

Regular Board Meeting (Wednesday, August 25, 2021)

Members present

Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims
Alejandra Cortez, Student Board Member

1. Opening Items - 5:00 PM

1.01 Call To Order at 5:00 PM

2. Closed Session

2.01 Closed Session Agenda (Ms. Castro)

3. Recall to Open Session - 6:30 PM

3.01 Recalled to Open Session at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Agenda Reorganization

Dr. Schulze announced that item 8.01 – Contract Addendum between Blueprint Schools and Pittsburg Unified School District would be moved to a future meeting. She added that item 6.04 – Discussion on the Creation and Implementation of SRO Student Survey would be removed from the agenda.

4. Closed Session Report / Action

4.01 Personnel Action Report, [Labor Negotiations - as applicable] (Ms. Castro)

Ms. Castro reported the Board approved the Personnel Actions as presented.

Motion by De'Shawn Woolridge, second by Joseph Arenivar.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

Ms. Castro announced the dedicated service retirement of Bonnie Flannery, Special Education Aide at Pittsburg High School, with special commendation for 40 years of dedicated service to the staff and students of PUSD.

Ms. Castro announced the Board approval to appoint Staci Belleci Webb for the position of Assistant Principal at Pittsburg High School.

Motion by De'Shawn Woolridge, second by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

Ms. Belleci Webb thanked the Board and administration.

Ms. Castro announced the Board approval to appoint Natalie Moreno as the interim Associate Principal at Pittsburg High School.

Motion by Joseph Arenivar, second by George Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

Ms. Moreno thanked the Board and administration.

The Board congratulated Ms. Belleci Webb and Ms. Moreno on their appointments.

4.02 Litigation [as applicable]

None.

5. Comments

5.01 Public Comments: Items Not on the Agenda

Public Comment: Chris Coan, PEA President, commented on her concerns in regard to the lack of a reopening MOU between PEA and PUSD.

5.02 Student Board Member Comments (Ms. Cortez)

Personally I wanted to bring up the dress code that has been addressed through email. I personally read it and I know my fellow peers read it as well and we feel disrespected about what was said about the dress code. There was a comment about being called a distraction, and that was mostly all that I wanted to bring up.

5.03 Superintendent Comments (Dr. Schulze)

I want to thank everyone for all of their support and working together as we completed our 2nd week of school. We had our first full week last week and I will give more updated during my updated information section.

5.04 Board Member Comments (Trustees)

Mr. Woolridge – I was contacted by two parents who wanted to know about our current sanitizing procedures, how often our classrooms are sanitized between those times. Especially for high school students who are passing different periods, is there sanitizing between those periods? who is doing the sanitizing? I was wondering if there is a location for that information and I will ask as an information request. Especially during this COVID fear, people should understand how often we are doing that. I had student teachers reach out to me with their experience and I was wondering, in a sense of new teachers. As far as costs for new teachers and coming out of pocket when you are on the low end of the salary schedule, what do we support in terms of copies? I am wondering what supports we provide teachers for instructional purposes in terms of copies, pencils, and things that would save them from going into their own pockets for their classrooms especially with the additional funds we have received. I will bring that up for an information request.

Ms. Sims – I hope everyone had a great first week of school and please continue to wear your mask.

Mr. Smith - I was able to visit the rest of the schools during the first week, Rancho, MLK, Los Medanos Elementary, Highlands and Heights. Our scholars are doing a great job, teachers and staff are doing a great job. Everyone is wearing their masks and staying at a safe distance when they are outside. I also went to Highlands visiting and was able to go around with the team from the county who were doing the Williams Report audit. It was my first time seeing this process and it was good for me to see and be aware of how they go about the process in certifying for the Williams Report.

6. Information / Reports / Discussion

6.01 Superintendent's Update (Dr. Schulze)

Dr. Schulze shared her standing presentation in detail which information on State updates on vaccination mandates for employees and how they apply to PUSD, COVID-10 testing options for PUSD, review of PUSD restrictions for athletics, band and music, update on virtual independent study, local context on Pittsburg COVID case rates and vaccination rates, and information on contact tracing and notifications to families and staff.

Dr. Schulze announced that Governor Newsom set a new order on August 11th that requires all school employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19, or submit to weekly testing proving they are not positive for COVID-19. She added that the district must be in compliance with the requirement by October 15th. She shared that the timeline for employees to submit proof of vaccination would be August 27th. Weekly testing for non-vaccinated or employees who do not submit proof, would begin the week of September 7th. She announced that PUSD will offer no cost COVID testing for asymptomatic scholars and staff with the company Agile Force who will use their own staff. The district will continue to offer testing for scholars in athletics and will be open for PUSD staff and other scholars as well. She added that PUSD is in process of securing an additional contract for once a week testing at each school site at no cost to assist with modified quarantine and employee testing with Predicine, who will provide their own staff.

Mr. Woolridge asked to know if there will be training for staff who will conduct the COVID testing to ensure that it is properly done.

Dr. Schulze answered the with the contracted COVID-19 testing services, they provide their own trained staff.

Dr. Schulze shared that PUSD would continue with more restrictions through September. Outdoor masking except during P.E. when socially distancing, while eating and drinking and for athletics will continue. The district would continue to limit non-essential visitors and will not accept volunteers. No in-person family events and back to school will be virtual. PUSD to revisit at the end of September and adjust based on case rates and also adjust based on any County Health mandates or guidance.

Dr. Schulze shared updates on AB 130 and Virtual Independent Study. All families who applied by the July 28th deadline were accepted into the PUSD Virtual Independent Study program. She added that 7 Virtual Independent Study teachers were hired. Students with disabilities must have an IEP meeting first to determine placements. She shared that scholars who are on a waitlist, there are options which include waiting for a spot to open in PUSD and attend in-person, transfer to a District with openings, or receive instruction through the contacted service for Independent Study with Edgenuity teachers for secondary and Stride teachers for elementary.

Dr. Schulze shared data on PUSD COVID-19 cases and vaccination rates compared to the county average. She also shared information on California Department of Public Health guidance for the 2021-2022 school year and County Health contact tracing. Contact Tracing and Targeted Quarantine in PUSD includes the contact tracing process that is guided by Contra Costa Health. PUSD has contact tracing teams at each site and District Office. Examples of scenarios for contract tracing were shared as well as a flow chart that is used for guidance. She shared that scholars are encouraged to remain home when they are ill. If scholars are ill, it would be considered an excused absence. She added that the Perfect Attendance awards would be put on pause to encourage families to keep their ill children home without worrying about their attendance.

Mr. Arenivar asked if it is a State rule for athletics to test scholars.

Dr. Schulze shared that as a district, scholars in athletics will continue to be tested and are doing that to continue what was being done before. She added that there has not been any updated guidance on athletics.

Mr. Arenivar shared that many coaches are upset that other districts are not required to test athletes and the testing takes time away from practice.

Dr. Schulze stated that testing would continue given to Pittsburg's high rate of cases and to continue with best practices.

Dr. Schulze shared that updated FAQs would be sent to families. The district would the approach of being cautious with more restrictions through the end of September where the Board can reassess and if more mandated information from the County and State comes up, she would share that as well.

Dr. Schulze expressed that vaccination is the best prevention. She shared that on August 23rd, the FDA fully approved the Pfizer Vaccine for those 16 years and older and added that the district would host a vaccination clinic at PHS on August 26th for anyone 12 and older, no appointment needed. The district has scheduled a vaccination clinic on August 27th at Hillview for scholars and staff only and are in process of scheduling a vaccination clinic at MLK Jr Junior and Rancho Junior High as well.

Mr. smith thanked Dr. Schulze for providing updates and commended her for keeping up with everything.

6.02 Air Quality Index and Processes in PUSD (Dr. Schulze)

Dr. Schulze shared information in regard to the Air Quality Index and recommendations on processes when the air quality is poor due to surrounding fires in California. She thanked the principals for their judgement during poor air quality and added that the air quality may be different throughout the city.

Mr. smith asked if information on the air quality is sent out.

Dr. Schulze shared that Mr. Belasco shares the air quality notices with Cabinet members and then is shared with the principals.

6.03 Memorandum of Understanding between Contra Costa Community College District and PUSD (Dr. Schulze)

Dr. Schulze shared the Memorandum of Understanding between Contra Costa Community College District and PUSD. She added that this is an MOU that the county has reviewed and has asked all districts to participate in.

Mr. Woolridge mentioned that the MOU states that parents can opt-out of sharing student's contact information and asked if students are able to also opt-out for themselves.

Dr. Schulze shared she would find out if students are also able to opt-out and would provide that information via a Friday Letter.

Mr. Woolridge added that he would like to know if students who are 18 years and older would be able to opt-out from having their information shared.

Dr. Schulze answered that she would find that information and would bring it back when the MOU returns for action.

6.04 Discussion on the Creation and Implementation of SRO Student Survey (Dr. Schulze)

6.05 CSBA Call for Nominations for Director-at-Large African American, American Indian, and County (Dr. Schulze)

Dr. Schulze shared that CSBA began accepting nominations for Director-at-Large African-American, American Indian and County. She added that the Board can nominate a trustee and the nominated trustee would complete the nomination packet for submittal.

6.06 Update on the CCEIS Process (Mr. Molina)

Mr. Molina shared a detailed presentation on the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS). He shared information on the four phases for the CCEIS.

Mr. Molina shared details on the Phase-One through Phase-Four Activities and the status of each. He added that the district currently is in the final activity of Phase-Two, which has been listed as item 2.5, *Determine root cause(s) based on data*.

Mr. Molina stated that the immediate next steps include Core Team Meeting, Leadership Team Meeting and Stakeholder Team Meeting.

Mr. Smith asked if the activity of determining root causes includes identifying those students who come from other districts.

Mr. Molina shared that it does.

Mr. Woolridge asked if there will be exploration on human errors.

Mr. Molina stated that staff are looking at why students are assessed.

Mr. Molina shared specific Phase Three activities and shared that the activities have to be specific, clear, and effective and will include the development of the report. He added that they will be strategic on what the goals are and will complete budget forms which he believes will be 15% of the budget to address this. He shared that money, goals and student success are tied to the process. He shared that they will look to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and will have to take the plan for approval to the California Department of Education and for any significant amendments to the plan. He shared that finally and the most important thing is to build sustainability.

Mr. Woolridge asked to know where the Board is involved and shared that he does not see the Board in the presentation.

Mr. Molina stated that the plan would be shared with the Board and that Mr. Smith has been invited to the conversations. When staff return with information, the Board will know that all stakeholders have had input. The report will go to the Board and the State will receive quarterly reports that can also be shared with the Board.

Ms. Sims thanked Mr. Molina for the update and shared that is important for her to receive updates as much as possible.

Mr. Smith added that it has been interested to listen in on the discussion when he attends the meeting and sees the progress.

Mr. Woolridge asked if he could join one of the meetings.

Mr. Molina answered that Mr. Woolridge could join in on one of the upcoming meetings.

6.07 New Course Description for Barbering Course (Ms. Pettric)

Ms. Pettric shared the new course description for a barbering course. She shared that the course was originally discussed on May 2020 for barbering as a PUSD course rather than a PHS course to allow the course to apply to both Pittsburg High School and Black Diamond High School. She added that the course has been designed to teach scholars about entrepreneurship.

Mr. Woolridge thanked Ms. Pettric and staff for the additional CTE course which will allow PHS graduates to integrate within schools and to show a realistic career, make money and become entrepreneurs.

6.08 Contract between Dr. Napoleon Dargan and the Pittsburg Unified School District (Dr. Catalde)

Dr. Catalde shared the contract recommended for board approval between Dr. Napoleon Dargan and PUSD. He shared that Dr. Dargan, a PHS graduate, offered a pilot program during summer school with impressive outcomes. The direct mental health services are trauma informed using art and the outcomes were outstanding. The services are to try to address at an early level and to address early behavioral and emotional issues that sometimes develop into bigger issues. There is a need and want to address both teacher referrals and suspensions and to teach self-management skills. It is a small program but will serve the students with the most intensive needs. Dr. Catalde added that he would like to look into expanding the program and teach staff to use the exact approach in the future.

Mr. Woolridge shared that the district has contracted with Lincoln, SoulShoppe, Mindful Life, and asked how this program will fall into place as he has seen a lot of contracts go to the board.

Dr. Catalde stated that MTSS has many components, and all services mentioned address each tier. Services through Dr. Dargan would be to prevent tier 2 and tier 3 interventions.

Dr. Schulze thanked Ms. Guardado, Mr. Molina and Dr. Catalde for offering this program to new comers in the Language Academy during the summer.

6.09 Update on Auto Program at PHS, Car Purchase Approval, and Partnership with PUSD MOT (Ms. Sasser, Mr. Belasco)

Ms. Sasser presented an update on the Auto Program at PHS and also shared the request for car purchase approvals and partnership with PUSD's Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation (MOT) Department. She announced that PUSD is the first school district in the nation to have a school who has a fully autonomous vehicle that students can get their hands on. She updated the Board on the program and shared the purchase requests of a used 2018 FIAT 500e car, a used 2017 Chevy Bolt car, a Switch2 electric vehicle kit, a used electric bus and charging station equipment to be purchased by grant funds received.

Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Sasser for the program and for bringing the opportunities to PUSD students.

6.10 Authorize administration to Issue Request for Proposals (RFP) for HVAC Assessment (Mr. Belasco)

Mr. Belasco presented the request for authorization to receive proposals for HVAC Assessment. He shared that the district received grant opportunities HVAC and plumbing projects.

6.11 Change Order No. 1 - BuildCorp, Inc. for the All Day Kindergarten Construction Projects (Mr. Scott)

Mr. Scott shared Change Order No. 1 for BuildCorp, Inc. for the All Day Kindergarten Construction Projects. He stated that the contractor began to dig and was unable to locate the sewer, and there was also no fire alarm system in the original plans.

Mr. Woolridge asked if the district has gone back to contractors to get back funds for mistakes.

Mr. Scott shared that the district may be able to up to 1 to 2 years. He added that the mistakes in the plans, were from the original build and it is too late to request for money back.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Scott for explaining to him why it is such a large change order. He added that he visited Foothill and Mr. Scott was able to show him and explain to him where there were issues.

7. Consent Items

7.01 Minutes for July 28, 2021 (Dr. Schulze)

Approval of the July 28, 2021 board minutes.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

7.02 2x2 Committee Meeting Notes (Dr. Schulze)

Staff recommended the Board approve the July 22, 2021 2x2 Sub Committee Meeting Notes.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

7.03 Budget Sub Committee Meeting Notes (Mr. Haria)

Staff recommended the Board approve the August 5, 2021 Budget Sub Committee Meeting Notes.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

7.04 Teacher Preparation Program Agreement between UC Merced and Pittsburg Unified School District (Ms. Castro)

Staff recommended the Board approve the Teacher Preparation Program Agreement between UC Merced and Pittsburg Unified School District.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

7.05 Approval of Purchase of Seven (7) Portable Classroom Buildings at Pittsburg High School (Mr. Scott)

Staff recommended the Board approve the purchase the seven (7) portable classroom buildings at Pittsburg High School.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

7.06 Approve the purchase and installation of a new scoreboard for the PHS Track and Field Stadium (Mr. Scott)

Staff recommended the Board approve the purchase and installation of a new stadium scoreboard for Pittsburg High School.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

7.07 Renewal - Approve Contract between Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery and PUSD for Disposal Services for the 2021-2026 school years (Mr. Belasco)

Staff recommended the Board approve the renewal contract between Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery and Pittsburg Unified School District for disposal services.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

7.08 PROCEDURAL: Approval of Consent Agenda

Motioned to approve the consent agenda in accordance with the Recommended Action of each item.

Motioned to approve the consent agenda in accordance with the Recommended Action of each item.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

8. Action Items

8.01 Contract Addendum between Blueprint Schools and Pittsburg Unified School District (Mr. Molina)

8.02 Contract between Stride Learning Solutions (rebranding from Fueleducation) and Pittsburg Unified School District for Online Curriculum (Ms. Velasco)

Staff recommended the Board approve the contract between Stride Learning Solutions and PUSD for online curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

8.03 Variable Term Waiver (Ms. Castro)

Staff recommended board approval of the Variable Term Waivers (VTW) for Kanika Jenkins.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by George Miller.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

8.04 ROLL CALL: Resolution Number 21-04 Notice of Completion for BHM Construction, Inc. for the Parkside ES Campus Replacement Project (Mr. Scott)

Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution Number 21-04, Notice of Completion for BHM Construction, Inc. for the Parkside ES Campus Replacement Project.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

8.05 Updated Renewal - Contract between Pittsburg Unified School District and Michael's Transportation for Driver Staffing Services 2021-2022 School Year (Mr. Belasco)

Staff recommended the Board approve the contract between Michael's Transportation and PUSD to utilize their Driver Staffing Services for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

8.06 Approval of Contract with Restoration Management Company for the Remediation Work at Foothill Elementary School (Mr. Belasco)

Staff recommended the Board approve the emergency contract with Restoration Management Company for the remediation of Foothill Elementary School, due to the water damage on August 12, 2021.

Motioned by De'Shawn Woolridge, seconded by Taylor Sims.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5/0

Yea: Duane Smith, George Miller, De'Shawn Woolridge, Joseph Arenivar, Taylor Sims

9. Communications

9.01 Comments from the Public, Community Organizations, Employee Representatives

None.

10. Board Requests

10.01 Information Requests

Mr. Woolridge asked for information on the current sanitation processes. He asked to know what supports the district provides for new teachers and costs for their classroom instruction.

10.02 Agenda Requests

Mr. Smith shared that he was contacted by East Bay Regional Parks asking for a letter of support for a visitor's center for the Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50. He added that he would place this request on a future agenda for action as it is needed before September 22nd.

11. Adjournment

11.01 Next Regular Board Meeting - September 8, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM