

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
GAYLORD A. NELSON ADMINISTRATION CENTER / BOARD ROOM
2922 TRANSWORLD DRIVE, STOCKTON, CA
OCTOBER 20, 2021 / 12:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

PRESENT: Vernon Gebhardt, President; Greg Clark, Vice-President; Douglas Vigil, Board member; Ken Vogel, Board member; Janet Dyk, Board member; Troy Brown, Secretary.

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Anderson, Deputy Superintendent; Janine Kaeslin, Associate Superintendent; Brandie Brunni, Assistant Superintendent; Sean Morrill, Assistant Superintendent; Jane Steinkamp, Assistant Superintendent; Joni Hellstrom, Terrell Martinez, Chrissy Lewis, Rachele Tyler, Lisa Bryant, Brandie Moore, SJCOE staff; Mark Medina-Wilson, Lorie Sims, Interpreters; Marlene Flau, Recorder.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

President Gebhardt called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Board member Dyk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no additions to the agenda.

III. COMMENTS: Ms. Andrea Hornbeak commented on concerns she had regarding three staff members from County Operated Schools and Programs. Ms. Kailee Mahoney commented on concerns regarding vaccine mandates.

Comments submitted electronically were read into the minutes verbatim:

Mandy Rodrigues: Please fight for our rights to decide what is best for our children. This is not a one size fits all solution. My children are vaccinated and have attended public school for the last 13 plus years. I knew when I enrolled them that this is what was expected. I weighed the risk and made the decision for my family that public school would be the way we would go. This covid shot is different. There is not enough information available to make a fully informed decision. Not a single dr or scientist can tell me if my child will suffer adverse reactions from this shot, which many have. Or have long term effects, there is no long term data available cause it is new. Not even out of trials til 2023... Please know that many parents will pull their children from public schools over this. California schools will lose millions in funding. If you don't care about the safety of our children, then maybe the loss of revenue will matter more. Are you really ready to lose thousands of children over this? Us mothers carried our babies, gave birth to our babies, and love our babies unconditionally. We will always choose what is right and best for our children cause we know them the best.

Jenny Lynn: Good morning, I have to say I am disgusted to hear of police officers this morning at Reese Elementary. This has gone too far. Students being kicked out of class for not wearing masks after not wearing them the whole first quarter, parents being threatened with CPS or other agency calls, and students and parents not being allowed to choose what is right for their health and safety is wrong. The parent handbook for my district (Lodi) includes a section for contagious and infectious disease and it states that a child can be sent home IF FOR GOOD REASON it is believed THEY ARE SUFFERING FROM said disease. It also states that STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT to fair, consistent, and respectful treatment by teachers, staff, and other students. Further, according to the California Constitution, each child has the protected right to equal access in education, and discrimination against all students is

prohibited. Has the SJCOE now added to these statements, "unless the child isn't wearing a mask"? There is no need for our children to be masked, much less vaccinated, and neither should be forced on them. Education should not be given in exchange for compliance with unconstitutional and unscientific mandates. Stop the madness, stop the police presence at our schools over this, and end the mask and vaccine mandate in our county schools. Thank you, Jenny Miller, Former Lodi USD parent.

Brooke Shamhart: Good morning Members of the Board, My name is Brooke Shamhart and I am a teacher in Lodi Unified School District. This is my seventh year in the district and my 15th year of teaching. I previously taught in the state of Arizona, but have loved my time back in California close to family. I am writing to you this morning as a concerned teacher in San Joaquin County. I am at risk of losing my career and livelihood due to my refusal to take the Covid Vaccine. In March, our district rolled out the vaccines through a clinic and I felt obligated to receive this vaccine due to what I was being told by the media and teachers around me. I did not do any research and I set my appointment. When I contacted the clinic regarding being out of town for the second dose, they asked that I do not accept the first dose without committing to the second. Shortly after, in early April, my sister took the vaccine and she became severely injured. She had chronic pain in her chest and abdomen and was unable to sleep. She was plagued with anxiety. She was diagnosed with costochondritis and has had to endure a pain management regimen she never imagined. In May, my sister-in-law was also vaccinated and after her second dose, she suffered heart inflammation, neurological tremors, and her blood pressure was unsafe. She has had to see a variety of specialists and she was labeled as a vaccine injury in VAERS. It was at this point that I made a decision for myself and my family after extensive research put out by a variety of reputable doctors who were seeing alarming responses to this vaccine. It is my personal choice to determine which medications I take and not my school district's, my county's, my state's, or my country's! I would like for this board to fight for medical freedom and do what's right. If you spend just a short time on openvaers.com, especially with regards to the covid vaccine <https://openvaers.com/covid-data>, you will see that there are an alarming number of adverse events with the vaccines and they are not being honest about the "full FDA approval." The Comirnaty vaccine is not available in the U.S.! Please do what's right and fight for your teachers who would like to make their own medical decisions and continue in their careers. This is not about public health, but rather coercion and control. Thank you for your time, Brooke Shamhart.

Elaine Lusher: Good morning, To hear about police presence at one of our local elementary schools to enforce the mask wearing is very disheartening and I can only imagine how much further these tactics will escalate to enforce this covid vaccine. As a parent of a preschooler in special education, my child may not be forced to wear a mask due to his physical disabilities but he has suffered from the forced mask wearing that the teachers and staff must adhere too. He is not able to see facial expression, not able to see them speak which is a huge element of development that is being stripped due to these mandates. He now gets upset if I pick him up from school and I am not wearing a mask due to fear of germs. I will not have my 4 year old subjected to fear mongering tactics when my child has a .0007% chance of dying from Covid. Instilling this fear into our children will have detrimental affects that will likely last into their later years. Many parents are making other plans and arrangements for their children's education and I am also prepared to do this if the covid vaccine mandates continue to push forward. I support freedom of choice, not coercion. As a tax payer in SJ county and a parent of a SUSD student, I'm asking that you stand for medical freedom/choice and let parents make those decisions and uphold not only our parental rights but our Constitutional rights as well. Please end the mask and vaccine mandate in our county schools. Our children and teachers/school staff deserve better. Thank you, Elaine Lusher, Stockton Unified School District Parent and SJ county tax payer.

Brandon Bausman: My child has been suffering due to the mask-wearing as he cannot form letters properly based on lack of face appearance by teachers and peers. This has significantly affected his grades and mental health as he no longer has confidence with interactions. I will not instill fear into my child that has a .0007% chance of dying from COVID when there is more of a chance of dying in a car accident on the way to school."

Lisa Weinstein: I have been a substitute teacher in this county for the past twenty years. I have stopped working and will not return due to the mandates. I've had Covid and now have natural immunity. I do

not understand how we can segregate teachers based on medical status for something that has a 99.997% survival rate for my age range. Mandated testing only for teachers who haven't had the vaccine is discriminatory since the unbiased scientific data indicates the vaccine does not stop the spread. The data also indicates that children have more risk of adverse reaction than benefit from taking the vaccine. I support informed consent and choice for those who wish to take the vaccine. It's been readily available for 6 months for those who want to take it without coercion. I support freedom of choice. Sincerely, Lisa Weinstein.

Ashley Herzick: Good morning, I am a Speech and Language Pathologist working in Lodi Unified School District. I want to point out that these mandates are greatly impacting the population who is already most at risk, our special education population. Children are not thriving in this fear-based environment that our "leaders" have created. How do you all recommend I do my job when my mouth and my students' mouths are covered; do you understand the hundreds of missed learning opportunities due to such strict masking, with no or impossible-to-acquire exemptions? An ongoing study, "Language Development Behind the Mask" is currently researching, not IF the masks are detrimental to learning, but HOW detrimental they are to learning. In the study introduction, which is being led by top university professionals from around the world, it says, "Language encompasses both auditory and visual cues that are highly relevant to language learning. Human communication and interaction relies on the acoustic speech stream produced, as well as on language related visual information, most prominently the hands and the mouth and eye regions in the face. Infants and toddlers are able to take advantage of the different sensory perceptual cues, and to integrate auditory and visual information while processing spoken language. COVID-19 has affected human communication through the pervasive use of masks. Masks degrade the quality of the speech signal, while also rendering facial cues to language inaccessible, particularly those pertaining to the mouth region." It is impossible to make up the lost learning moments due to these mandates and I am calling on you to think twice about continuing to enforce these blindly-led mandates; stand up for our children or at least allow the parents to choose. At the very least, a mask exemption should not be impossible to attain. Thank you, Ashley Herzick.

Ashely Negron: My name is Ashley Negron. I'm a Tracy parent with three children in two different districts. I also have a large family child care. I support informed consent, medical freedom and choice. I do not agree with the mandates and I will not enforce them, if put into effect. If these mandates reach my childcare, I will be forced to shut down which will cause families to lose out of quality child care. I will not teach my children to discriminate. I have voiced my concerns about our children's well being to our school boards, as well as in person to you. Our children have already had a tough 19 months, and now with the Governor recently announcing the mandate to vaccinate our children in public schools with the Extended Emergency Use Authorization COVID Vaccine it will only further challenge and segregate them. I am concerned that my children will not be able to experience public school the way I did. I am concerned my children will be discriminated against due to our personal medical choice, leading up to the mandates. We were taught not to treat each other different based on our personal and religious beliefs, or the way someone looked. Now we are taking away their right to a free education based on their medical status? What?! When will it end? If you implement these mandates, I will be forced to pull my children out of public school. I am not alone in my concerns, there are thousands of families (as you saw at the capitol on Monday) ready to pull their kids if we don't put a stop to this tyranny. Please stand up and support our county in our right for medical choice. Thank you, Ashley Negron.

rayzordog56: My child attends Venture, Foundations. The only reason she chose to return in-person is for the dance program. It is the only thing keeping her in school. As a student that already struggles with social interaction, the excessive use of masks isn't healthy for mental health. Temporarily being surrounded by masked faces is a sacrifice for her, to participate in dance. But if the covid shot is required, she will not be able to attend in-person or do what she loves most- which is dance! The science that doesn't recognize natural immunity is instilling fear and killing our kids dreams. So we stand with the school staff and many others in support of medical freedom and against discrimination or segregation of any kind which includes medical status.

Aracely FSoria: Good afternoon, I am writing in today to advocate for medical choice for school staff and students. I'm a mother of two teens. My children will not get this experimental shot. Both of my children had crazy reactions as toddlers to approved vaccines. The experiences to this day are beyond

scary. And now our government and school system wants to force this experiment?! NO! I personally have family and friends who did go ahead and receive this shot. Weather it be one dose or two. They now draw the line due to health problems from this shot. I am disgusted by the incident at the Lodi elementary school!! Over a mask? The mask that harm the children? And police presence at the school? This has all gone to far! This is Government over reach!! I am disappointed that our school system is just "following orders" We know the school system is suffering with enrollment. These mandates and orders that are being followed will only make a bigger impact. Some of us are on our way out. Families with youngest children who have and will pull their children will never return tot hey government school system. The money they are throwing at you know won't save you later. Thank you, Aracely.

IV. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR INFORMATION:

1. Williams Uniform Complaints Quarterly Report: Superintendent Brown presented the quarterly report that indicates there were no uniform complaints filed regarding the schools and programs operated by the San Joaquin County Office of Education between mid-July and mid-October.

V. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION:

2. Minutes: On a motion from Greg Clark, second by Doug Vigil, the Board approved the minutes from the September 15, 2021, meetings as presented.

AYES: Gebhardt, Clark, Vigil, Vogel, Dyk
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

3. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III Expenditure Plan: On a motion from Ken Vogel, second by Doug Vigil, the Board approved the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III Expenditure Plan for programs operated by the San Joaquin County Office of Education as presented.

AYES: Gebhardt, Clark, Vigil, Vogel, Dyk
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. Resolution #21-22-07 – Adopting 2020 – 2021 Revised Actual Gann Expenditures Limit and 2021 – 2022 Estimated Gann Expenditures Limit: On a motion from Janet Dyk, second by Ken Vogel, the Board approved this resolution as presented

AYES: Gebhardt, Clark, Vigil, Vogel, Dyk
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. Resolution #21-22-08 – Certification Resolution for Exception to the 180-day Wait Period: On a motion from Janet Dyk, second by Ken Vogel, the Board approved this resolution certifying the need to employ a CalPERS retired participant at the Ripon Unified School District as presented

AYES: Gebhardt, Clark, Vigil, Vogel, Dyk
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Clark

VI. CLOSED SESSION: Action taken in Closed Session will be reported in Open Session.

- Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #09-21-22
- Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #10-21-22

VII. ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION (cont.):

6. Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #09-21-22: On a motion from Greg Clark, second by Ken Vogel, the Board denied the appeal of the decision by the Governing Board of the Lincoln Unified School District and ordered the attendance of student #09-21-22 to the school district of residence, Lodi Unified School District.
7. Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #10-21-22: On a motion from Ken Vogel, second by Greg Clark, the Board denied the appeal of the decision by the Governing Board of the Stockton Unified School District and ordered the attendance of student #10-21-22 to the school district of residence, Lodi Unified School District.

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

- The next regular San Joaquin County Board of Education meeting will be held November 17, 2021, 12:00 p.m., 2922 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Troy A. Brown, Ed.D.
Secretary to the Board /
County Superintendent of Schools