

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 1, 2020

VIA ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE CALL

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of the Board/Superintendent Study Session of August 4, 2020
Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 11, 2020
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Official Correspondence
- VI. Visitor Presentations
 - A. General Public
 - B. Employee Organizations
- VII. Superintendent's Report
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Board Report – Schools as Centers of Wellness Mental Health Clinicians Initiative
 - B. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 1. Accept Report on Personnel Transactions
 2. Award Diplomas to Court and Community School Students
 - C. Approval of Contracts
 - D. 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. \$384,617 USA Learns: Website Redesign to Help Adults Improve Their Lives with Free Online Instruction grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation (DGLF) for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years
 2. \$225,537 California Partnership Academies (CPA) Support and Development Project grant from the California Department of Education for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
 - E. Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 20-09 – Determination of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials Sufficiency Pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 (Community and Special Education Schools)
 - F. Presentation and Public Hearing – SCOE 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan
 - G. Adoption of Resolution No. 20-10 – Authorization to Contract for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable on Behalf of the River Delta Unified School District
- 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. September 15, 2020
 - XII. Adjournment
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I. President Ahola called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. via teleconference call in Sacramento, California. Board members present were Joanne Ahola, Alfred Brown, Heather Davis, Harold Fong, Paul Keefer, 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.

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

II. Mr. Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. On a motion by Ms. Davis and seconded by Mr. Fong, the minutes of the Board/Superintendent Study Session of August 4, 2020 were approved. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

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

On a motion by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Keefer, the minutes of the regular meeting of August 11, 2020 were approved. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

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

IV. Ms. Talamantes moved to adopt the agenda with the following revision: Move Item VIII.G. – Adoption of Resolution No. 20-10 – Authorization to Contract for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable on Behalf of the River Delta Unified School District

before the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

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

V. There was no official correspondence.

VI.A. There were no requests for visitor presentations from the general public.

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

VIII.G. Adoption of Resolution No. 20-10 – Authorization to Contract for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable on Behalf of the River Delta Unified School District

Tim Herrera read a public comment from Superintendent Katherine Wright (RDUSD).

Jerry Jones provided an overview of the situation, the needs of the district regarding connectivity, and how SCOE can assist River Delta Unified School District with a solution. Board members discussed the plan and expressed support of the request.

Ms. Davis moved, and Mr. Brown seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-10 – Authorization to Contract for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable on Behalf of the River Delta Unified School District. Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

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

VII. Superintendent Gordon reported on and answered Board questions regarding the following:

- On August 20, Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Olive Kasirye issued updated guidance in a letter to all school leaders.
 - Schools may conduct in-person mental health counseling if deemed necessary.

- Initial English Language Learner assessments may occur in-person on campus on an individual basis unless legally required to be conducted in a group.
- Schools may conduct special education assessments on-campus on an individual basis as required by state and federal regulations.
- HiSET or GDE 1:1 administration so students can earn diplomas
- The State has issued new guidance for groups of students in controlled, supervised, and indoor environments operated by LEAs, non-profits, or other authorized providers. The State defines a cohort as a stable group of no more than 14 children and no more than two supervising adults staying together for all activities and avoiding contact with people outside of their group. Utilizing cohorts minimizes the number of people exposed if a COVID-19 case is identified in a particular cohort. Supervising adults should be assigned to one cohort and must work solely with that cohort. Outdoor meetings and meetings in large rooms with windows open are preferred over meetings in small rooms with windows closed. Staff are expected to use face coverings and follow social distancing guidelines.
- Testing and contact tracing must be in place prior to considering the elementary waiver option. No groups are permissible on campus until testing is available.
- Our Special Education families have the technology they need to engage with principals, teachers, para-educators, and staff. Teachers are connecting with families to individualize instruction that is adapted for IEP goals. Our teachers are documenting student daily attendance and their contact with families. Our para-educators are working along with teachers. Every Thursday, our Special Education staff holds a weekly team meeting.
- Our Community School teachers are busy collaborating as we start this school year. Faculty are providing distance learning from their classrooms and from home. 100% of the students now have devices and hotspots. The staff sense a spirit of enthusiasm regarding school participation from students. We are continuing with programs such as LINKS Mentoring, which will interview new students next week and begin programming shortly thereafter. Our long-time partners, Earth Mama Healing, the HAWK Institute, and The Square Root Academy are finalizing schedules for work with the community schools. Our part-time mental health clinicians have secured parental permission and started providing service. Our School Counselor is providing service to all community school students.
- Our CARE classrooms in San Juan, Center, and Folsom-Cordova had smooth openings at all sites. Current class enrollment is averaging around 17 students per class, but ranges from 12 to 22. The average will grow

throughout the first semester. Teachers worked hard during their first week to engage all students and build relationships. Out of the 180 students, only two are proving difficult to engage during the virtual days or weeks. Director Marc Nigel is working with the school administration and the CARE teachers to provide support to families and students to ensure students engage and build rapport with their teachers and classmates.

- Senior Extension Principal Craig Bradford is reporting 10-15 new students per week. During the first week of school, teachers had 25 very engaged students on their rosters. This is the most engaged Senior Extension cohort during the first week of school. Districts and our non-profit partners are referring students who did not graduate on time. Our Transition Specialists continue helping students find jobs and students are securing employment. We have a new partnership with Pacific Coast Building Products for entry level jobs into the construction building product industry. SCOE's NCCT instructor, Mike Anckner, is providing specialized remote classes and workshops on careers in the construction industry. Students continue to enroll in college early or post-graduation with the Re-Emerging Scholars program at Sacramento City College. Mental Health clinicians provide support for all students on Wednesdays during a time slot designated as "Wellness Wednesday."
- Our SCOE Tech Teams are continuing to expand the wireless access within the Youth Detention Facility (YDF) allowing more options for school staff to engage with students via Zoom throughout the school day. Speech Therapy, RSP, and Teachers are providing assessments, support, and teaching via Zoom. Special Education staff will begin providing in-person assessments through the non-contact rooms in accord with new guidance from Sacramento County Public Health. Transition Specialists provide daily support for our early college program via Blackboard and Zoom and support for those exiting the YDF. The first 2020-2021 cohort of 14 students completed the College Success Interdisciplinary Studies course remotely through Lake Tahoe Community College.
- Our 35th Annual Employee Recognition Day was a virtual event, and a successful one. Thanks to our planning team, which dedicated many hours over several months so our honorees, retirees, and all employees would feel appreciated. Thanks to President Ahola for her contributions and to the SCOE Communications Office which was watched by more than 600 people when it aired "live" on the SCOE YouTube channel.
- At our September 15 Board meeting, we will relaunch our Employees of the Month program. So many of our staff members are going above and beyond and providing outstanding service during these very challenging times and it is important that we recognize and honor them. Department directors will join our meetings virtually to introduce our employees. Our

honorees also will join us. We wanted you to have the opportunity to see them, meet them, and thank them for their hard work.

- We did an informal survey re October Speaker meeting which has traditionally been held at SCOE. The group determined that this meeting would be better postponed until it can be held in person instead of Zoom.

VIII.A. Brent Malicote, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Chris Williams, Director, who provided a report on Schools as Centers of Wellness Mental Health Clinicians Initiative to the Board.

Board members expressed appreciation for the program.

VIII.B. Ms. Talamantes moved, and Mr. Brown seconded adoption of the consent agenda as revised. By such action, the Board:

1. Accepted report on Personnel Transactions
2. Awarded diplomas to Court and Community School Students

Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes
Ms. Lefkovitz – yes
Mr. Keefer – yes
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: Demetre Curtis Caldwell-Lee and Analycia M. Perez from Cordova Lane Senior Extension; Ejon Andrews and Zitlali Castro-Ortega from Elinor Lincoln Hickey Senior Extension; and Carlos Orona from North Area Senior Extension.

VIII.C. Ms. Davis moved, and Ms. Talamantes seconded approval of the contracts as listed. Motion to approve the contracts carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

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

VIII.D. On a motion by Mr. Fong, 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. \$384,617 USA Learns: Website Redesign to Help Adults Improve Their Lives with Free Online Instruction grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation (DGLF) for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years
2. \$225,537 California Partnership Academies (CPA) Support and Development Project grant from the California Department of Education for the 2020-2021 fiscal year

Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

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

VIII.E. Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 20-09 – Determination of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials Sufficiency Pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 (Community and Special Education Schools)

President Ahola opened the Public Hearing at 8:33 p.m.

There were no public comments.

President Ahola closed the Public Hearing at 8:34 p.m.

Mr. Brown moved, and Ms. Davis seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-09 – Determination of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials Sufficiency Pursuant to Education Code Section 60119 (Community and Special Education Schools). Motion carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

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

VIII.F. Presentation and Public Hearing – SCOE 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

Dr. Matt Perry, Assistant Superintendent, and Michael Kast, Executive Director, provided a presentation on the SCOE 2020-2021 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan.

President Ahola opened the Public Hearing at 8:40 p.m.

There were no public comments.

President Ahola closed the Public Hearing at 8:40 p.m.

Ms. Lefkowitz thought document was well written and impressed by level of participation in surveys.

President Ahola recognizes the level of engagement with students and expressed appreciation. There were no changes requested. She announced the Board Committee Appointments.

IX.A. Mr. Brown shared that the City Council approved an initiative to rename the new county courthouse after Nathaniel Colley, the influential African American Attorney, who fought for the desegregation of public housing and whose work is associated with the New Helvetia Historic District, which is part of Alder Grove. In addition, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency will work with the local schools, community leaders, and residents to explore ways to honor Colley. Lastly, City staff are nominating the New Helvetia Historic District on the Sacramento Register of Historic & Cultural Resources. The first hearings for the nomination process will occur during fall 2020. And as a member of the Sacramento County Board of Education, he would also like to honor Nathaniel Colley, who was the first African American Attorney in Sacramento.

Ms. Talamantes can't believe 2020 is almost over. Her younger sister has been accepted to the UOP PhD program occupational therapy program in Sacramento and will be close to home. She will be the first Dr. Talamantes in the family.

Ms. Davis was at SCOE today to collaborate with mentors. There are many mentors this year, which is very exciting. Meetings with students will be held via Zoom across campuses. She thanked Tim for the videos with education information and feels grateful for the updates.

Mr. Fong congratulated staff for the Mental Health initiative. There is a movement for low-income individuals to have low-income housing. He suggested, we as a Board should pass a resolution to help this area remain a low-income housing area, even though this is not the type of resolution we usually pass. He requested articles about how families are being impacted by COVID and the health risks. He is concerned about enrollment at Community Schools. In the past, teachers were so engaging that students wanted to be in programs and not go back to schools. He is concerned they will close.

Mr. Keefer thanked Dr. Perry and Mr. Kast for the LCP and that program is meeting kids wherever they are, rather than making kids come to them. He commended Dr. Perry for the leveraging of staff across SCOE, which helps address Mr. Fong's concern about the staff knowing that you are nimble enough to support students across the organization, and it's a great way to make sure we keep great staff for our students.

Ms. Lefkovitz taught her first class at Sac State online today, and now has a new appreciation for teachers. Due to teaching and other work commitments, she is not currently able to participate in LINKS. She supports Mr. Brown's desire to honor Nathaniel Colley. She feels inspired after hearing the Mental Health presentation and LC Plan.

IX.B. President Ahola is being reminded of how lucky she feels to be on this Board with all her colleagues, and also a part of this great organization undertaking some exciting initiatives both around equity and mental health. This is an exciting time to be a trustee on the Sacramento County Board of Education. She hopes to see exciting initiatives like this continue over the years.

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. September 15, 2020

XII. Mr. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting in memory of SCOE employee Robin Laguer. Ms. Lefkovitz seconded the motion, which carried 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, 0 abstentions based on the following Roll Call vote:

Ms. Talamantes – yes

Ms. Lefkovitz – yes

Mr. Keefer – yes

Mr. Fong – yes

Ms. Davis – yes

Mr. Brown – yes

Ms. Ahola – yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Gordon
Secretary to the Board

Date approved: October 20, 2020