

**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of the Board of Trustees' Special Meeting of January 5, 2022**

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) NOTICE**

This meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-35-20 issued on March 21, 2020 allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act and pursuant to the order of the Health Officer of San Mateo County dated March 16, 2020 as this meeting is necessary so that the South San Francisco Unified School District can conduct necessary business and is permitted under the order as an essential governmental function.

As SSFUSD is an inclusive school district a Spanish language translation of the Board meeting was also available to the Spanish speaking community.

This meeting included closed captions which required the Board to provide a break, for the captioner's benefit, after approximately every 90 minutes.

**OPEN SESSION**

**A. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m.**

**B. ROLL CALL**

Board Members:	Mr. John Baker – Present Dr. Chialin Hsieh - Present Ms. Daina Lujan - Present Mrs. Patricia Murray - Present Mrs. Mina Richardson - Present Ms. Samantha Avila Gomez, Student Board Member - Present
----------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Cabinet Members:	Dr. Shawnterra Moore, Superintendent - Present Mr. Keith Irish, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services and Categorical Programs - Excused Mr. Ted O, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services - Excused Dr. Jay Spaulding, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Student Services - Excused
------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge that the South San Francisco Unified School District is located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

**E. COMMUNICATIONS - None**

Public comments were submitted in advance of the meeting, were read by all Board members and posted on the District's website before the meeting. In accordance with the law, the Brown Act, during special meetings, public comments are limited to only those items on the agenda.

There were no live comments during the meeting.

**ACTION**

**1. ADMINISTRATION**

**a. Resolution No. 22-01 for SSFUSD In-person Board Meetings**

Superintendent Shawnterra Moore said Governor Newsom issued an executive order which rescinded his previous order, and set a date of October 1 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings. At a prior meeting, the Board discussed this and made a decision to return to in person meetings. One of the rationales behind this was because District staff had already transitioned or would be transitioning back as well. She said the waiver sunsetted on October 1 and legislative bodies are subject to the Brown Act to transition back to full in person meetings. In AB361, there are provisions that allow legislative bodies to return to in person with opportunities for virtual meetings if there is a publicly claimed emergency in combination with local health official recommendations for social distancing or the Board can adopt findings that meeting in-person would present risks to health. Dr. Moore stated that a resolution for virtual meetings is good for only 30 days and then if the Board is interested in extending that, it needs to bring this item back, and make that same claim. As the Board considers this resolution, she will, of course, support their desires but said it is also her job to share her thinking about such items. She reminded the Board that District staff are coming to work every day, meeting in-person, and exercising health and safety precautions while doing so, and she would never want the Board to be criticized for meeting virtually. The Superintendent noted that the majority of staff are meeting virtually. The majority of meetings with

Cabinet, the Leadership Team, and Principals with their staff, are virtual. She thinks a recommendation from the County Superintendent, in terms of school staff, is going to be to meet virtually. She asked the Board to consider what they will do and how they model with staff as well.

President John Baker said he decided last week that this Board meeting should be virtual, given the COVID spike, and wanted to discuss the potential for the January 13 meeting to also be virtual. He understands the public perception about the Board meeting virtually, while making the staff and students come in. He noted two things. One is that the District's ability to unilaterally go into distance learning was removed with the expiration of SB98 at the end of June 2021 and it is not up to the Board whether or not to go back into distance learning. Also, the Board has guidance from the San Mateo County Health Department and the San Mateo County Office of Education to not have unnecessary in-person meetings. President Baker said this is a meeting where they have the digital ability to meet and do not need to meet in-person physically. If they want to stop spreading the virus and want to moderate the risk, they do not meet in person. He said if this meeting was conducted in-person, some participants would not have attended and he values their feedback. He proposed holding this meeting virtually and discussing, with the rest of the Board, whether to have the next meeting online as well.

Vice President Mina Richardson asked if the resolution has a 30-day window, whether all meetings held this month should be virtual. President Baker replied that the resolution gives the Board the option over the next 30 days to meet virtually, but does not require the January 13 meeting to be held online.

Trustee Patricia Murray reported that she tested positive for COVID over the Winter Break, and while her 10 day quarantine period ended today, she would not have attended this meeting in person. She would have felt more comfortable to wait a few more days.

Vice President Richardson shared that she also tested positive for the virus on Monday and her 10 days, according to the guidelines, is probably over by January 13. She said people may continue to have symptoms and make progress at different stages. If she does not feel well, she will not physically attend. Since she would not know if she was contagious, she would not want to jeopardize anyone's health by her presence. This would be a precaution and consideration for staff and the public.

Trustee Chialin Hsieh said she totally supports the resolution and this is also a public health issue which impacts audience members in an in-person meeting.

Trustee Daina Lujan said she is comfortable meeting in person. She supports the resolution and while she feels that it is important for the Board to meet in person, they could potentially put people at risk by encouraging large groups to get together in a confined space.

Student Trustee Samantha Avila Gomez said she also support the resolution with meeting virtually due to the high rise in COIVD cases. "Even though we are going to school and...are near people that might potentially have the virus, why go to another Board meeting with more people where you can potentially spread it even more." She asked and President Baker confirmed that online public comments will be acceptable during the virtual meetings.

President Baker said the Board would need to pass the resolution to meet virtually since this meeting had already started. He conducted an informal poll of the Board members on whether to hold the January 13 meeting online. The consensus showed that the Trustees wanted to have that meeting be conducted virtually. Dr. Moore said once the Board takes action on the resolution, it would cover the January 13 meeting also.

MOTION #116 (Murray/Hsieh) to adopt Resolution #22-01 finding that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, SSFUSD in-person Board meetings would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. (AYES: Student Trustee Avila Gomez, Baker, Hsieh, Lujan, Murray, Richardson; NOES: None). Motion Carried (Unanimous)

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

### **1. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **a. 2021-22 Equity Network 2.0 Session #2**

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent Moore are participating in quarterly meetings this year with a focus on leading through the lens of educational equity in SSFUSD. At this meeting, the Board discussed Effective Governance with an Equity Lens 2.0, the Governance Core, Board Governance with Equity Lens Self-Assessment, and Board Policy 415:Equity.

Student Trustee Avila Gomez left the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The Board recessed at 6:57 p.m. for a break and reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT - 8:24 p.m.**