



San Juan Unified School District
Board of Education
3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

Board of Education Minutes
April 14, 2020

Regular Meeting
Board of Education
5:30 p.m.

Call to Order (A)

The April 14 regular meeting was called to order by the president, Paula Villescaz.

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

Recess: Closed Session (B)

The meeting was immediately recessed, with the board convening in closed session to consider student expulsions in three cases (Education Code section 48918[f]), and to conference with legal counsel – potential litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph 5 of Government Code section 54956.9(e): one case related to threatened California Voting Rights Act action.

Reconvene Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance (C)

In the interest of public health, in compliance with California Governor Gavin Newsom's recently issued 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 April 14 regular meeting was conducted telephonically via the Zoom video conferencing platform. At 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called back to order by the president, Paula Villescaz. After the pledge of allegiance, Ms. Villescaz explained the two methods (via email or on Zoom) available to submit public comments for tonight's meeting.

Minutes Approved (D)

It was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, that the minutes of the March 31 special meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

Employee Organizations (E-3)

Bill Simmons, president of the San Juan Teachers Association (SJTA), spoke about distance learning and the recent passing of retired music specialist Russ Abraham.

Closed Session/Expulsion Action (E-5)

Ms. Creason reported that the board voted unanimously to accept a hearing panel's recommendation of one suspended expulsion in case number M-10 and one expulsion in case number S-27, and also to accept as written one stipulated suspended expulsion in case number M-13.

Visitor Comments (F)

Visitor Comments: [via Zoom]

Gianna Nocetti, student at Rio Americano High School, spoke regarding the Spring 2020 grading policy, proposing that students are allowed to choose between credit/no credit or letter grades.

Tom Puglia expressed his concerns regarding the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy, stating that the policy harms high-achieving students.

Elle Easley stated that she supports postponing graduation ceremonies, rather than canceling them.

Kasey Muraoka spoke regarding the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy and provided reasons why it is not in the best interest of all students.

Ann Montgomery made comments regarding the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy, stating that she supports allowing students to choose between credit/no credit or letter grades.

Ted expressed his concerns regarding the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy, which he said is not a no-harm system for high-achieving students.

Jay spoke in favor of allowing students to choose either credit/no credit or letter grades.

Visitor Comments: [received via email before/during the meeting]

Heather Sanchez inquired if the district will be switching to another distance learning platform in light of recent security concerns with Zoom.

Kim Cardwell would like actual distance from the school used as a consideration for boundary maps.

Heather Goodman opposes the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy and supports allowing students to choose either the letter grade or credit/no credit option.

Theodore Goodman supports having the option to select either credit/no credit or traditional grading for the remainder of the school year.

Colleen Diedrich opposes the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy and supports allowing students to choose either the letter grade or credit/no credit option.

Joyce Gallagher inquired if students can elect to have their letter grades rather than the credit/no credit option.

Tom Puglia encourages following the lead of surrounding school districts by allowing students to get the letter grade they earned or higher when schools closed.

Melissa Burnett is in favor of the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy.

Carrie Wheeler Engh supports allowing students to choose between credit/no credit or a letter grade.

Steven Teeters shared that his two students prefer to receive the grades they earned on their report cards.

John Hartman suggested a hybrid alternative to the Spring 2020 credit/no credit grading policy.

Gabriela Gomez-Baranda de Moreno pleaded for graduation ceremonies to be postponed, not canceled.

Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-4)

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-4 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

Personnel (G-1)

Appointments, separations and reassignments/change in work year — 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 — approved as submitted.

Resolution No. 2987 Social Distancing Protocols (G-4)

Adoption of Resolution No. 2987 implementing social distancing protocols and delegating authority to the district superintendent regarding continuity of essential public works construction projects in the district.

COVID-19 Update (I-1)

Superintendent Kern and staff provided an update on the district's response to COVID-19 and the development of a distance learning plan. Superintendent Kern reviewed the timeline of events, which began with discussions in January 2020. Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Student Support Melissa Bassanelli updated the board on the Spring 2020 goals and provided details related to technology and nutrition distribution. Superintendent Kern introduced Melanie Armella who shared examples of what distance learning is like from a student perspective. Ms. Bassanelli spoke regarding the ongoing work related to school counselors, English language learners, special education services and student support services. Senior Director of Professional Learning and Innovation Kristan Schnepf explained specifics about cross-functional support teams, professional development for practitioners and The HUB -- a central repository for all distance learning information. A video of teacher Kimberli Heck was presented, which exhibited the work practitioners have embraced with the new distance learning platform. Senior Director of Community Relations Trent Allen spoke regarding the outreach efforts related to regular home communication and the Family Resource HUB, and he also shared examples of parent and community voice. Superintendent Kern discussed next steps, including future discussions related to graduation ceremonies, summer school and the reopening of school in August 2020.

Visitor Comment: [received via email before/during the meeting]

Lance Christensen inquired when teachers and students would be able to retrieve materials from the classroom.

After visitor comment, Ms. Villescaz invited board members to speak.

Mr. Hernandez thanked staff for all their work, stating that San Juan has really stepped up to the plate. Mr. Hernandez also commended Melanie Armella and the work of the Kids Helping Kids organization.

Ms. Costa stated that she is proud to be a part of San Juan, that she is impressed with the work that has been accomplished in such a short period of time, and she thanked staff for the fabulous job.

Ms. Creason shared that she is thankful that so much has been done so fast, and inquired about internet access for students. Superintendent Kern stated there appears to be less of a need for hotspots since many internet companies have opened up their services. Ms. Bassanelli stated that staff is monitoring distance learning attendance and will follow up with students who are absent to see if connectivity is a barrier. Ms. Creason also expressed appreciation for the district's quick responsiveness to the many social media posts, that she is excited about having conversations related to graduation ceremony options and that she hopes to continue to explore competency-based learning going forward.

Dr. McKibbin stated that he was impressed with the number of teachers who took part in the numerous training courses that were offered and inquired about the status of Chromebooks. Dr. McKibbin also noted that even though campuses are physically closed, schools are still open with distance learning.

Ms. Villescaz thanked Melanie Armella for sharing her student perspective, and Kids Helping Kids for their recent efforts. Ms. Villescaz asked how distance learning participation is being measured. Ms. Bassanelli said that teachers will be working with school administration to follow up with students who are not participating. Ms. Villescaz recognized staff for the tremendous amount of work that went into each component of the Family Resource HUB and expressed thanks to the district's essential services staff for their work.

California Voting Rights Act Public Hearing No. 2: Potential Composition of By-Trustee Areas Pursuant to Elections Code section 10010, subdivision (a)(1) (I-2)

General Counsel Linda Simlick introduced Michelle Cannon, an attorney from Lozano Smith attorneys at law, who provided information regarding California Governor Gavin Newsom's recently issued Executive Order N-48-20. Ms. Cannon provided an overview of Executive Order N-48-20, which temporarily suspends Elections Code section 10010, subdivisions (a) and (e), and will pause, but not restart, the by-trustee area timeframe until the COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions are lifted. Ms. Villescaz stated that at this time it is not possible to safely seek meaningful input from the community on such an important elections-related issue. Superintendent Kern stated that based on the information provided in Executive Order N-48-20, item I-2 is pulled from the agenda, and information will be provided at the April 28 board meeting detailing the next steps in the process.

Williams Report (I-3)

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 January through March 2020, there were no Williams-type complaints filed.

2020-2021 Board Meeting Dates (I-4)

It was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Costa, to approve the board meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

Board Reports (J)

Ms. Costa paid tribute to retired music specialist Russ Abraham who recently passed away, noting that he was an exemplary human being with a love for music.

Ms. Creason offered condolences to Mr. Abraham's family and the community who was touched by him.

Dr. McKibbin commented that the safety of teachers, students and the community is of utmost importance, and encouraged everyone to stay home and stay safe.

Ms. Villescaz sent her warmest thoughts to Mr. Abraham's family and others in the community who have been affected by COVID-19.

Future Agenda (K)

No items were added to the future agenda.

Visitor Comments (L)

Visitor Comment: [received via email before/during the meeting]

Magali Kincaid requested that the board consider a seven-member district map.

Visitor Comment: [via Zoom]

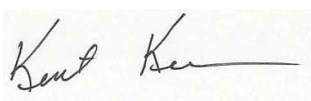
Juan Yniguez asked the board to read the email comments and data he sent related to by-trustee area elections.

Adjournment (M)

At 8:18 p.m., there being no further announcements or business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Paula Villescaz, President



Kent Kern, Executive Secretary

Approved: 04/28/2020

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