeism due to quarantine measures; the latest updated COVID-19 statistics; and staff survey results reflecting that over 60% of staff are uncomfortable with returning to In-person Hybrid instruction on January 19, 2021. Staff is recommending extending Temporary Distance Learning for general education, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through 8th grade, until January 29, 2021, to allow additional time for the COVID-19 surge to lessen. In addition,

administrative action would be taken, as needed, to return special education classes to Temporary Distance Learning on an individual class basis; and maintain child care (Kids' Club, Fee-based Preschool, and Full Day State Preschool) in order to support frontline and essential workers effective January 19, 2021.

At this time, President Singer read aloud a joint letter from the Ocean View Teachers Association (OVTA) and California School Employees Association (CSEA), requesting the Board consider extending Distance Learning through January 29, 2021, and transitioning all staff, including special education, to Temporary Distance Learning at this time.

MOTION by Jack Souders and seconded by Gina Clayton-Tarvin to extend Temporary Distance Learning for general education students, TK through 8th grade, to January 29, 2021.

Trustee Clayton-Tarvin thanked everyone for their comments, noting she understands both sides of the issue; noted that based on the health statistics presented tonight and a promising vaccine, she concurred with Dr. Hansen's recommendation and administrative actions shared in her report.

Trustee Souders concurred with extending Distance Learning through January 29, 2021, stating this extra time would give an opportunity for the COVID-19 statistics to decrease and the vaccine to become more available.

Vote to extend Temporary Distance Learning for general education students, grades TK through 8, through January 29, 2021:

Yes John Briscoe
Yes Gina Clayton-Tarvin
Yes Patricia Singer
Yes Jack Souders
No Norm Westwell

I. Closed Session (if needed)

The Board of Trustees moved to Closed Session at 7:42 p.m. to continue discussion of the previously announced item. Any action taken will be reported out from the Board Room (Building A).

J. Return to Open Session/Report of Closed Session Action

The Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 8:00 p.m. There were no Closed Session actions to report.

K. Adjournment

Time: 8:02 p.m.

Passed with a motion by Norm Westwell and a second by John Briscoe.

Yes John Briscoe
Yes Gina Clayton-Tarvin
Yes Patricia Singer
Yes Jack Souders
Yes Norm Westwell



Carol Hansen, Ed.D., Superintendent



Gina Clayton-Tarvin, Board Clerk



Date