

# 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

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Regular Meeting  
October 14, 2020  
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 Fariás called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

##### B. Roll Call

Members Present:

Mr. Armando Fariás, 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)  
Dr. Gloria Ciriza, Asst. Supt., Instruction  
Ms. Sharon Casey, Executive Director, Special Education and Instruction  
Mrs. Soreli M. Norton, Asst. to the Supt. and Board of Education

##### C. Pledge of Allegiance

Clerk Humphrey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. APPROVE AGENDA (Action)

*Approve Agenda*

*Motion: TAMAYO, Second: BUNKER, Vote: UNANIMOUS*

### **3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, WRITTEN REPORTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS**

*Presentations/  
Awards*

#### **A. Report on Multi-Tiered System of Supports and Social-Emotional Learning**

Dr. Tessier said that in November 2017, under Board direction, a consultation subcommittee was established comprising District leaders and Chula Vista Educators (CVE) members to ensure high fidelity implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS). He added that, in November 2018, the District hired a Director to support MTSS and collaborate with the subcommittee to ensure best practices and implementation of the MTSS plan. He introduced MTSS Director Elizabeth Gianulis, who presented progress achieved during 2019-20, which was Year 2 of the five-year MTSS plan. Mrs. Gianulis also explained how program delivery was modified to accommodate changes that arose during the current pandemic and showed how MTSS works during distance learning. She covered professional development, MTSS collaboration efforts, community partnerships, and next steps. Mrs. Gianulis introduced District Coordinator of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness Heather Cruz. Mrs. Cruz presented information related to District efforts to address employee physical, mental, and financial wellness. She reported on wellness surveys, fitness classes, mental health supports, and financial programs available. Mrs. Gianulis answered questions from the Board.

Board Members thanked the presenters for the information, commented on different aspects of MTSS and on several portions of the report, and commended Mrs. Gianulis and Mrs. Cruz on their efforts. Board Members requested that sessions be held for classified employees and teachers to share MTSS strategies, asked that teachers be informed that the focus this year is on the social-emotional piece, and asked for data on how the program is impacting students.

#### **B. Report on Early Literacy Development and Intervention in the Chula Vista Elementary School District**

Dr. Tessier said that at the September meeting, the Board expressed a desire to see how the District focuses on the youngest learners, particularly in literacy. He introduced Dr. Ciriza, Director of Academic Coaching and Professional Development Rochelle Carroll, and Instructional Services Coordinator Brittany Mabe. Presenters provided an overview of the District's Early Literacy Development and Intervention plan. They touched on the importance of reading by third grade; the strands woven into skilled reading; the monitoring process and instruction cycle; areas of focus; the scope and sequence, data, and teacher dashboard of the Smarty Ants program in English and Spanish; and early literacy assessments and instructional resources.

The group also covered literacy development and instruction for English Learners and for Dual Language Immersion students, professional learning, and parent support. Dr. Ciriza, Mrs. Carroll, and Mrs. Mabe also answered questions from the Board.

Board Members thanked Dr. Ciriza, Mrs. Carroll, and Mrs. Mabe for the report, addressed several aspects of the information presented, and thanked them for their hard work.

#### **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 acknowledged Montgomery School Secretary Diana Quiñones, who retired after 35 years of service in the District. He expressed a number of concerns: 1) The installation of the new Child Nutrition Services (CNS) refrigerator/freezer has still not been completed. 2) Instructional Assistants and Students Attendants were forced to go back to school with special education students without any barriers between them and the students. 3) School Secretaries and Attendance Secretaries/Health Specialists are in schools dealing with the public, which also puts them in danger. 4) CNS staff members who have been working nonstop throughout the pandemic to feed students deserve hazard pay. 5) Frustration that CVCEO had no say in the special education program and that CVCEO members have been put at risk. Ended by saying he hopes something can be done to alleviate this.

President Farías asked Dr. Escobedo and Human Resources to collaborate with CVCEO on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bargain the impacts and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

##### **B. Chula Vista Educators**

CVE President Susan Skala said she did not attend the September Board of Education meeting because she was at the County [Board of Education meeting] speaking to oppose the Dimensions Charter material revision. Ms. Skala stated the County Board did not take action, as it wanted more time to review the submission. She also said that, although Dr. Escobedo's letter [also opposing the material revision] was read, she was the only voice from the District or community to speak and encouraged everyone to speak at the November 4 meeting against the charter.

Ms. Skala read a letter from the super majority of school psychologists regarding the unit modification request submitted to California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). If approved by PERB, school

psychologists would be included as CVE members. The letter listed the reasons why they wish to join the union.

## 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.

After asking how many comments were received, President Farías, with fellow Board Members' consent, allocated one minute for each comment.

Dr. Ciriza and Ms. Casey read comments received for the special meeting on October 8 that did not download properly.

- Ms. Skala advocating joining neighboring districts in committing to distance learning until after winter break.
- Teacher John Maes advocating for a safe reopening.
- Community Member Alan Botterman, Teacher Debbie Botterman, and Student Teachers Jessica Drew and Sarah Hart advocating for remaining closed to keep the community safe.
- Parent Alanna B regarding continuing distance learning as the flu season gets closer.

Dr. Ciriza and Ms. Casey read the comments received for the regular meeting.

- Parents Juan Jimenez and Mr. Lujan expressing concerns related to the special Board of Education meeting [held the previous week].
- "Concerned psychologists" regarding issues with CVE leadership.
- Parent/Teacher/CVE Member Ruby Baker asking that anonymous comments not be allowed.
- Parents Barbara Herrera and Kerri Lindgren advocating for schools to reopen [for in-person instruction].
- Adapted Physical Education Specialist Matthew Lopez; Occupational Therapist Susan Navilliat; Resource Specialists Vanessa Braitto, Nichole Johnson, Joanna Scott and Melissa Solano; Special Day Class Teachers Robert Chapin, Misty Moore, Derrick Oliver, and Megan Rafferty; Speech Language Pathologists Katherine Balow, Janelle Helms, and Amanda Lopez; School Psychologists Theresa Grant and DiAnna Toliver; Special Education Teacher Emmanuelle Bullington; Teachers Kathleen Cauffman, Jessica Lee, and Keri Mayo,

and Teacher for the Visually Impaired Christy Vargas in support of Psychologists joining CVE.

- Two community members, six school psychologists, and one staff member (all anonymous) in support of school psychologists joining CVE.
- Concerned CVE Members asking help to bring students back to school.
- Classified Staff Member Robert Kevin Adams asking how low the level of virus spread will be for all students to return to on-campus instruction.
- Instructional Assistant/Parent Claudia Caro asking about workers compensation benefits related to contracting COVID-19 at work.
- Student Attendant Suzanne Puente on concerns for classified employees and students who are on campus.
- Anonymous special education instructional assistant regarding the working disparity (virtual or in-person) for different employee classifications.
- Parent Scott Anderson advocating for in-person instruction.
- Teacher John Lake advocating for highest safety standards and bargaining with CVE.
- Anonymous community member; Community Member Bianca Brown; Anonymous teacher; and Teachers Erin Barker, Deborah Botterman, Lisa Niemela, Kenda Pot, and Maria Uriarte advocating for reopening schools only when it is safe.
- Teacher Michelle Kohler advocating for preparing a solid plan for reopening when it is safe.
- Teacher Jessica Howard emphasizing the importance of physical distancing and ventilation and advocating for the Board to get involved in bargaining to keep staff members and students safe.
- Classified Staff Member Heather Haas and an anonymous staff member expressing concerns with CVCEO.
- Classified Staff Kathleen Rodriguez regarding concerns for staff members who work with students with special needs.
- Anonymous psychologists regarding concerns with CVE.
- Anonymous parent asking if outdoor learning has been considered.
- Anonymous parent stating schools need to reopen, especially for the benefit of students with special needs.
- Staff Member Claudia Alcantara asking why [classified staff] are working in classrooms without certificated staff members.
- Anonymous parent advocating for the District to work with a team of local experts, including an epidemiologist, to guide reopening.
- Casillas School Secretary Theresa Grojean asking for a process to discuss alternate work hours for classified employees similar to the process for certificated employees.
- Staff Member Bertha Johnson asking about safety supplies for schools.
- Anonymous staff member posing questions regarding N95 masks.

President Fariás recessed the meeting at 8:32 P.M. and reconvened at 8:41 P.M.

## 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.

*Motion: HUMPHREY, Second: TAMAYO, Vote: UNANIMOUS*

- A. Adopt Board of Education Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting September 9, 2020
- B. Approve and/or Ratify Human Resources Items A Through J **2020-21.030**
- C. Review and Accept Quarterly Report to the San Diego County Office of Education on *Williams* Complaints for the Period of July Through September 2020
- D. Ratify Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School Master Contract with Sierra School of San Diego for Special Education and Related Services for Individuals with Exceptional Needs for the 2020-21 School Year
- E. Ratify Renewal of Agreement with the Living Coast Discovery Center Foundation for Environment and Coastal Resource Preservation Educational Programs for the Period of July 1, 2020, Through June 30, 2021
- F. Approve Operational Agreement with South Bay Community Services to Provide Maximum Available Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children for the Period of October 15, 2020, Through September 30, 2023
- G. Approve Report on Annual Community Facilities Districts Activity for Fiscal Year 2019-20
- H. Approve Annual Report on Statutory Fees and Mitigation Payments for Fiscal Year 2019-20, and Five-Year Report for Fiscal Years 2015-16 Through 2019-20
- I. Approve Contract with PowerSchool Group LLC in the Amount of \$241,158.89 for Online Registration Application for the Period of October 15, 2020, Through October 14, 2023
- J. Approve Partial Retention Release for All Prime Contractors for Modernization/Renovation of Mae L. Feaster Charter School

- K. Adopt Resolution Authorizing Utilization of Glendale Unified School District Bid No. P-13 18/19 for Apple Computer Products, Services, and Related Items with Apple, Inc., for the Period of October 16, 2020, Through October 15, 2021 **2020-21.031**
- L. Approve Renewal of Bid No. 19/20-4 Transportation Service to HopSkipDrive, Inc., and Sol Transportation, Inc., for the Period of November 14, 2020, Through November 13, 2021
- M. (1) Deny Bid Protest by RenewAge Energy Solutions, Inc., for Bid Package 20/21-1 Turnkey Solution for DC Fast Charging Units;
- (2) Waive Minor Irregularity in Bid Submitted by New Leaf Electric, Inc., for Bid Package 20/21-1 Turnkey Solution for DC Fast Charging Units; and
- (3) Approve Award of Bid 20/21-1 Turnkey Solution for DC Fast Charging Units to New Leaf Electric, Inc., in the Amount of \$659,000 for the Period of October 15, 2020, Through Completion of the Project
- N. Approve Award of Bid No. 20/21-2 to Noble E&C, Inc., for Administration Remodel and Lunch Structure Metal Roof at Arroyo Vista Charter School in the Amount of \$108,400 for the Period of October 15, 2020, Through Completion of the Project
- O. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Regents of the University of California, San Diego for Safer at School Early Alert Pilot Program
- P. Accept Donation **2020-21.032**
- Q. Ratify Purchase Orders, Warrants, and Checks Written/Issued Through September 30, 2020 **2020-21.033**

## **7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### *Public Hearings*

- A. Conduct Public Hearing on Howard Gardner Community Charter School Petition Renewal for the Period of July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2026

Dr. Tessier said that on September 8, the District received a charter petition renewal from Howard Gardner Community Charter. He introduced Howard Gardner Charter School (HGCS) Executive Director Beverly Jimenez. Mrs. Jimenez in turn introduced HGCS Board President Lisa Berlanga, who said a few words about the school. Mrs. Jimenez provided a report on HGCS that included the school's mission, demographics, latest California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress data and comparison by school of

residence, and Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress data, and charter renewal criteria. Mrs. Jimenez addressed school plans for reopening in four phases and said students will be able to remain on distance learning based on family preference. Other topics covered were the school's systematic system of assessments; Multi-Tiered Systems of Support; and a financial overview that included the ending balance, reserves, and major expenditures.

President Farías opened the public hearing and asked if any comments were received. Dr. Ciriza and Ms. Casey read the comments received, as follows.

- Student Fernando Preciado sharing his experience at HGCS and expressing why he likes the school.
- Site Facilitator/School Secretary Lori Rapp and Teacher John Class urging the Board to renew the HGCS charter petition.
- Parents Laura Gonzalez, Megan Hann, Adriana Kleber, Elizabeth Ojeda, Janet Satterfield, and Luis Eduardo Villareal and Staff Member Joy D. Wash in support of HGCS.
- Operations Assistance/Cafeteria Manager Hala Robin and Teachers Elizabeth Fidel, Catherine A. Scholl and Priscilla Mondragon sharing their experiences at HGCS.

President Farías closed the public hearing.

Board Members asked questions that were answered by Mrs. Jimenez and commented on several items on the report, especially student achievement and the monies reserved for economic uncertainties. Board Members noted the amount is sizeable and expressed that part of those monies should be spent on programs to help students improve, especially because of the low student achievement.

Dr. Escobedo said that the District will need to reconcile some of the budget numbers because there seemed to be some discrepancies.

- B. (1) Conduct Public Hearing on a General Waiver Request to Provide a Reduced-Day Extended School Year Program; and

Dr. Tessier said the District wishes to submit a general waiver request to the California Department of Education to modify the mandated 20-day program for students enrolled in special education. The program would be provided for 15-days instead and still ensure the instructional minutes requirement is met. Dr. Tessier said the District has consulted with CVE and it is agreed that the shorter period results in higher student and teacher participation.

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

- (2) Authorize Submission of the General Waiver Request to Provide a Reduced-Day Extended School Year Program from June 21 Through July 12, 2021

*Motion: HUMPHREY, Second: BUNKER, Vote: UNANIMOUS*

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS**

*Administrative  
Action Items*

None.

## **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**

Clerk Humphrey requested a report regarding what the District is doing to explore outdoor learning. She also proposed the District set a start date for in-person instruction after the [December] holidays and communicates the date to everyone, letting them know that, if the numbers are good, returning to schools will take place then.

President Farias requested the Board be updated in a couple of weeks regarding progress with the MOU with CVCEO.

### **B. Receive and Consider Recommendations Submitted by the Reviewing Authorities (San Diego County Office of Education) for the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan**

Dr. Tessier explained that at the September 9, 2020, meeting, the Board approved the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCA Plan), which was then submitted to the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) for review. He added that, on September 30, recommendations from SDCOE were received, aimed at further strengthening the LCA Plan. Dr. Tessier said the recommendations were presented for Board consideration, and included:

- To demonstrate evidence of pupil consultation/input.
- To provide evidence of how the District will measure asynchronous participation and time value of student work.

Dr. Tessier said next steps based on these recommendations are (1) to get principal and CVE input to further affix instructional minutes to the asynchronous learning and (2) to conduct student interviews to help understand how students are currently affected by the LCA Plan.

Board Member Tamayo requested that input also be sought from classified and from nonrepresented employees.

## 11. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

*Board  
Communications*

### **Mrs. Bunker:**

- Said there were great presentations earlier in the meeting—very informative and well prepared.
- Commended Dr. Ciriza and Mrs. Mabe for a great job with the Induction program accreditation. Said she expects a great report from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

### **Mr. Farías:**

- Thanked all employees for all they do and said these are unexplored times when everyone is learning together. Added that South Bay has the highest number of COVID-19 cases, so the Board has to make decisions based on what is best for everyone—students, employees, and community. Stated the Board and District will continue monitoring data from the Centers for Disease Control and other agencies.
- Reminded everyone that parent-teacher conferences would start the next day and urged everyone to communicate with their children's teacher and to create a plan to ensure students are moving forward in academics and in social-emotional wellbeing.
- Thanked the District team for always being supportive and for their amazing customer [service] skills. Commented that he hopes everyone continues working together for the benefit of students, employees, and the community.
- Congratulated the team who prepared the application for the successful [Department of Defense] grant that provided the District with close to \$1 million. Said the team did a great job to provide opportunities for [military-connected] students.

### **Mrs. Humphrey:**

- Commented that, from listening to the public comments, she believes there is still a lot of confusion regarding why schools are not reopening and that she knows some people want schools opened and others do not. Clarified that the bottom line is about the numbers [of COVID-19 cases] and what the Centers for Disease Control recommends. Said that it is not about making unilateral decisions or being controlled by certain groups but looking at real numbers and what the District is allowed to do. Said everyone in the District wants what is best for students, that it is a difficult time, she hopes everyone is patient and understands that everybody is working very hard to ensure reopening is done correctly.
- Said she appreciated the comments, Remarked that many people have communicated with her and thanked those who feel comfortable sharing, especially those who have positive suggestions.

## 12. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

*Superintendent's  
Communication*

### Dr. Escobedo:

- Gave a shout out to Mueller Charter and Silver Wing, who received National Center for Urban School Transformation recognition, saying the prior day had been the virtual awards ceremony. Congratulated the schools on their accomplishments.
- Said he had a great conversation with classified and certificated employees during Superintendent chats.
- Announced that preparation of classrooms for hybrid learning would start the following week.

## 13. CLOSED SESSION

*Closed Session*

President Farías adjourned to closed session at 10 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

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1): Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation in Office of Administrative Hearings, Case No. 2020070005 for Student No. 305573

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1): Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation in Office of Administrative Hearings, Case No. 2020070838 for Student No. 306723

## 14 RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

*Open Session*

President Farías reconvened to open session at 10:07 P.M. with all Board Members present. He said Clerk Humphrey would make some announcements.

Clerk Humphrey announced that in closed session, the Board:

Approved a settlement agreement in Office of Administrative Hearings, Case No. 2020070005 for Student No. 305573.

*Motion: BUNKER, Second: FARÍAS*

*Vote: Ayes: BUNKER, FARÍAS, HUMPHREY, REYES, TAMAYO*

*Noes: NONE, Abstain: NONE*

Approved a settlement agreement in Office of Administrative Hearings,  
Case No. 2020070838 for Student No. 306723.

*Motion: HUMPHREY, Second: FARÍAS*

*Vote: Ayes: BUNKER, FARÍAS, HUMPHREY, REYES, TAMAYO*

*Noes: NONE, Abstain: NONE*

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

*Adjournment*

President Farías adjourned the meeting at 10:09 P.M.

  
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Francisco Escobedo, Ed.D., Secretary  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie K. Humphrey, Clerk

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SCHEDULED ON  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020, AT 6 P.M.