



**San Juan Unified School District**

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes  
October 27, 2020**

**Regular Meeting**

Board of Education

5:15 p.m.

**Call to Order (A)**

The October 27 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

**Visitor Comment: Closed Session (A-1)**

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

Scott Rafferty made comments about a special election and increasing the number of board members from five to seven.

**Closed Session (B)**

The meeting was then recessed, with the board convening in closed session to conference with legal counsel regarding existing litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1). Name of Case: Kincaid v. San Juan Unified School District, Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2020-00286475.

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

At 6:30 p.m., four members of the Del Campo 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)**

Superintendent Kern requested one amendment to the minutes. On page 2278, first paragraph, the following sentence was added: *"To maintain grant funding, Early Childhood Education will be a part of reopening along with the TK-12 system on January 5, 2021."* It was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Creason, that the minutes of the October 13 regular meeting be approved as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**Recognition: School Psychology Awareness Week (E-1)**

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to adopt Resolution No. A-397 proclaiming the week of November 9-13 as School Psychology Awareness Week. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

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

High School Student Council representatives Angela Bernal from Encina Preparatory High School and Kenzie Stokes from Del Campo School High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at their respective schools.

**Staff Reports (E-3)**

Superintendent Kern provided an update on several topics related to distance learning and the return to modified in-person learning. Mr. Hernandez thanked Superintendent Kern for the report and acknowledged the families who are having challenges with distance learning, noting that a better plan is in the works. Ms. Costa recognized the amount of time that staff has spent addressing the needs of students, from both a safety and educational perspective, as health conditions have changed. Ms. Costa inquired about the instructional model for English language learners and the number of moderate/severe special education students that have indicated they would return to modified in-person instruction, which Superintendent Kern addressed. Ms. Creason inquired if families will be able to switch between instructional models and the status of a district roadmap, which Superintendent Kern stated that the ability to switch instructional models would depend on space availability and that goal is to have the roadmap available prior to the Thanksgiving break. Superintendent Kern also noted that the parent survey was delayed in order to provide families with greater detail about the instructional models. Dr. McKibbin asked clarifying questions about the parent survey, which Superintendent Kern explained would be sent to general education families (other groups have already been surveyed) and that school sites will be involved in the process. Ms. Villescaz acknowledged that parents may be feeling survey fatigue, but noted it is important for planning purposes.

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

There were no closed session actions to report.

**Visitor Comments (F)**

*[via Zoom]:*

Keri asked for more transparency about reopening plans and PPE requirements for students.

Elizabeth Allan expressed appreciation for waiting until January to reopen schools.

D Fitzs commented on the lack of agreement with the teachers union and the psychological repercussions if students do not return to school in January.

Juan Yniguez expressed support for by-district elections and increasing the number of board members to seven.

Lindsay Tateishi posed questions about the survey and instructional models related to the return to in-person learning.

Magali Kincaid spoke in support of neighborhood elections and increasing the number of board members from five to seven.

Louisa Burke made comments and quoted several sources related to the delay to return to in-person learning.

User name 'Return to In-Person Learning' made comments about the proposed learning models and Senate Bill 98.

Keri Sternberg stated more information is needed in order to make an informed decision about returning to in-person learning.

Brittany Yavrom stated she appreciates the delay to return to in-person learning so it is done correctly and safely.

Shelby Marks shared information about the challenges her children have experienced with distance learning.

Missy Badalyan shared information about the positive experiences her children have had with distance learning.

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

Anonymous provided a statement regarding the temporary removal of a committee member.

Damaris Canton expressed the need for neighborhood trustees and increasing the board to seven trustees.

Amy Kassouni commented on the social media/code of conduct agenda item and urged the board to settle legal matters quickly.

Carolina Flores made comments about the failure to comply with the California Voting Rights Act in time for the 2020 elections.

Christian Pompa expressed concerns about the wrong board meeting date being listed on the district website.

Emily Faris inquired about planning for full time in-person learning and how parents/community members will receive progress updates.

Jennifer Pearce thanked the board for having a thoughtful reopening plan.

Gryffan Long made comments about thoughtfully balancing the needs of parents, kids and teachers/staff.

Ashley C. expressed her concerns about Instructional Assistants returning to work.

#### **Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-6)**

It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-6 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

#### **Personnel (G-1)**

Appointments and leaves of absence — approved as submitted.

#### **Purchasing Report (G-2)**

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

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

Notices of completion and warrants and payroll — approved as submitted.

#### **Gifts (G-4)**

Acceptance of gifts to Encina Preparatory High School, Family and Community Engagement, Greer Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School and Winston Churchill Middle School.

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

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

#### **Revisions to Board Policies 1312.3, 4119.1, 5145.7 and 5131.2 (G-6)**

Approval of the revisions to the following board policies: 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.

#### **Independent Study and TK-8 Homeschool Update (I-1)**

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Rick Messer presented an overview of the district's Independent Study and TK-8 Homeschool programs, both of which are alternatives to distance learning. Mr. Messer introduced Principal of El Sereno Independent Study High School David Levis and Homeschool Program Manager Sandra Butorac who each provided information about their respective programs. Frith Gladdis, teacher at El Sereno, and Cami Cordell, lead advisory teacher for homeschool, shared their experiences as teachers in the programs.

#### Public Comment: [via Zoom]

D Fitzs requested additional information about El Sereno Independent Study High School.

After public comment, staff answered questions from the board.

#### **Encina Middle School Development Update (I-2)**

Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Labor Relations Jim Shoemake, Program Specialist Nina Mancina and Encina Middle School Principal Shana Henry, Ed.D., provided an update on the progress of the Encina Middle School development process. Mr. Shoemake provided background information on the process, Ms. Mancina provided an overview of the design process for the 2020-2021 school year and Dr. Henry discussed the recent work and milestones in the process.

#### Public Comment: [via Zoom]

Rebecca Mackin made comments about the physical separation of the high school and middle school campuses.

Mr. Hernandez welcomed Dr. Henry and stated he enjoyed previously speaking with her and hearing her vision for Encina Middle School. Ms. Costa shared that she also enjoyed talking with Dr. Henry to hear her ideas and share thinking with her. Ms. Costa also posed questions about the composition of the site-based design team, which Ms. Mancina addressed,

and if the team would have input on the facility design, which Mr. Shoemake explained that the instructional model would drive the facility design, with input from site staff, students and community members. Ms. Creason thanked Ms. Mancina for all of her work and recognized how wonderful it was to get to know Dr. Henry. Ms. Creason asked for clarification regarding facility projects at Encina, which Mr. Shoemake explained was still in the discussion phase. Superintendent Kern commented that the instructional program would drive the needs of the facility. Dr. McKibbin inquired about the work of the West End Advisory Group and if feeder schools have been included in the process, which Ms. Mancina and Dr. Henry explained some of the previous and current outreach efforts that has taken place with the three feeder schools. Ms. Villescaz thanked Dr. Henry for her leadership and she acknowledged the desire to ensure the process is site-driven but hopes that the site staff feels supported with their decision-making efforts so progress can continue forward.

### **New Board Policy 0415 – Equity (I-3)**

Assistant Superintendent Debra Calvin, Ed.D., introduced Director of Equity and Student Achievement Diana Marshall and Coordinator of Equity and Student Achievement Lori Vine who presented newly proposed Board Policy 0415 regarding equity. Ms. Marshall outlined the process which took place to develop the policy and Ms. Vine shared how the board policy and San Juan 8 Point Commitment to Educational Justice are aligned.

#### Public Comments: [via Zoom]

D Fitzs stated the item lacked transparency and she would be requesting additional information.

Marina Gabel made comments about the San Juan 8 Point Commitment to Educational Justice and the teaching of social justice standards.

After public comment, Ms. Villescaz invited board members to speak. Mr. Hernandez thanked the equity department for its work. Ms. Costa echoed thanks to the equity department for its work, which she said has been comprehensive and well thought out. Ms. Creason expressed her appreciation for the time and energy it has taken to get to this point and for the willingness to have hard conversations about the subject. Dr. McKibbin thanked the equity department for its work, including having courageous conversations and making significant changes that we can all be proud of. Ms. Villescaz thanked staff for bringing this forward and expressed appreciation for the district constantly evolving and making progress. Superintendent Kern thanked the board for supporting the work related to equity, which continues to be a focus for the district. Action was scheduled for November 17.

### **Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) Supplementary Retirement Plan (I-4)**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Paul Oropallo presented the topic. Superintendent Kern provided additional context on the item, noting that approval of this resolution would authorize the district to further explore the feasibility of offering the plan and identify which bargaining groups might meet the required threshold. Ms. Costa stated she believes this plan could be fiscally beneficial, with future financial challenges on the horizon, and she sees the decision to evaluate PARS within each bargaining group as a positive.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, to adopt Resolution No. 3010 approving the PARS supplementary retirement plan for certificated non-management, certificated management, classified non-management, classified management and confidential employees. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

### **Variable Term Waivers (I-5)**

Mr. Oropallo presented the topic. It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to approve the submission of seven Variable Term Waivers to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

### **Assignment of Teachers Outside Regular Base Credential (I-6)**

Mr. Oropallo presented the topic.

#### Public Comment: [via Zoom]

D Fitzs stated the item lacked transparency and she does not agree with it.

It was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Creason, to adopt Resolution No. 3011 authorizing the assignment of certificated employees to areas outside their authorized credential during the 2020-2021 school year per Education Code sections 44256(b), 44258.2, 44263 and 44865. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**District Committee Members Code of Conduct (I-7)**

Superintendent Kern introduced the topic, explaining that the board liaisons to the Local Control and Accountability Plan Parent Advisory Committee (LCAP PAC) expressed an interest in establishing a code of conduct policy for committee members and a districtwide policy on the use of social media. Ms. Creason spoke about staff and teachers working collaboratively to develop a policy that establishes rules and parameters to keep students safe, and not feeling uncomfortable due to the adult use of social media, without impeding staff and student relationships. Dr. McKibbin explained that a policy would provide for a better footing than what is in place right now, and it would allow any future concerns or complaints to be addressed more effectively than in the past. Superintendent Kern confirmed the policy would not be implemented retroactively.

After hearing no requests for public comment, Ms. Villescaz invited board members to speak. Mr. Hernandez supports having a districtwide policy and, once established, would like to see it clearly communicated to everyone. Ms. Costa shared that she sees this as an opportunity to have each committee discuss the topic at its annual orientation meeting in September, and she noted that CSBA has numerous resources to draw upon to help with the development of the policy. Ms. Villescaz stated she looks forward to seeing future progress on this item, as it is more critical than ever to protect students in this environment.

**Board Reports (J)**

Mr. Hernandez stated he enjoyed touring the new Career Technical Education building at Del Campo High School, which will be ready in December.

Ms. Costa shared that she attended the recent Curriculum and Standards Committee meeting, the District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC) meeting, noting that she was impressed with the resiliency of parents and staff during the translation process, and the Special Education Parent Workshop, which focused on strategies to get students ready for the return to in-person learning.

Ms. Creason applauded the creativity of teachers and staff who have worked to engage students in social interactions, and she gave a shout-out to schools who are hosting small group and 1:1 social-emotional counseling sessions and acknowledged the efforts of the Special Education Community Advisory Committee.

Dr. McKibbin shared a poignant story of a bus driver working on a landscaping project at Pasteur Middle School, stating that he was impressed with the classified employees who are doing work outside of their regular classifications during the pandemic. Superintendent Kern commended Teamsters on the side letter of agreement.

Ms. Villescaz reported on a number of items that she took part in including the presentation of the \$50,000 contribution to the San Juan Education Foundation from the Sacramento Republic FC Foundation and Micron Technology to aid in eliminating the difficulties of distance learning during the pandemic; a virtual dance party at Greer Elementary School; the signing of the final bond documents last Friday; engaging as a participant in the Muslim Transition Age Youth Advocacy Group Town Hall, which addressed de-stigmatizing mental health for Muslim youth; joining the Meraki High School/Fair Oaks Rotary mentorship program and visiting classes via Zoom at Rio Americano High School, Encina Preparatory High School and Churchill Middle School.

**Future Agenda (K)**

Ms. Villescaz requested a future update on the transition to by-district elections.

**Visitor Comments (L)**

*[via electronic comment form, and read aloud by Deputy Superintendent Melissa Bassanelli]:*


Tima Burgess thanked the board for delaying the start of school until January.

**Adjournment (M)**

At 9:46 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Paula Villescaz, President



Kent Kern, Executive Secretary

Approved: 11/17/2020

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