



**San Juan Unified School District**

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes  
October 13, 2020**

**Regular Meeting**

Board of Education

4:45 p.m.

**Call to Order (A)**

The October 13 regular meeting was called to order by the president, Paula Villescaz. The board met in-person at the district office, safely physically distanced as allowed with Sacramento County's shift into the red, or substantial, tier of the state's COVID-19 risk monitoring system and aligned to state and local health guidelines. Presenters participated via the Zoom platform and were not present in the board room. Public attendance was provided via the Zoom platform as well as a live stream on the district's YouTube channel.

**Roll Call**

Present:

Paula Villescaz, president

Michael McKibbin, Ed.D., vice president

Zima Creason, clerk

Pam Costa, member

Saul Hernandez, member

**Recess: Closed Session (B)**

The meeting was immediately recessed, with the board convening in closed session to consider a student enrollment in one case; to discuss with negotiator Jim Shoemake, Assistant Superintendent, Schools and Labor Relations, regarding CSEA Chapter 127 General/Operations support, Chauffeurs/Teamsters Local No. 150 Transportation, Supervisors, Teachers and Certificated Supervisory units; and regarding non-represented groups: management and confidential units (Government Code section 54957.6); and to conference with legal counsel regarding potential litigation pursuant to government code section 54956.9(d)(2)49070, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph 2 of Government Code section 54956.9(e) one case related to threatened California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA") action: Attorney Scott Rafferty alleges the district's at-large election method violates the CVRA and that the district is required to immediately take steps to make the transition to by-trustee area elections.

**Reconvene Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance (C)**

At 6:30 p.m., four members of the Casa Roble Fundamental High School Air Force Jr. ROTC virtually led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Villescaz then explained the two methods (electronically or on Zoom) available to submit public comments for tonight's meeting.

**Minutes Approved (D)**

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Ms. Creason, that the minutes of the September 22 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**Recognition: Week of the School Administrator (E-1)**

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, to adopt Resolution No. A-396 proclaiming the week of October 11-17 as the Week of the School Administrator. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**High School Student Council Reports (E-2)**

High School Student Council representatives Emily Wahl from El Camino Fundamental High School and Katy Moran from Casa Roble Fundamental High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at their respective schools.

**Employee Organizations (E-5)**

San Juan Teachers Association (SJTA) President Bill Simmons spoke about the physical reopening of schools and the return to in-person instruction.

**Closed Session/Expulsion Actions (E-7)**

Ms. Creason reported that the board voted unanimously to accept a hearing panel's recommendation in one enrollment in case number OM-01.

**Visitor Comments (F)**

*[via Zoom]:*

Tom Nelson spoke about his removal as the chair of the Local Control and Accountability Plan Parent Advisory Committee (LCAP PAC).

Tracy Kliewer expressed support for all students having the option to return to in-person learning.

Christina Aguilar spoke regarding youth mental health supports.

Jeremy Walley expressed concerns regarding distance learning and special education.

Dure Shahwar Naveed expressed support for distance learning.

Jacqueline Shields spoke about special education and parents having choice.

Margo Frost shared information regarding a student absence notice.

Warda Ali spoke about student mental health and an upcoming town hall regarding mental health.

*[via electronic comment form, and read aloud by Trent Allen, Senior Director of Community Relations]:*

Juan Yniguez made comments about the LCAP PAC and by-district elections.

Scott Raffety made comments regarding board elections.

Magali Kincaid expressed support for neighborhood elections and adding additional board members.

Heather inquired if students will be given the same safety precautions in their classrooms as board members have in the board room.

Kenneth Firl supports keeping open elections and not changing to neighborhood elections.

Christian Pompa made comments about the role of teachers during distance learning.

Ramona Landeros supports by-area elections and increasing the size of the board to seven members.

**Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-7)**

It was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Creason, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-7 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**Personnel (G-1)**

Appointments, leaves of absence, separations and errata — approved as submitted.

**Purchasing Report (G-2)**

Purchase orders and service agreements, change orders, construction and public works bids and zero-dollar contracts — approved as submitted.

**Business/Financial Report (G-3)**

Notices of completion — approved as submitted.

**Gifts (G-4)**

Acceptance of gifts to Earl LeGette Elementary School, Howe Avenue Elementary, Laurel Ruff Transition School and McKinney-Vento Program.

**Disposal of Surplus Property (G-5)**

Approval to dispose of surplus property pursuant to board policy 3270 and Education Code sections 17545 and 17546.

**SJUSD Use of Facilities and Grounds Handbook and Fees (G-6)**

Approval of the revisions to the SJUSD Use of Facilities and Grounds Handbook and fees.

**Lease Amendment for Choices Charter School (G-7)**

Approval of the amendment to the 2020-2021 lease agreement for Choices Charter School at Billy Mitchell.

**Update on Learning Model Continuum (I-1)**

Superintendent Kern provided an update on the learning model continuum, which included information about the current efforts and planning that is underway to reinstate in-person learning. Mr. Kern spoke about the ever-changing state and local guidance from health officials and the lessons learned and challenges seen in other districts that have recently reopened with a hybrid model. Mr. Kern also explained that ongoing work includes discussions with labor partners, facility preparation and gathering feedback from families and staff. Superintendent Kern shared that current conversations would see students placed into one of three cohorts, with groups A and B attending in-person classes at alternating times and group C remaining in distance learning, with students in grades TK-12 returning to modified in-person learning starting January 5, 2021, and special education students with moderate to severe needs who are served in self-contained classrooms returning to modified in-person instruction beginning November 2, 2020. *To maintain grant funding, Early Childhood Education will be a part of reopening along with the TK-12 system on January 5, 2021.*

amended  
→

Maintenance and Operations Manager Chris Ralston presented detailed information about three areas of focus related to safety: distribution of PPE, building occupancy changes and cleaning behavior changes. Mr. Ralston discussed a variety of topics including PPE supplies, stickers and signage, barriers and clear guards, classroom layouts, ventilation, and daily and enhanced cleanings. Superintendent Kern announced that there are future plans for a COVID dashboard which would list the number of identified COVID cases in the district.

**Public Comments: [via Zoom]**

Amber B. made comments about students with IEPs, attendance and youth mental health.

Debra Hillsman shared information about her daughter's experiences with distance learning and stated she is disappointed with a January start date.

Melissa Hartwick thanked the board for proceeding with caution and learning from other districts.

Tenille Stewart expressed disappointment at the lack of agreement with the teachers union, stating that plans should have been finalized over the summer.

Keri Wanner spoke in support of in-person learning.

Justin Heeb stated that waiting until January to return is too long.

Autumn Daniel's father stated that a January start date is not an acceptable plan for elementary students.

J Stevens and her daughter spoke in support of returning to in-person learning.

Kristen Sorabji expressed disappointment with the lack of transparency and communication and is concerned about distance learning loss.

Jessa Teel shared her family experiences with distance learning.

Andi McKinney expressed disappointment that models are not in place and recommended improved communication such as providing a district roadmap or checklist on the website.

Emily Allen shared her family experiences with distance learning, stating that the delay to in-person learning is wrong.

Tara Skinner supports taking the necessary time to ensure the smoothest transition for both students and teachers.

Melissa Watts made comments about returning to in-person learning.

Isaiah Ellis' mother expressed concerns about students wearing masks.

Marina Gabel expressed support for returning to in-person learning.

At 8:40 p.m., the board unanimously agreed to extend visitor comments to hear from speakers who were currently waiting in the queue with their hand raised by 8:45 p.m.

Ghulam Murtaza Niazi, speaking on behalf of his father, said distance learning involves too much screen time and homework.

Amy Stockett supports parent choice.

Caden Stockett stated distance learning is not working and his senior year has been ruined.

Louisa Burke expressed support for in-person learning.

Jason Olson shared his concerns about distance learning.

Ella Tomlin expressed support for not rushing back and creating a plan that works for everyone.

Margo Frost shared her concerns about the level of communication and the challenges for working families.

Kevin Jones supports returning to in-person learning.

Luc Taylor supports continuing with distance learning.

Stacie L. stated that, in the midst of the pandemic, she supports the board and that parents need to step it up.

Natalie inquired how distance learning can be extended to January since Sacramento County changed the health order today.

Caroline Digman shared her personal and professional experiences with distance learning.

Arthur Clark supports not rushing back to in-person learning.

Sabrina Bernardo expressed her concerns with waiting to return in January.

Sabrina Bernardo's son spoke about the need to go back quicker because virtual learning is too hard.

Renee Reich shared that Sacramento County and science says it is fine to open now and kids should be in school.

Ana Reilly commented about high school coaches not getting paid and supports a January return date.

Katie Reid supports regular education students returning prior to January.

Niki Martasian supports continuing with distance learning and hopes for continuity.

Lily Sorabji shared her experiences with distance learning at Del Dayo and her brother also stated he wants to return to in-person learning.

Teresa Doe shared her thoughts as both an employee and parent in the district.

Christa Green expressed that she is proud of the work of the district, teachers and staff.

Caroline Castaneda expressed support for the January start date with the option for continued distance learning.

Tracy Ferris stated she would like to see a plan and more facts.

Theresa inquired about the data which justifies continued school closures.

After visitor comments, Ms. Villescaz invited board members to speak. Mr. Hernandez acknowledged the frustrations of parents, thanked the special education teachers who will be returning in November and inquired if homeschool would still be an option, which Superintendent Kern explained that both homeschool and independent study would remain as options. Ms. Costa thanked everyone for their comments, acknowledged how difficult the pandemic is for everyone, expressed appreciation to staff who is working to prepare the facilities and establish reopening plans and expressed support for a cautious reopening in order to keep students, staff and the community safe. Ms. Creason acknowledged everyone's frustration and sadness and she recapped some of the planning that has taken place over the past months. Dr. McKibbin made comments related to reopening plans and thanked everyone who has worked hard on distance learning. Ms. Villescaz inquired about the next steps in the learning continuum plan, which Superintendent Kern explained would include finalizing a model and then communicating the details to families and staff. Mr. Hernandez asked how high school sports might be impacted, which Superintendent Kern explained that any decisions about sports would be up to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Ms. Villescaz reaffirmed that the COVID landscape is ever-changing and that the board works to serve all students.

At 10:05 p.m., the board agreed unanimously to take a 5-minute recess and return to open session at 10:10 p.m.

### **Construction Update (I-2)**

Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Facilities and Transportation Frank Camarda introduced Construction Manager Nicholas Arps who provided an annual update on the current construction projects for bond measures J, N and P.

#### Public Comment: [via Zoom]

J Stevens inquired about the barns at Casa Roble Fundamental High School and security measures that are in place at school sites.

Ms. Costa thanked voters for approving the bonds, the entire construction team for their work on all the projects, and students and school staff for their patience during construction. Ms. Creason acknowledged the work of the Facilities Committee and the stakeholder process. Dr. McKibbin noted that Career Technical Education programs have been a driving factor for many of the construction projects and he inquired about the monetary contributions related to the charter school modernization projects, which Mr. Camarda explained. Ms. Villescaz inquired about future projects at Encina Preparatory High School, which Mr. Camarda said were currently in the planning stages.

### **Public Hearing: Aspire Charter School Renewal Petitions (I-3)**

Director of Admissions and Family Services Michele Flagler introduced staff members from Aspire Charter School, who gave a presentation regarding the charter school renewal petitions for Aspire Alexander Twilight Secondary Academy (ATSA) and Aspire Alexander Twilight College Preparatory Academy (ATCPA).

Ms. Villescaz declared the topic of the Aspire Charter School renewal petitions a public hearing and invited the public to speak.

#### Public Comments: [via Zoom]

Isaac Griffin shared his positive experiences as an Aspire employee.

J Stevens expressed concerns about the district having too many charter schools.

Noel Colon shared his positive experiences as a former Aspire student and current teacher.

Vanessa Hefner shared information about the supports that Aspire students receive.

Janelle Graham praised the Montessori program and its teachers during distance learning.

There being no further questions or comments from the public, Ms. Villescaz declared the public hearing closed and invited board members to speak. Board members made comments and posed questions, which Aspire staff answered. Action was scheduled for December 15.

#### **Williams Complaint Report (I-4)**

General Counsel Linda Simlick explained that the district must report on the status of Williams-type complaints filed with the district per Education Code section 35186(d), which requires each school district to publicly report, on a quarterly basis, summarized data on the nature and resolution of all Williams-type complaints. Ms. Simlick stated that, during the time period from July through September 2020, there were no Williams-type complaints filed.

#### Public Comments [via Zoom]:

J Stevens asked for more information about how to file a Williams complaint.

Tenille Stewart inquired if touch screen Chromebooks would fall into this category.

After public comment, Ms. Villescaz asked for clarification about how technology relates to Williams-type complaints, which Ms. Simlick addressed.

#### **Revisions to Board Policies 1312.3, 4119.1, 5145.7 and 5131.2 (I-5)**

General Counsel Linda Simlick presented for discussion the proposed revisions to Board Policy 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures, Board Policy 4119.1 Employee Sexual Harassment, Board Policy 5145.7 Student Sexual Harassment and Board Policy 5131.2 Bullying. Ms. Simlick explained the board is required to periodically review a number of the district's board policies to ensure compliance with the Federal Program Monitoring process. Ms. Simlick answered questions from the board. Action was scheduled for October 27.

#### **Board Reports (J)**

Ms. Costa shared that recent Nobel Prize winner Charles Rice was a former student in San Juan Unified and that the San Juan Education Foundation and the Aerospace Museum of California both had recent fundraisers to benefit San Juan Unified students.

#### **Future Agenda (K)**

No items were added to the future agenda.

#### **Visitor Comments (L)**

*[via Zoom]:*

Kelli Burns stated she appreciates the district taking staff and student safety into consideration and agrees that the Nobel Prize winner should be celebrated.

Andressa Cecilia Glodzinski posed several questions related to the return to in-person learning.

J Stevens expressed support for the reopening of schools.

Nicole Harrigan expressed concerns regarding services for special education students who are assigned to general education classrooms.

Lance Christensen expressed his opinions about distance learning.

Dana Dollar asked for more information on schedules and school hours.

L. Wohlford expressed support for the steps the district is taking.

Amber Yamanaka shared her experiences as both an employee and parent in the district.

*[via electronic comment form]:*

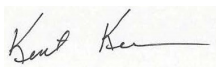
Written comments were provided to the board electronically.

#### **Adjournment (M)**

At 11:29 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Paula Villescaz, President



Kent Kern, Executive Secretary

Approved: 10/27/2020 (as amended)

:sc