

CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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EACH CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF GREAT WORTH

MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting
October 8, 2020
5 P.M.

Dr. Lowell J. Billings Board Room, Education Service and Support Service
Streamed Online

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

*Opening
Procedures*

A. Call to Order

President Farías called the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Members Present:

Mr. Armando Farías, President
Dr. Eduardo Reyes, Vice President
Mrs. Laurie K. Humphrey, Clerk
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. Jeffrey Thiel, Asst. Supt., Human Resources (Virtually)
Dr. Matthew Tessier, Asst. Supt., Innovation and Instruction (Virtually)
Mr. Anthony Carlton, Director, Risk Management
Mrs. Soreli M. Norton, Asst. to the Supt. and Board of Education

C. Clerk Humphrey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA (Action)

Approve Agenda

Motion: TAMAYO, Second: FARÍAS, Vote: UNANIMOUS

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Oral Communications

The Oral Communications portion of this special meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to address the Board on the item included in the agenda. Speakers are requested to limit their remarks to three minutes (approximately 390 words). Comments submitted by completing the Request To Be Heard forms accessible [here \(English\)](#) and [here \(Spanish\)](#) by the deadline of 12 noon the day of the meeting, will be read 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.

Mr. Carlton read the comments received:

- Teacher/Parent/Community Member Christine Borrero, two anonymous staff members, and an anonymous parent submitted questions regarding reopening of schools.
- Parent/Teacher Erika Hughes and Teacher/Community Member Sue Stone submitted concerns regarding reopening of schools.

4. BOARD WORKSHOP

Board Workshop

A. Considerations for School Reopening

Dr. Escobedo said the District would reopen when it is safe and stated the District is working on an extensive plan for reopening. He explained there are six core concepts—physical distancing, increased cleaning and hygiene, health monitoring and contact tracing, personal protective equipment, behavioral signage, and consistent communication. Dr. Escobedo commented one of the District's important partners is the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) represented by Executive Director Robert Mueller. He mentioned other District staff would also present.

Mr. Mueller, who is SDCOE's Duty Officer/Assistant Incident Commander for COVID-19 Emergency Operations, said he would present reopening considerations for balancing risk in the community against mitigation measures that are implemented in the school. He clarified it is important to consult with an epidemiologist in terms of actual decision making. Mr. Mueller stated his goal was to present a reopening framework and to share a local metric produced by SDCOE to support the framework as an aid in the decision-making process. He addressed the measures of community burden (number of new cases within a given period) and the implementation of mitigation strategies, the need to balance risk with mitigation, the indicators and their relationship with the risk of transmission in schools (lowest, lower, moderate, higher,

highest), the five key mitigation strategies the schools must be able to implement for each of the risks, and case data in District zip codes. Mr. Mueller also answered a variety of questions posed by Board Members.

Dr. Thiel, who provided information on a proposed hybrid model that will allow the District to provide in-person instruction to those students who choose to return to school. He explained students would be divided in two groups – Group A and Group B. Group A (maximum of 13 students) would be in school for in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays while Group B is home doing asynchronous work. Group B (maximum of 13 students) would come to school Wednesdays and Thursdays for in-person instruction, while Group A is home doing asynchronous work. Teachers would take attendance of the Groups doing asynchronous work and ensure students know understand what they are supposed to be doing. Fridays would be used for deep cleaning of classrooms, with Groups A and B engaged in distance learning with their teachers. Dr. Thiel said the District is proposing for a slightly longer school day to allow for the procedure that will take more time than usual; he also explained that students who wish to stay with Distance Learning would be able continue in that learning mode.

Mr. Esquivel provided an overview of the personal protective equipment (PPE) the District has purchased in preparation for in-person instruction, for example masks (disposable, reusable, and N-95) for students and adults, face shields and specialty face shields thermometers, hand sanitizer, gowns and coveralls, gloves, portable student desk partitions; acrylic separations, plastic liner shields, disinfecting/sanitizing/cleaning solutions, shade canopies, and signage and signage holders. He said there is a good supply in the District warehouse and quantities at each of the schools; he added that our supply chain has stabilized since the start of the pandemic, so the District is able to purchase replacements as needed. Mr. Esquivel also commented that custodial staff is well versed on disinfecting processes and ready to maintain the schools clean and disinfected.

Emergency Preparedness and Security Manager Dr. Sherry Stone. thanked Mr. Mueller, saying he has been a phenomenal resource and that SDCOE has built different resources and metrics for the District, which has been of great help. She shared the COVID-19 Symptom Decision Tree, a set of procedures developed by SDCOE and the Health and Human Services Agency's Public Health Services Division to assist when making decisions regarding employees or students who present symptoms and described how the procedures will work when students return for in-person instruction. Dr. Stone addressed District notification procedures; provided information regarding specific cases the District has experienced, professional development, informational meetings with staff and the community; and spoke about documentation the

schools have available for parents. To wrap up, Dr. Stone thanked everyone for the efforts during the pandemic.

Mr. Carlton reported on information being shared regarding positive cases in the District and what is being done regarding tracing. He emphasized that of the confirmed cases, none were transmitted on school campus and that almost all of them were traced back to contacts in home settings or contacts at other events. Mr. Carlton said there have been many cases the District looked into which turned out to be negative. He also addressed District plans for planned tracing efforts, noting that in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with Chula Vista Educators, school nurses will be able to perform contact tracing with students and staff members to complement services provided by the Human and Health Services Agency. Mr. Carlton recommended a contact tracing course provided by Johns Hopkins that provides a wealth of information. He addressed the importance of mitigation through the four pillars, contact tracing, and testing to help reduce the spread.

Board Members thanked the presenters, engaged in deep discussions regarding the information presented and related topics, asked a wide assortment of questions that were answered by staff members, and made several observations, requests, and recommendations.

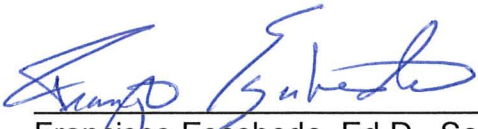
President Fariás emphasized that the District wishes to reopen schools but that the Board is committed not only to academics but also to the health and safety of students, community, and employees. He said the reopening date has been pushed back because it is not safe and said the academics can be recovered but lost lives cannot.

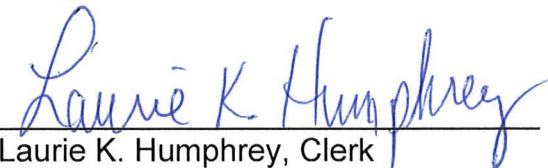
Dr. Escobedo remarked that apparently some comments were submitted but not read. He said what happened would be investigated and any missed comments would be read at the following meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

President Fariás adjourned the meeting at 7:26 P.M.


Francisco Escobedo, Ed.D., Secretary


Laurie K. Humphrey, Clerk