CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

84 EAST "J" STREET • CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910 • (619) 425-9600
EACH CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF GREAT WORTH

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
March 3, 2021
6 P.M.
Dr. Lowell J. Billings Board Room, Education Service and Support Center
Streamed Online

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

Opening Procedures

A. Call to Order

President Reyes called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Dr. Eduardo Reyes, President
Ms. Kate Bishop, Vice President (Virtually)
Ms. Lucy Ugarte, Clerk (Virtually)
Mrs. Leslie Ray Bunker, Member
Mr. Francisco Tamayo, Member

Members Absent:
None.

Others Present:
Dr. Francisco Escobedo, Superintendent
Mr. Oscar Esquivel, Deputy Superintendent (Virtually)
Dr. Matthew Tessier, Asst. Supt., Human Resources (Virtually)
Dr. Jeffrey Thiel, Asst. Supt., Human Resources (Virtually)
Mrs. Soreli M. Norton, Asst. to the Supt. and Board of Education

C. Pledge of Allegiance

President Reyes asked Vice President Bishop to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, but she asked him to please pass it to somebody else. Board Member Bunker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA (Action) *Approve Agenda*

Prior to approval, President Reyes requested the Board consider the first Public Hearing item, 7.A., (1) Conduct Public Hearing Regarding Early Retirement Incentive Program for Certificated, Classified, and Nonrepresented Employees; and (2) Approve the Early Retirement Incentive Program for Certificated, Classified, and Nonrepresented Employees, before the Consent Calendar.

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: BUNKER, Vote: UNANIMOUS

3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, WRITTEN REPORTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS *Presentations/ Awards*

A. Presentation of Newly Hired and Promoted Employees

Dr. Thiel congratulated Lani Perez, who was promoted from Principal (Salt Creek) to Executive Director (Language Development). He also welcomed Delia Arancibia, who was appointed Principal (Sunnyside).

President Reyes congratulated both and welcomed Ms. Arancibia.

B. Recognition of Finalist for the 2020 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Dr. Tessier shared information regarding the Awards, the highest recognition an elementary or secondary science or mathematics teacher may receive, and which are administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He said award recipients inspire students and serve as role models and leaders in those disciplines. Dr. Tessier commented that only three science teachers and three mathematics teachers are identified as finalists for the state of California and that one of those finalists is District Teacher Marlys Williamson, who was also a 2019-20 District Teacher of the Year. He introduced Ms. Williamson and told her the District is very proud of her.

Ms. Williamson said she was very honored to receive the award, which was a big surprise, and proud to represent the District during this very tough year. She commented that she hopes the award will inspire the future scientists and computer engineers in her class and thanked all the teachers who work so hard. Ms. Williamson thanked the Board for honoring her.

Board Members congratulated and commended Ms. Williamson, wished her good luck, said the District is proud of her, and commented that she is an inspiration and a role model for many. Also that all her work throughout the years culminated in this award.

C. Recognition of Cal Coast Cares Foundation Educator Grant

Dr. Tessier said the District embraces and values its community partnerships, which make it stronger. He announced that one of those partners, Cal Coast Cares Foundation, donated $1,400 in October 2020 and that materials purchased with the donation will be used to ensure safety when students return for hybrid instruction at the Coastal Education Program located at the Living Coast Discovery Center. Dr. Tessier introduced Cal Coast Cares Foundation Senior Community Relations Specialist Allie Kosciak, who manages the educator grant and student scholarship program for the Foundation helping support students and teachers in San Diego and Riverside.

Ms. Kosciak thanked the District for inviting her. She said the Foundation is part of Cal Coast Credit Union, which was founded by teachers over 90 years ago. Ms. Kosciak commented the Foundation is proud and honored to support the educational community in San Diego and Riverside and that in 2020, over $30,000 were awarded in educator grants. She added plans are to do the same in 2021, with applications opening in May/June, and invited schools to submit theirs.

Board Members thanked Ms. Kosciak and Cal Coast Cares Foundation for the donation and for the partnership.

4. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Communications to the Board

A. Chula Vista Classified Employees Organization

Chula Vista Classified Employees Organization (CVCEO) President Peter Zeitler congratulated Ms. Williamson on her award. Mr. Zeitler mentioned that Carla Sandez and Maria Arroyo (Daly Academy) received County Lighthouse Leadership Awards for their work with the No Place for Hate program. He acknowledged Risk Management Executive Director Anthony Carlton and Emergency Preparedness and Security Manager Dr. Sherry Stone for pushing to get the vaccine program. Mr. Zeitler said he received the vaccine and recommended that all CVCEO and CVE members make an effort to also get it. He said the District spent over $7 million on computers for distance learning and he was disheartened to learn some schools were holding back the devices for use when students return to school; commented that he was happy that schools are now handing the computers out and students will have access to quality devices at home. Mr. Zeitler remarked that he noticed a roofing contract on the agenda for schools that were recently modernized and questioned why the work was not done before. He thanked everyone for the hard work in getting the schools ready for hybrid learning.

B. Chula Vista Educators

Chula Vista Educators (CVE) President Susan Skala said she was excited about the almost 120 people who are retiring this year, congratulated Dr. Ciriza on her new endeavor and said she will be missed a lot, congratulated Ms. Williamson on her award, and expressed excitement about the vaccine. She addressed the requirements for returning to school stated on the November 13 Memorandum of Understanding, saying one is the return to Red Tier; the second widespread testing; and the third full implementation of the COVID prevention measures, which includes safety training. Ms. Skala shared a number of concerns—regarding coordination of safety measures, on the confusing parent playbook that mentions half-day cohorts instead of specifying 155 minutes of instruction, the possibility of combination classes that add to teacher's workloads, and likelihood of transfers and reassignments. She suggested the District take some control of determining who teaches hybrid and who teaches distance learning to avoid some of the problems. Ms. Skala also remarked that many teachers are eager to return and many are eager to stay in distance learning and said the District needs to ensure the language and spirit of the agreement are followed.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Oral Communications

Oral Communications provides the public with an opportunity to address the Board on non-agenda items. Speakers are requested to limit their remarks to three minutes (approximately 390 words). Comments submitted by completing the "Request to Be Heard" form accessible here (English) and here (Spanish) by the deadline of 12 noon on the day of the meeting, will be read at the appropriate time during the meeting. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each topic to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the President may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation depending on the subject and the number of persons wishing to be heard. No Board action can be taken.

Comments received were read:

- Concerned SDC [Special Day Class] Teachers (anonymous) – Asking for the Board to help students.
- CVE SPED [Special Education] Staff (anonymous) – On concerns regarding Ms. Skala.
- Concerned Parent (anonymous) – On concerns regarding the relationship between a former and a current Board Member and CVE Vice President Rosa Martinez.
- Parent Beatriz Estrada – On concerns with Board Member ties to Sweetwater Union High School District's teacher union.
- Parent Antonio Hernandez – On concerns with Board ties to unions.

- Open Schools California Supporters (anonymous) – Asking the Board to face local unions.
- Parent Andrea Gonzales – Asking for high school seniors to be allowed a [graduation] ceremony.
- District mother of two (anonymous) – On concerns regarding establishment of a committee.
- Open California Schools Now Parent Group (anonymous) – Encouraging visiting of their website and signing recall petitions.
- Community Member (anonymous) – Regarding meetings between CVE President and Board Members.
- Parent (anonymous) – On concerns regarding focus on a land statement instead of current conditions.
- Resource Specialist Teacher (anonymous) – On concerns about how support service minutes will be provided during the hybrid model.
- Parent/Community Member (anonymous) – On concerns about the Board focus on a land acknowledgement instead of on supporting all students and getting them back in school.
- Former Site Employee/Parent (anonymous) – On concerns regarding a Board Member's request not to consider furlough days as potential budget reductions.
- Concerned CVE Teachers (anonymous) – On concerns with working conditions under Ms. Skala.
- District Advisory Council Chairperson Jaqueline Gonzalez – Thanking Dr. Escobedo and the District team for helping the community during the pandemic.
- Parent Edward Dominguez – Regarding children's mental health.
- Concerned Employee (anonymous) – On concerns with lack of personal protective equipment for psychologists.
- Parent Raquel Garcia – "March 4" [no other information provided].

6. APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR (Action) *Consent Calendar*

The following items listed under Consent Calendar are considered by the Board in one action. There will be no discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless members of the Board, staff, or public request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

Prior to approval of the Consent Calendar, President Reyes pulled Item 6.G.

Motion: UGARTE, Second: BISHOP, Vote: UNANIMOUS

A. Adopt Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Special and Regular Meetings February 10, 2021

B. Approve and/or Ratify Human Resources Items A Through J **2020-21.058**

C. Adopt Resolution Designating the Month of April 2021 as *Public Schools Month* in the Chula Vista Elementary School District **2020-21.059**

D. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding with the San Diego County Superintendent of Schools for a Multilingual California Project Led by the California Association for Bilingual Education for the Period of February 10, 2021, Through June 30, 2023

E. Ratify Memorandum of Understanding with the San Diego County Superintendent of Schools for the San Diego Foundation Award for the Period of March 1 Through December 31, 2021

F. Approve Renewal of Bid No. 17/18-4 to UnifiedCommunications.com, Formerly Novus, LLC, for the Purchase of Microsoft Lync/Skype for Business Gateways and Phone Equipment for the Period of April 12, 2021, Through April 11, 2022

G. Approve Award of Bid Package No. 1 to Chambers, Inc., dba Roof Construction, for Roofing Renovations Projects at Castle Park, Harborside, Karl H. Kellogg, Los Altos, John J. Montgomery, and Rosebank Elementary Schools in the Amount of $1,850,850 for the Period of March 4, 2021, Through Completion of the Project

Board Member Bunker said Mr. Zeitler brought up a good point regarding the need for roofing for some of the schools that were recently modernized.

Mr. Esquivel explained roofing work was omitted when the schools were modernized because the District needed to ensure there was enough General Obligation Bond (GO) funding to cover all 11 schools. He added that, now that modernization is finished and GO funding is still available, the District is completing the work originally omitted.

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: BISHOP, Vote: UNANIMOUS

H. Approve Change Order for an Increase in the Amount of $290,805 for M.A. Stevens Construction, Inc., to Replace the Fire Alarm System at Juarez-Lincoln Elementary School

I. Ratify Purchase Orders, Warrants, and Checks Written/Issued Through February 28, 2021 **2020-21.060**

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearings

Public Hearings provides the public with an opportunity to address the Board on specific items. Comments submitted by completing the "Request to Be Heard" form accessible here (English) and here (Spanish) by the deadline of 12 noon on the day of the meeting, will be read when each item comes up for discussion and the Board President announces the opening

of the public hearing. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each public hearing item to 20 minutes and speakers are requested to limit their remarks to three minutes (approximately 390 words). With Board consent, the President may increase or decrease the time allowed for public comments depending on the number and the length of the "Request to Be Heard" forms received.

A. (1) Conduct Public Hearing Regarding Early Retirement Incentive Program for Certificated, Classified, and Nonrepresented Employees; and

NOTE: Discussion and action on this item took place prior to approval of the Consent Calendar.

President Reyes opened the public hearing.

Dr. Thiel said a public hearing is required to receive input on the District's early retirement incentive program for certificated, classified, and nonrepresented employees. He commented the Board had previously approved agreements with CVCEO (and included nonrepresented) and CVE regarding the program and that 77 CVCEO and nonrepresented and 49 CVE employees submitted retirements. He added that the District's Budget Department, with oversight from the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), noted the program is financially advantageous for the District.

No comments were received. President Reyes closed the public hearing.

(2) Approve the Early Retirement Incentive Program for Certificated, Classified, and Nonrepresented Employees

Motion: BISHOP, Second: TAMAYO, Vote: UNANIMOUS

B. (1) Conduct Public Hearing on Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Certificated Services; and

Dr. Thiel said that a public hearing is required to receive input on the discontinuance of services. He added the District proposes to eliminate 30 full-time classroom teaching positions as a result of retirements and the temporary positions the District does not plan to fill unless enrollment increases and said no layoff notices will be needed. He said that, in addition, there are 2.8 full-time equivalent positions at the site level that will result in the lay off of three part-time employees.

President Reyes opened the public hearing. No comments were received. President Reyes closed the public hearing.

In response to a question from Vice President Bishop, Dr. Thiel clarified there are no layoffs regarding the 30 teacher positions, but there are three part-time (Visual and Performing Arts and program support) positions that will be discontinued and result in layoffs. At President Reyes's request, he explained that these employees are added to a list and will have first priority when schools bring back positions; further emphasizing the District will not hire new people until the employees that are laid off are offered the opportunity to return to work.

(2) Adopt Resolution on Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Certificated Services for the 2021-22 School Year **2020-21.061**

Discontinuance: Elementary Classroom Teaching (K-6), Full-Time Elementary Theater Teaching, Part-Time Program Support, and Part-Time Visual Arts Teaching

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: BUNKER, Vote: UNANIMOUS

C. Conduct Public Hearing on Discovery Charter School Renewal Petition for the Period of July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2028

President Reyes opened the public hearing.

Dr. Tessier said that on February 18, 2021, the District received a petition for renewal of the Discovery Charter, which is set to expire at the end of June 2021. He explained that the school and the District agreed to present the petition at the March 3 meeting to allow time for review of the petition, including the budget and instructional program, to ensure it meets the District's high standards. Dr. Tessier added that new law, Assembly Bill 1505, states that school districts will approve or deny charter renewals considering where the school is based on three levels—high, middle, or low performing. He said Discovery Charter is considered a high performing and due to this placement, the Board may consider renewal for five to seven years and introduced Principal Neil MacGaffey.

Mr. MacGaffey provided a PowerPoint presentation (that incorporated a video) as part of his report on the school. He presented information, including the history of the charter, renewal team, governance system, renewal elements, learning community, revenue and expense summary, school's performance in English Language Arts and Mathematics, Achieve3000 and iReady math data, attendance figures, and reopening plan. Mr. MacGaffey also thanked a number of people who support Discovery Charter. He also invited Board Members to visit the school.

Board Members thanked Mr. MacGaffey for his report and for the work he and his team do with students and with parents and commended

Discovery Charter for its successful environment and its high performance. Board Members also asked an assortment of questions on a variety of topics related to the report, which Mr. MacGaffey addressed, appreciated seeing the students in the video, and commented on diverse aspects of the school and the information provided.

No comments were received on this item. President Reyes closed the public hearing.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS

Administrative Action Items

A. Cast Vote for 2021 California School Boards Association's Delegate Assembly Candidates for Region 17

Dr. Escobedo said the District is part of Region 17 of the California School Boards Association, an amazing organization that does a great job helping change the minds and hearts of legislators to make significant changes to meet the needs of our region. He said the Delegate Assembly has seven vacancies and read the names of the candidates.

President Reyes motioned to vote for Vice President Bishop, Clerk Ugarte, and Board Member Bunker.

Motion: REYES, Second: TAMAYO, Vote: UNANIMOUS

B. Authorize Transition from Level 1, Distance Learning, to Level 2, Preparation Time for Hybrid Model, When All Conditions Described in the November 13 and December 16, 2020 Memorandums of Understanding with Chula Vista Educators Have Been Met

Dr. Thiel said the District is asking for Board authorization to transition from distance learning to preparation time for hybrid model when all conditions in the Memorandums of Understanding have been met and explained that teachers will need to return to school five days prior to students returning.

Comments were read as follows:

- Open Schools California – Demanding schools reopen now.
- Teacher Jessica Howard – Concerning with the reopening vote being on the agenda.
- Teacher Monica Murillo – Expressing gratitude to VEBA and the District for vaccination efforts and stating concerns with returning to in-person instruction.
- Parent Suzana Garrett – On concerns with the lack of initiative to reopen schools.

- Teachers Sue Stone and Lisandra Cazares de Gomez – Suggesting items to consider prior to reopening schools.
- Teacher Emma Doran – Asking not to rush into going back to school.
- Parent, Community Physician Ricardo Indacochea – Requesting renegotiations of parameters for returning to in-person learning for the physical, mental and academic well-being of students.
- Teacher Courtney Green – Requesting the Board does not move students to hybrid.
- Teacher Ruby Zamora Baker – Asking the Board to honor the Memorandum of Understanding [with CVE].
- Teacher Jessica Powell – Asking to allow time for the vaccine to provide protection before reopening schools.
- Teacher Rachel Lipowski – Asking for a plan before moving to the hybrid model.
- Parent/Teacher Michelle Kohler – Asking no decisions are made that would compromise the MOU [with CVE].
- Parent Suzana Garrett – Asking justification for continued school closures.
- Teacher Linda Brown Key – Asking if another survey will be sent to parents regarding their choice of distance learning or in-person instruction.
- Teacher (anonymous) – Asking the Board to wait to reopen schools until the county is in Red Tier.

Board Members asked a number of questions that were addressed by Dr. Escobedo, Mr. Esquivel, Dr. Thiel, Dr. Tessier, Special Education Executive Director Sharon Casey, and Risk Management Executive Director Mr. Carlton related to:

- Vaccination availability and number of District employees who have received it. (Board Member Bunker, Board Member Tamayo) – The District has been working with the County of San Diego to offer vaccination for its employees and currently about 60 percent of District employees are eligible.
- Testing when schools reopen, who is taking the burden of paying for the tests, who performs the tests, and do we have agreements with those performing the tests. (Vice President Bishop and Board Member Bunker) – Paying for testing will be done through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Funds. Currently, the District is looking at a partnership with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency to bring in people to conduct the testing.
- Clarification on the vote being to move from distance learning to preparation for hybrid learning. (Clerk Ugarte and Board Member

Bunker) – It is correct that the vote is to move to preparation for hybrid learning. Hybrid learning would go into effect when the county reaches Red Tier.

- Coordination with public health agencies. (Clerk Ugarte) – The District has been working closely with public health agencies.
- The issue of availability of substitutes. (Vice President Bishop) – The District is looking at increasing pay for substitutes in order to ensure availability of substitutes. If a teacher and class are quarantined, distance learning can continue, so there would be no need for a substitute. Substitutes are also eligible for the vaccine, so we expect to have sufficient number available to work.
- Individualized Education Programs and special education issues; teachers having to teach multiple grades; and problems with bites, scratches and bodily fluids; and how to maintain safety. (Vice President Bishop) – Many special education students have been attending schools and the District has learned a lot in how to maintain safety. The District is looking into the possibility of sister schools to help avoid the need for a teacher to serve multiple grade levels. Ms. Casey is working closely with the Special Day Class groups and Resource Specialist Program teachers to come up with solutions to help support them during the hybrid model and has been holding monthly chats to address issues that surface.

Board Members also:

- Thanked and commended County Supervisor Nora Vargas for her efforts in making the vaccine available to all educators and for opening the South Bay Super Center and opening the Border View YMCA, targeting everyone who lives in Chula Vista and San Ysidro. Requested support in communicating these vaccination opportunities to parents. (Board Member Tamayo)
- Requested joint communications (District and teacher leadership) to clear up misunderstandings. (Board Member Tamayo)
- Commented the vaccine must be made available for all teachers and stressed the importance of advocating for them to receive it. (Board Member Tamayo)
- Emphasized parents must be aware of any changes that may result from reopening plans. (Clerk Ugarte)
- Asked to be equitable and consistent in messaging for staff and parents. (Clerk Ugarte)
- Stressed the importance of honoring MOUs [with labor groups]. (Clerk Ugarte)
- Requested we consider that some schools are still in "hot zones" [for high case rates]. (Clerk Ugarte)

- Reminded everyone that some teachers may not be able to get their vaccines until other health issues are resolved (Clerk Ugarte).
- Expressed that distance learning is hard for parents and for teachers and thanked teachers and classified staff members for their efforts. (Vice President Bishop)
- Shared concerns from parents such as difficulty in affording childcare during this time, mental health care, losing playtime with friends, and the need for normalization. (Vice President Bishop)
- Shared concerns with reopening, saying this is being described by epidemiologists as the "eye of the hurricane" with new variants coming down and that we may see a new spike after Spring Break that would probably start around April 12. Also with the parent survey, as response percentages are very high at some schools and low at others and because parents were not asked if a priority for them is to stay with their teacher. (Vice President Bishop)
- Expressed it was important to acknowledge Colleague Chardá Bell-Fontenot from La Mesa-Spring Valley, saying there are serious racial disparities laid bare from the pandemic and its response, mentioning that national surveys show Black and Brown families are far more likely to want to keep their child(ren) in distance learning but are often pointed to as reasons for reopening and that the "acceptable" risk for reopening is mostly borne by Black and Brown families. (Vice President Bishop)
- Addressed the demonization of the MOU, saying the MOU is just a document everyone agreed upon in order to keep everyone safe. (Vice President Bishop).

Vice President Bishop asked if there would be a second vote to move from Level 2 to Level 3 or does this [vote] allow that from happening automatically at a certain period in time. Dr. Escobedo said that, as she shared, the MOU is a document we need to follow and the MOU states that the Board votes to get to Level 2 but no other action is needed [to move to hybrid learning] although the Board can set parameters. Vice President Bishop expressed that her big concern is that with the vote, the Board cedes responsibility of moving forward beyond that; she said Board Members were elected to take the responsibility and do with it what they feel the people who elected them want them to do with it. She also asked if there was a need to move to Level 2 in order to prepare, especially since a lot of work has been done in schools already and since the MOU states hybrid learning will not start until the county is in Red Tier, which has not happened. Dr. Escobedo said the county is very close to reaching Red Tier and schools will not be able to reopen when that happens if the Board has not approved the move from Level 1 to Level 2.

Vice President Bishop asked if the Board is able to call a special meeting and President Reyes stated a special Board meeting would

take place on March 16. Dr. Escobedo said the Board can vote on this item now and reconsider at the March 16 meeting to see how things are at that point. Board Member Tamayo commented he would like to see the Board move forward to authorize the item but retain the ability to review at the March 16 special meeting and assess if the conditions outlined in the MOU have been met and if there are significant changes, the Board can stop it. He said it is important to start preparations and to ensure everything outlined in the MOU is ready to go but with the condition that the Board can reassess and have a presentation from public health agencies and other resources to make an informed decision. Board Member Tamayo added it is important to start training teachers; to look at how to address mental health issues of students and staff, mentioning revamping of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) program to allow more time; and that is where the District needs more time to push forward.

President Reyes commented this year has been extremely difficult for parents, teachers, staff, and more importantly really tough academically and socially-emotionally for students. He said we realize that, even with the great effort and creativity of teachers, distance learning is not the same and that on one hand, we absolutely want students to return to school and on the other hand, return must be done in a way that ensures everyone is safe. President Reyes said going to Level 2 ensures all the protocols are in place for hybrid learning. Voting is to go to Level 2 and once we are in Level 2 and we meet the conditions stated in the MOU, then after two weeks, we go to hybrid learning and teachers will have five days to prepare in classrooms.

Clerk Ugarte requested further clarification on why the Board does not need to vote to reopen. Dr. Escobedo said the [MOU] does not provide language for the Board to vote to reopen but that the Board is able to set parameters, such as a [reopening] date; as an example, if conditions trigger reopening before Spring Break, the Board may ask for reopening to be pushed back.

President Reyes said students will need a lot of social-emotional help and asked if there is a plan to increase the number of counselors and social workers to support students. Dr. Escobedo said the District definitely wants to enhance the teaching of social-emotional aspects, especially with trauma-informed instruction and asked Dr. Tessier to expand on what MTSS Director Elizabeth Gianulis has planned. Dr. Tessier said the District has been doing a lot of trauma-informed care in social emotional supports for teachers and students for well over a year and is well positioned to continue that once teachers and students return to schools. President Reyes said he wants April 5 as the target date to start preparations as part of the planning; asked for more counseling staff at schools to support students; and requested

the number of combination classes is reduced as much as possible by hiring additional teachers for co-teaching, bringing in substitutes, or using other resources. President Reyes also remarked communication to staff and parents needs to be constant, effective, and clear. Board Member Bunker suggested principals prepare videos to show to everyone. Regarding the survey, Dr. Reyes asked that the 18 percent overall families who did not respond be called to ask how to support them. Vice President Bishop expressed concerns with putting a date on reopening, as there is too much that needs to happen before then; regarding using the Red Tier for the whole county as a trigger for reopening when some District schools may still be on the Purple Tier; and because a spike is expected by epidemiologists after Spring Break, which would be seen around April 12. Dr. Reyes clarified he said no earlier than April 5 to allow for teachers and staff to get their vaccines and are prepared.

Board Member Tamayo moved to authorize transition from Level 1 to Level 2 with a check in during the March 16 special Board meeting with a tentative Level 3 date not sooner than April 5. Clerk Ugarte expressed a concern regarding parent-teacher conferences, but it was established those will take place the week before Spring Break, so they will not have an effect on the "no earlier than April 5" date. Vice President Bishop brought up a concern regarding teachers not receiving their vaccines before they start. Further discussion ensued and Board Member Tamayo said the MOU does not address vaccinations, but it is something the Board wants to consider and should hear from the experts on March 16. At that point, the Board can call another special meeting at any time to reconsider conditions. Board Member Tamayo restated his motion.

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: BUNKER
Vote: Ayes: BUNKER, REYES, TAMAYO, UGARTE
Noes: BISHOP, Abstain: NONE

C. (1) Approve Revisions to Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget;

(2) Approve Second Interim Financial Report at January 31, 2021; and

(3) Certify District's Financial Status for Fiscal Year 2020-21
Mr. Esquivel presented the Second Interim Report of the 2020-21 school year, which is an update of the First Interim Report approved by the Board of Education in December 2020. He provided a summary of the General Fund and the updated Reserve for Economic Uncertainties (REU) amount; changes in the unrestricted revenues and in expenditures and contributions; Second Interim multiyear projections assumptions; data on the Governor's Proposed K-12 Education Budget and the Federal

Stimulus II; the Governor's deal with the Legislature to reopen schools and expand learning (Assembly Bill 86); multiyear projections through 2022-23; historical REU; enrollment comparison, historical average daily attendance; cumulative retirement cost increases; special education expenditures; and items the District is watching.

Board Members thanked Mr. Esquivel for the report. Mr. Esquivel answered a number of questions from Vice President Bishop:

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: REYES, Vote: UNANIMOUS

D. Accept Chula Vista Elementary School District 2019-20 Annual Audit Report

Mr. Esquivel said that every year, the District is required to have its financial statements audited by an independent certified public accountant (CPA) based on general accepted accounting principles and state and federal guidelines, and the CPA has to be approved by the state. He presented Mr. Brian Hadley from Wilkinson Hadley King & Co. LLP.

Mr. Hadley introduced himself and explained there are three things he looks at in any audit. The first is Page 1 of the audit report—the Auditor's Opinion, which is the most important page in the report because the auditor is giving you his opinion on your financial statements and the District's is an "unmodified opinion," which is the best opinion you can get and means your financial statements fairly present the financial position of the District as of June 30, 2020. The second is all the way to the back, on Page 125, the Schedule of Auditor's Results that provides questions with "Yes" or "No" answers, where he looks at findings. The District had one finding related to ASB [Associated Student Body] accounts, some of which did not have two people count the money, which is a really good accounting practice. He added the procedure was modified to require two people count the money, so it has been taken care of. The last thing is the last page, which talks about the prior year's audit findings and you want to make sure they were taken care of. The District had one small finding from the prior year on the ASES [After School Education and Safety] program, and it was resolved.

Board Members thanked Mr. Hadley for the report.

Motion: BUNKER, Second: TAMAYO, Vote: UNANIMOUS

9. FIRST AND SECOND READINGS, BOARD POLICIES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS, AND BOARD BYLAWS *First and Second Readings*

None.

10. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS/REPORTS

Information Items/Reports

A. Report Calendar to Board of Education

Vice President Bishop requested that Rebecca Fielding-Miller be invited to the March 16 special Board meeting. Said that [Dr.] Fielding-Miller is the head of the SASEA [Safer at School Early Alert System] program that is in place at two District schools. She explained SASEA is a method to test for COVID-19 through the sewage lines and by swabbing surfaces and commented that she would like [Dr.] Fielding-Miller to talk about the program, which may be a good alternative to asymptomatic biweekly testing.

11. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Communications

Ms. Bishop:

- Said she and Clerk Ugarte had been attending the same events.
- Thanked B-LAC and a sorority for an amazing equity and teaching presentation.
- Commented that she read to Mrs. Murillo's class at Veterans and that it was a blast and she remembers how much she likes hamming it up to kiddos.
- Thanked the principal at Rice for hosting her for her first walkthrough, which was very exciting and allowed her the opportunity to witness all the measures the principal and her staff have taken to try to keep the school families safe. Said she appreciated the principal's heartfelt feedback and that it was great to be able to see the SASEA program in action.
- Shared that, as a parent of a child who changed schools sixth months before distance learning started, she has seen her children struggle in terms of mental health with making connections with other students in their class. Encouraged teachers to set aside 30 minutes of the day for unstructured play, so the students get to know each other. Added it is especially important to allow the lower grade students, who cannot chat very well, to stay in Teams to just play.
- Pointed out that because the Board meeting was scheduled so early in the month, she will host her office hours after meeting instead of before. Said she will host on Friday [March 5], open house from 3-4 P.M. and appointments between 6-8 P.M. Told everyone additional information is available on the District's website and that she would love to talk to anyone who wishes to talk with her and reminded everyone the meeting is virtual.

Mrs. Bunker:

- Commented that one of the schools [Hedenkamp] came up with a virtual sixth grade camp, which is a great idea. Said sixth grade camp is such a tradition in the District and she hopes other schools also come up with plans for the students.

- Thanked Mr. Esquivel and his team for another great audit. Added that the Board knows they are always doing a great job, but confirmation is always good.

Dr. Reyes:

- Thanked everyone who have made the vaccines available for educators—Supervisor Nora Vargas, [Chula Vista] Mayor Mary Salas, elected officials, VEBA [Voluntary Employees Benefits Association], SDCOE, and the District who in partnership have made it really simple and accessible to get vaccines.
- Said it is everyone's choice, but the Board highly encourages everyone to make an appointment as soon as they get their letter.
- Offered congratulations on March 8, which is International Women's Day.

Mr. Tamayo:

- Shared a final reminder and plea to the teachers to consider receiving the vaccine as soon as they receive their invitation.

Ms. Ugarte:

- Said that since the last meeting, the country reached the horrific milestone of having over 500,000 COVID deaths and said it needs to be acknowledged because too many in our community have been affected by the terrible disease.
- Thanked Board Member Tamayo for his message and remarked that she sees educators rushing to get the vaccine, which to her sends the message that teachers want to be with students and in classrooms.
- Said it was a pleasure to attend the B-LAC [Black Learners Advisory Council] meeting and witness the work the group has been doing.
- Commented that she had been able to read to some first-grade classes and it makes a person happy to read to first graders. Addressed teachers to say she would love to visit and see the little faces and their excitement.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

Superintendent's Communication

Dr. Escobedo:

- Mentioned that NCUST's [National Center for Urban School Transformation] conference took place during the current week and commended Mueller Charter and Silver Wing for being honored as NCUST award recipients. Said he believes the District has the largest number of NCUST winners in the nation.
- Remarked that equity was one of the conference highlights, especially the issue of which schools are closed vs. which are not, mentioning and said it is called "present-day segregation." Parents need to have a choice whether to return to schools or stay in distance learning, but students need to return to classrooms when it is safe.

13. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

President Reyes adjourned to closed session at 9:52 P.M. in accordance with the following:

Government Code Sections 3549.1(d) and 54957.6: Collective Bargaining/ Employee Negotiations; Agency Negotiators: Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost, LLP and Adams Silva & McNally LLP; Employee Organizations: Chula Vista Classified Employees Organization (CVCEO); Chula Vista Educators (CVE); Nonrepresented Employees

Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Discipline/ Dismissal/Release

14 RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Open Session

President Reyes reconvened to open session at 10:12 P.M. with all Board Members present.

Board Member Bunker announced that, in closed session, the Board:

Approved the Resignation Agreement and Release regarding Employee No. 2010221732.

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: BISHOP
Vote: Ayes: BISHOP, BUNKER, REYES, TAMAYO, UGARTE
Noes: NONE, Abstain: NONE

15. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

President Reyes adjourned the meeting at 10:12 P.M.

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: REYES, Vote: UNANIMOUS

Francisco Escobedo, Ed.D., Secretary

Lucy Ugarte, Clerk

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SCHEDULED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021, AT 6 P.M.