

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2020

VIA ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE CALL

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. No Approval of Minutes
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Official Correspondence
- VI. Visitor Presentations
 - A. General Public
 - B. Employee Organizations
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Recognition of the October 2020 Employees of the Month
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - 1. Accept Donation to SCOE Employee Recognition Program
 - 2. Approval of the 2020-2021 Consolidated Application Part 1 for Funding Categorical Aid Programs
 - 3. Award Diplomas to Court and Community School Students
 - B. Approval of Contracts
 - C. Authorization to Submit Grant Applications/Service Contracts and Accept Funding if Awarded; and Approval of Contracts, Positions, and Other Expenditures Associated with the Grants as Outlined in the Proposed Budgets:
 - 1. \$45,000 Essential Basic Needs for Infant Care in Response to COVID-19 Crisis from the Connecticut Children's Medical Center/JPB Foundation for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
 - 2. \$562,000 Sacramento Healthy HeART and Mind Collaborative from the City of Sacramento Federal CARES Act Funding for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
 - D. Adoption of the SCOE 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan
 - E. Informational Item: Revisions to Administrative Rules and Regulations 2400 – Charter School Petitions
 - F. Board Report – Early Learning
- IX. Board Reports, Comments, and Ideas
 - A. Board Members
 - B. Board President
 - C. Committees
- X. Items for Distribution
 - A. September/October Events
 - B. September/October Site Visits
- XI. Schedule for Future Board Meetings
 - A. October 6, 2020 – Board/Superintendent Study Session
 - B. October 20, 2020

XII. Adjournment

I. President Ahola called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. via teleconference call in Sacramento, California. Board members present were Joanne Ahola, Alfred Brown, Heather Davis, Harold Fong, Bina Lefkovitz, and Karina Talamantes. Also present were David W. Gordon, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Nancy Herota, Deputy Superintendent; Teresa Stinson, General Counsel; Brent Malicote, Assistant Superintendent; Jerry Jones, Executive Director of Technology; other staff; and Wende Watson, Executive Assistant. Trustee Keefer was absent.

Also, other staff via teleconference were Tamara Sanchez, Associate Superintendent; Matt Perry, Assistant Superintendent; Coleen Johnson, Chief Administrator; Michael Kast, Executive Director; Kristin Wright, Executive Director; Channa Cook-Harvey, Executive Director; Rachel Perry, Executive Director; and Tim Herrera, Director.

II. Ms. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. No Approval of Minutes

IV. Mr. Brown moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Davis seconded the motion, which carried 6 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent (Keefer), 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes

Ms. Lefkovitz – yes

Mr. Keefer – absent

Mr. Fong – yes

Ms. Davis – yes

Mr. Brown – yes

Ms. Ahola – yes

V. There was no official correspondence.

VI.A. Tim Herrera read Public Comments from the following individuals, regarding San Juan Unified School District's election method:

Scott Rafferty

Juan Yniguez

VI.B. There were no requests for presentations from employee organizations.

VII.A. Devon Nevarez, Para-educator, Special Education Department, was recognized and honored as the classified employee of the month for October.

Joe Linehan, Teacher, Special Education Department, was recognized and honored as the certificated employee of the month for October.

Superintendent Gordon reported on the following:

- Distance learning for all students with IEPs is continuing. We are actively planning to implement face-to-face Special Education assessments now allowed by Public Health. Safety protocols are being established for students, staff, and families. In order to do this work as safely as possible, the plan is to start at limited locations -- Dry Creek, Prairie, Leo A. Palmiter, and El Centro.
- Students and staff are getting more proficient at using technology. Attendance is increasing, as students are growing accustomed to school remotely on a daily basis. Students are more comfortable with "video on." Training from Jared Amalong, Director of Computer Science and Distance Learning, is really helping. Dave gave a "shout out" to Jared and tech team.
- Parents have expressed appreciation for the individualized attention provided by the CARE teachers, especially during distance learning. Each CARE teacher has a maximum caseload of 22 students.
- In Senior Extension, we have 350 students enrolled and 35 graduates since July 1. Zoom Construction Classes are open to all students on Mondays and Wednesdays. Every Tuesday, Self-care assignments are provided by Transition Specialists focusing on self-reflection and wellness self-checks. Wellness Wednesday remote classes offer support and are open to all students provided by our LCSW and SCOE PPS Counselor.
- At El Centro, Principal Barbara Modlin was provided increased access to help Jerry Jones and CNTS install Wireless Access Points in the Youth Detention Facility. NCCT is providing hands-on construction projects with packaged kits. Students are building birdhouses and other individualized projects remotely. Sly Park teacher Suzanne White is now teaching Unit 15 remotely. Teacher Julie Wilde is providing individualized remote lessons on probability.
- Reminded everyone that our October 6 meeting is now a study session where we will continue our focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. It will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to continue our discussion, provide updates on SCOE's work and progress, and obtain Board feedback.
- With respect to the River Delta fiber optic cable project, we now have an MOU with the K-12 High Speed Network. SCOE will be reimbursed for all project costs. We are working with an architect to create the project specifications so we can obtain quotes from vendors. This upgrade will provide high-speed internet connectivity for River Delta's students and staff at Bates Elementary School. Completion is expected by the end of October.
- Thursday, September 17 is U.S. Constitution Day and he will be joining various leaders in law and civics to gather virtually to read the Constitution aloud. Over 100 people will participate including students from Twin Rivers Unified and Elk

Grove Unified. Other readers include California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Eastern District of California Federal Presiding Judge Kim Mueller, and Former State Senator and Education Secretary Gary Hart. The reading will be livestreamed beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will send you the link.

- On September 12, we completed our third offering of the Corwin Distance Learning Playbook for Educators. Each professional learning session sold out within 48 hours and we have trained over 500 Sacramento County educators on distance learning at no cost to them. On September 16, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., we are hosting a workshop on Prioritizing History/Social Science Content in Distance Learning. This is part of our ongoing Content, Literacy, Inquiry, and Citizenship Capital Region Community of Practice.
- Last year, we developed a Classified Management Leadership Academy to support classified leaders. After the COVID shutdown, we went virtual. On September 9, we held a Zoom workshop called “Having Hard Conversations”. Thanks to the Classified Leadership Academy Steering Committee and Coleen Johnson, Chief Administrator of Human Resources, for organizing another outstanding professional learning session.
- Commended SCOE’s warehouse team for managing the massive influx of Personal Protective Equipment – or PPEs. County Offices are the distribution points for PPEs for districts and we received shipments from the Office of Emergency Services in June. We packaged and bundled a half-million items for distribution to district, charter, and private schools. A special shout out to Parrish Chavez and Travis Ketchum who coordinated with over 60 school districts, charter schools, and private schools to make sure they got this badly needed equipment.
- Our monthly Learn at Lunch professional learning program is coming back in a virtual format. Our next session is on Wednesday, September 23 at noon. The Zoom link is forthcoming. The topic: “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” will be hosted by Kristin Wright, Executive Director, Equity, Diversity, Early Intervention, and Support Services.
- We have been working collaboratively with both bargaining groups regarding temporary assignments for Sly Park staff. One part-time teacher was hired by a district. Two teachers have been deployed in interim assignments at El Centro and Senior Extension for the remainder of the school year. Kitchen staff are working in a flexible assignment supporting Maintenance Custodian work at Sly Park. One Secretary will be temporarily transferred to the School of Education until needed again at Sly Park.
- We received exciting news that the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded a grant for \$275,000 to the Internet & Media Services Department to provide significant upgrades to the USA Learns website. These upgrades will make the website accessible from smartphones, allowing immigrants and adult

learners who don't have a computer at home to access the free online Citizenship and ESL courses. USA Learns usage has more than doubled during COVID-19, as it is now the premier free resource used by adult education programs in California.

VIII.A. Mr. Fong moved, and Mr. Brown seconded adoption of the consent agenda. By such action, the Board:

1. Accepted donation to SCOE Employee Recognition Program
2. Approved the 2020-2021 Consolidated Application Part 1 for Funding Categorical Aid Programs
3. Awarded diplomas to Court and Community School Students

Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent (Keefer), 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – absent
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

Dr. Matt Perry, Assistant Superintendent, announced that the following students will be awarded a diploma: 2 candidates from El Centro Jr./Sr. High School; Zellymack Notori James and Valerie Elle Smalls from Gerber Senior Extension; and Natalie Wood from Cordova Lane Senior Extension.

VIII.B. Ms. Davis moved, and Ms. Talamantes seconded approval of the contracts as listed. Motion to approve the contracts carried 6 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent (Keefer), 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – absent
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

VIII.C. On a motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Lefkovitz, the Board authorized staff to submit grant applications/service contracts and accept funding if awarded; and approved contracts, positions, and other expenditures associated with the grants as outlined in the proposed budgets as follows:

1. \$45,000 Essential Basic Needs for Infant Care in Response to COVID-19 Crisis from the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center/JPB Foundation for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
2. \$562,000 Sacramento Healthy HeART and Mind Collaborative from the City of Sacramento Federal CARES Act Funding for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent (Keefer), 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – absent
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

VIII.D. Adoption of the SCOE 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

Dr. Matt Perry presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Fong moved, and Ms. Lefkovitz seconded the motion to adopt the SCOE 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent (Keefer), 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – absent
Mr. Fong – yes
Ms. Davis – yes
Mr. Brown – yes
Ms. Ahola – yes

VIII.E. An informational item on the revisions to Administrative Rules and Regulations 2400 – Charter School Petitions was provided in the Board packet.

Teresa Stinson, General Counsel, provided background information and responded to Board questions regarding this item.

Ms. Lefkovitz expressed appreciation for the equity team’s review. She suggested that the social-emotional needs of students be addressed within the ARR and the Board agreed to the addition of the following language:

1. In Appendix A, on page VIII.E.20., Item I.4. – Within the definition of what it means to have a reasonably comprehensive description of the education

program, add Item I.4.g., describing how the charter will “meet the social and emotional needs of students.”

2. In Appendix B, on page VIII.E.23. – Intervention Programs for underperforming students, to include a specific plan for ongoing support, “including social and emotional intervention and/or supports.”

VIII.F. Brent Malicote, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Dr. Natalie Woods Andrews, Executive Director, and Christine Smith, Director, who provided a report on Early Learning to the Board.

IX.A. Mr. Keefer was absent.

Ms. Davis stated that there is not much to report. We start mentoring next week. She is usually quite involved with her children at school, but this year they are at home. She was elected to site council at her son’s high school.

Mr. Fong asked that the Board Retreat be brought up for discussion.

President Ahola commented that the Retreat has been postponed, not cancelled, and will be discussed further.

Mr. Brown reported he had two Zoom meetings today. He heard from a former student that he previously taught in Africa. This student is applying to be a research fellow at the National Human Humanities Center and asked for a recommendation. He is hopeful that we can all be of assistance to the community of Paradise given the devastation from the fires.

Ms. Lefkovitz reported that her two children from Austin, Texas are going home Friday and is sad they are leaving. We received a note from Youth Forward with input from about 20 students expressing what they hope our schools would do about reopening. She asked if one or two of those leaders could come to a Board meeting to share 5-7 minutes about what was shared in the letter. SBE last week approved the State Civic Seal – or procedures – and she wanted to acknowledge Dave’s leadership with that. Regarding the upcoming election, in the past voter registration has been promoted – is there any capacity to promote voter registration?

Superintendent Gordon indicated that we will pick up even more in the upcoming weeks in addition to the work that Frank Pisi is already doing in this area.

Ms. Talamantes reported a family member tested positive for COVID at the end of August. It has been a scary experience and she has been providing support to her family by delivering meals, driving, and delivering activities. The family member is feeling better now. She wants to make sure SCOE staff, if they test positive, are getting the support they need.

IX.B. President Ahola would also like to see Youth Forward represented at a Board meeting. She's glad to hear that there are some things under way. She loved the idea to have them come and present to us.

Mr. Fong asked for an update on fires in Butte County.

Superintendent Gordon said the fire destroyed the town of Berry Creek and the school. He has been in touch and offered our assistance, and also in touch with former superintendent Tim Taylor, who is now the Executive Director of the Small School Districts Association. Mary Sakuma is his replacement as Butte County Superintendent of Schools.

President Ahola expressed a desire to help the community as well.

IX.C. There were no committee reports.

X.A. There was no distribution of the September/October Events item.

X.B. There was no distribution of the September/October Site Visits item.

XI. Schedule for Future Board Meetings:

A. October 6, 2020 – Board/Superintendent Study Session

B. October 20, 2020

XII. Ms. Talamantes moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lefkovitz seconded the motion, which carried 6 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent (Keefer), 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes

Ms. Lefkovitz – yes

Mr. Keefer – absent

Mr. Fong – yes

Ms. Davis – yes

Mr. Brown – yes

Ms. Ahola – yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Gordon
Secretary to the Board

Date approved: October 20, 2020