

Special Board Meeting Agenda - Opening Schools (Wednesday, July 15, 2020)

Members present

Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Laura Canciamilla, Joseph Arenivar

1. Opening Items - 5:00 PM

1.01 Call to Order

1.02 Called to Order at 5:06 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Comments

2.01 Public Comments: Items not on the Agenda

Public Comment: A representative from Pittsburg Educators for Racial Justice (PERJ) commented to request they be added to the July 22, 2020 Board meeting to provide a presentation on Ethnic Studies.

Public Comment: Jessica Rojas, parent, submitted a comment in advocacy for the need for Ethnic Studies in the District.

Public Comment: Michael Nardo submitted a comment in advocacy for the need for Ethnic Studies in the District.

Public Comment: Pittsburg Youth Action submitted a comment in advocacy for the need for Ethnic Studies in the District.

3. Information / Discussion / Possible Action

3.02 Updated Information on the Health Conditions in Contra Costa County (Dr. Schulze)

Public Comment: Valerie Bonton commented on her concerns due to her contact with students and asked how employees will be protected.

Public Comment: Eric Morton commented and asked if the District will share and announce school activities in a timely manner.

Public Comment: Jessica Rojas, Parent, commented advocating for distance learning in the fall.

Public Comment: Mary Fitzgerald commented advocating for distance learning.

Public Comment: Michael Whitaker submitted a comment recommending faculty training to better coordinate the start of the distance learning school year.

Public Comment: Rosa Arce, Parent, submitted a comment sharing concerns about COVID-19 and stated she would prefer to have distance learning for her child.

Public Comment: Heliodoro Moreno, Parent, submitted a comment on his concern regarding the start of the school year starting with in-person instruction and shared advocacy for distance learning.

Public Comment: DELAC members submitted a comment sharing concern with starting the school year with in-person instruction and shared advocacy for distance learning.

Public Comment: Denise Tejada, parent, submitted a comment sharing concern with starting the school year with in-person instruction and shared advocacy for distance learning.

Public Comment: Pastor David Manly, grandparent, submitted a comment sharing concern with the school year starting with in-person instruction and shared advocacy for distance learning.

Public Comment: Ashley Lawson, parent, submitted a comment sharing concern with the school year starting with in-person instruction and shared advocacy for distance learning.

Public Comment: Arwa Nasser submitted a comment asking if students will lose their spot in home school if schools reopen.

Public Comment: Heather Davis Puerzer, Teacher, submitted a comment stating that the District should consider families' schedules and personal family situations when planning for school schedules while in distance learning.

An additional 11 public comments were submitted advocating for distance learning.

Mr. Miller announced that the Board would move forward with public comment from the web conference attendees.

Public Comment: Bernadette Silva, substitute teacher, commented asking what the District will plan on doing about substitute teachers during this time.

Public Comment: Carmen Moreno, parent, commented asking if the District will still consider the surveys taken by families since the health conditions have changed.

Public Comment: Mrs. Brown commented regarding services and instruction for students with disabilities and shared concern of the possibility of lack of support especially with working parents.

Public Comment: Mark Linde, Parent, commented regarding his concerns for students not receiving supports during this time.

Dr. Schulze shared a presentation which included updates on health conditions from the state and county.

Dr. Schulze stated that health conditions are worsening and recommended the District begin the school year in full time distance learning.

Dr. Schulze provided an update on the SB 98 Distance Learning requirements and current health conditions. She stated that she recommends the District to start the year in full distance learning and transition to in-person hybrid learning when the health conditions allow. The District will evaluate health conditions and provide updates at every Board meeting and in order to plan and provide some clarity to the timeline, to remain in distance learning for one month through September 11th and transition if the health conditions allow.

Dr. Canciamilla asked the date be changed from September 11th to September 14th.

Dr. Schulze stated that if safe during this time, staff would work to provide some in-person learning and services for students with disabilities and other small groups of students. Full Distance Learning will be a similar schedule as the hybrid model for educational benefit and consistency. The Advisory Committee will continue to refine the schedules presented at the July 8th Board Workshop for full time distance learning and in-person hybrid models.

The start of In-person learning will depend on guidance and information from the State and Local Health Departments. Current Indicators from the State Department of Health and Contra Costa County Department of Health and California Department of Ed include Decreases in Cases per 100k population, Decreases in Rate of Test Positivity, Decreases in Hospitalizations, Local preparedness: Testing, PPE, Contact tracing and information provided during the Press Conference on July 15th from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond.

Dr. Schulze shared the timeline and stated that the timeline will be adjusted as necessary to meet public health guidelines.

3.03 Options for the Opening of School (Dr. Schulze)

Superintendent recommends the Board review the options for the opening of schools requiring Board approval.

Motion to begin the school year in distance learning with the option to transition into hybrid in-person learning when health conditions allow with continued planning for hybrid learning by Laura Canciamilla, second by Duane Smith.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Laura Canciamilla, Joseph Arenivar

Motion to amend to begin the school year in distance learning with the option to transition into hybrid in-person learning when health conditions allow with continued planning for hybrid and to revisit on September 12, 2020 by De'Shawn Woolridge, second by Duane Smith.

Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Laura Canciamilla, Joseph Arenivar

Dr. Schulze stated that the distance learning and hybrid learning schedules will be mirrored which will allow students to have the same teacher. If parents decide to continue distance learning when the District decides health conditions allow hybrid in-person learning, students will then have a different teacher. Parents will have the option to continue distance learning when hybrid learning begins.

3.04 Board Review of Hybrid Scheduling Models

Dr. Canciamilla shared a presentation and thanked advisory committee members for their work during the summer. She asked the Board to discuss the recommendations from the advisory committee and provide concerns and ask questions.

The Board thanked the committee members for their work done and discussed the recommendations from the advisory committees and shared concerns.

Dr. Canciamilla asked the superintendent to gather the questions submitted during the Board meeting from the community and prepare a document with answers for distribution.

Dr. Schulze stated that an update of health conditions and planning will be shared during the next Board meeting.

4. Next Board Meeting / Future Events / Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM