



**San Juan Unified School District**

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes  
July 16, 2020**

**Special Meeting**

Board of Education

5:30 p.m.

**Call to Order/Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance (A)**

The July 16 special meeting was called to order by the president, Paula Villescaz. In the interest of public health, in compliance with California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-35-20, the California State Public Health Officer's order that included social-distancing guidelines and avoiding group gatherings, the order issued by the Sacramento County Health Officer, directing all individuals to stay at home or at their residence and prohibiting all non-essential gatherings of any number and all applicable provisions of federal and state law, the July 16 special meeting was conducted telephonically via the Zoom video conferencing platform and also streamed to YouTube. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Villescaz explained the two methods (electronically or on Zoom) available to submit public comments for tonight's meeting.

**Roll Call**

Present (via Zoom from separate locations):

Paula Villescaz, president

Michael McKibbin, Ed.D., vice president

Zima Creason, clerk

Pam Costa, member

Saul Hernandez, member

**Providing a Continuum of Safe Instructional Choices to Support Student Learning (B-1)**

Before the presentation, Superintendent Kern introduced Sacramento County Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye, who shared comprehensive information regarding the current health conditions in Sacramento County related to COVID-19 and the reasoning behind the joint announcement earlier today from the Sacramento County Office of Education and Sacramento County Department of Health Services that Sacramento County schools would start the 2020-2021 school year with distance learning. Dr. Kasirye answered questions from board members on a range of topics including the mixed messages that are circulating, the safety of indoor spaces, testing capacity for staff and students, the severity and longevity of COVID-19 symptoms, protocols on how to safely operate schools, how to effectively switch modes of instruction and the role of face coverings and masks. Dr. Kasirye reminded parents that this is not a static situation and the expectation and hope is to eventually be able to return to in-person learning as county health conditions allow. Superintendent Kern then commenced with the presentation, stating that after much work over the summer a continuum plan has been developed.

Senior Director of Community Relations Trent Allen reviewed the safety and illness protocols, that have been developed for when campuses are able to safely reopen, which address the need to stay home if ill, passive screening prior to arrival on campus, training and screening surrounding illness, student attendance, employee leave, and response protocols for students and staff if there is a possible exposure or confirmed diagnosis on campus. Mr. Allen also spoke about what social distancing might look like at schools once campuses are reopened, and he discussed the need for personal protective equipment (PPE), frequent cleaning on campuses and air flow in classrooms.

Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Student Support Melissa Bassanelli provided detailed information about the three instructional learning models: distance learning, TK-8 homeschool/9-12 independent study, and full/modified in-person learning. Ms. Bassanelli explained that the proposed learning model continuum provides the ability to shift the default

learning model as state and local health guidance and orders change, while still giving families choice. Ms. Bassanelli acknowledged the lessons learned with distance learning last spring, and explained that the plan for fall 2020 would provide more structured experiences for students including reduced variability, improved safety nets, and strengthened home to school connections, while also supporting practitioner implementation. Ms. Bassanelli further explained that the plan also includes include daily synchronous and asynchronous learning, the implementation of Google Classroom as the consistent learning management platform and improved communication and stakeholder input. Ms. Bassanelli presented elementary and secondary sample distance learning schedules as well as additional information about the expanded TK-8 homeschool/9-12 Independent Study models and the new modified in-person model. Ms. Bassanelli also spoke about professional learning and support, explaining that over the summer 75 teachers became distance learning lesson designers tasked with developing practitioner training and a bank of sample lesson plans, and she talked about student technology related to devices, internet connectivity, platform support and professional learning and support. Ms. Bassanelli noted the areas that need further development: learning model development, job responsibilities, childcare, distance learning services (for both special education moderate/severe programs and preschool/infant/toddler programs), professional development, instructional materials distribution and revised communication and outreach. At the conclusion of the presentation, Superintendent Kern presented his recommendation to approve the learning model continuum.

After the presentation, President Villescaz called for public comment. During the first 30 minutes of public comment, a total of 15 people spoke via the Zoom platform. After a brief discussion regarding extending the time limit for visitor comments, it was moved by Ms. Creason and seconded by Dr. McKibbin to hear the remainder of visitor comments. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

Public comment then continued via the Zoom platform with 35 people speaking. After a brief recess from 8:35 p.m. - 8:40 p.m., public comment resumed with an additional 37 people speaking. In the interest of time, the written comments received after 5:00 p.m. via the online public comment form were not read during the meeting but were shared electronically with board members after the meeting. A link to both the verbal and written public comments that were received is available [here](#).

After public comment, board members made comments and asked questions.

Mr. Hernandez expressed his support for returning to seat-based learning, sharing that he was optimistic that students would have been able to return to campuses this fall under the modified model, but with today's announcement that is not an option yet. Mr. Hernandez also commented about the need to be prudent to provide safety for all, however schools cannot eliminate risk, but can only mitigate risks to the best of their ability. Mr. Hernandez shared that he is hopeful that students will be able to return to the classroom soon and parents will have choices.

Ms. Costa shared that she supports the superintendent's recommendation for a learning model continuum, adding that she has agonized over what the best course of action should be, and tonight Dr. Kasirye reaffirmed for her that taking care of staff and students and delaying a return to campus is of utmost importance right now. Ms. Costa requested an update at future board meetings on the outlook of both the county and district, and she commented that she supports continued staff training for distance learning. Ms. Costa also noted that once campuses do reopen for in-person learning that initially schools will not be the same as pre-COVID days since masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing will be necessary.

Ms. Creason stated that she is excited to hear about the multitude of options that families will have when it is safe to reopen campuses, but for now it is necessary to follow the advice of the county and start the school year with distance learning. Ms. Creason also made comments on a number of topics including concerns about the quality of learning, the availability of supports, the need for dual screening, better planning for special education services, student behavioral issues related to wearing masks and social distancing, staff safety related to the reopening of campuses, the lack of sinks in portable classrooms, the need for community mental health supports and the lack of childcare. Superintendent Kern noted that staff roles and responsibilities will be clarified for consistency and that there are on-going discussions about how to best meet the needs of moderate/severe special education students.

Dr. McKibbin began by noting that schools are still open even though campuses are currently closed, and he stated that due to the current circumstances that student and staff safety should be the number one priority right now, which necessitates the need for the stair-step learning model approach. Dr. McKibbin also made comments related to the need for parents to have guidance about online instruction, attendance, use of a single learning platform, and assisting with daycare solutions as parents need to return to work.

Ms. Villescaz thanked everyone for their work and participation on this matter. Ms. Villescaz then made comments and posed questions on topics related to the logistics of meal distribution during distance learning; the need to provide timely notifications to families when the default learning model changes so people have ample time to make changes to their

schedules and arrangements; how to continue the important work related to equity and social justice; and work-from-home policies for classified support staff. Ms. Villescaz also addressed public comments related to parents not being given choice, sharing that offering choice is not possible until it is a safe environment, and she encouraged everyone to follow the county health advice as the everyday decisions made collectively by the community impacts when children can return to classrooms.

It was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Creason, to approve the implementation of a continuum of instructional options designed to meet changing community health conditions and to commence the school year in a distance learning format. MOTION CARRIED 4-1 [AYES: Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa; NOES: Hernandez; ABSTAIN: None].

**Adjournment (C)**

At 10:36 p.m., there being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Paula Villescaz, President



Kent Kern, Executive Secretary

Approved: 08/11/2020

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