



**San Juan Unified School District**

Board of Education

3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael, California 95608

**Board of Education Minutes  
March 10, 2020**

**Regular Meeting**

Board of Education

4:30 p.m.

**Call to Order (A)**

The March 10 regular meeting was called to order by the president, Paula Villescaz.

**Roll Call**

Present:

Paula Villescaz, president

Michael McKibbin, Ed.D., vice president

Zima Creason, clerk

Pam Costa, member

Saul Hernandez, member

**Workshop: Federal Title I, Part A, Grant Considerations (A-1)**

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Debra Calvin, Ed.D. introduced Director of Student Learning Assistance Roxanne Mitchell and Title 1 Program Manager Gwyn Dellinger, who gave a presentation on the Federal Title I, Part A grant. Ms. Dellinger provided background information and explained the district's current method of allocating the \$13 million of Title 1 grant funding, including the required and allowable reservations as well as school-site allocations, noting the inequitable distribution of funds under the current centralized method. Ms. Mitchell explained that a redesign of the district's Title I allocation method is proposed, which would provide an opportunity for alignment and correction by establishing allocation options that reflect a more equitable allocation of resources. Ms. Mitchell stated that the development of a new Title I funding formula would be a slow, collaborative process with stakeholders to identify priorities of resource allocations for implementation beginning with the 2021-22 school year. Staff answered questions from the board regarding the current allocation method, free and reduced-price meal applications, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools, opportunities for stakeholder feedback and proposed timelines. Ms. Bassanelli, deputy superintendent of schools and student support, noted the need for clear and transparent priorities related to equitable distribution practices. Superintendent Kern explained, a redesign would potentially get more support to the neediest schools. Dr. Calvin noted that two additional schools have been identified as Title I for next year, which will increase the total to 28 schools. This item will return to the board for action at a future date.

**Recess: Closed Session (B)**

The workshop was recessed at 5:25 p.m., with the board convening in closed session at 5:30 p.m. to consider a student expulsion in one case (Education Code section 48918[f]) and to conference with legal counsel – pending litigation: significant exposure to litigation, Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2) (one case).

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

At 6:30 p.m., four members of the Del Campo High School Air Force Junior ROTC led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approved (D)**

It was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Creason, that the minutes of the February 25 regular meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**High School Student Council Reports (E-1)**

High school student council representatives Sara Petrisor and Kassi Vogt from Casa Roble Fundamental High School and Rachel Lawal and Brianna Huynh from Mira Loma High School updated the board on the goals, activities and achievements at their respective schools.

**Staff Reports (E-2)**

Superintendent Kern and Senior Director of Community Relations Trent Allen provided an update on the efforts underway in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Board-appointed/District Committees (E-3)**

Local Control and Accountability Plan Parent Advisory Committee (LCAP PAC) chair Tom Nelson updated the board on the recent work of the committee.

**Closed Session/Expulsion Actions (E-6)**

Ms. Creason reported that the board voted unanimously to accept a hearing panel's recommendation of one expulsion in case number S-26.

**Visitor Comments (F)**

Two student representatives from the Lichen K-8 student senate spoke regarding the excessive use of single-use plastic straws in the district.

Mary Beth Barber expressed her thoughts regarding community health, particularly the concept and implementation of mandatory handwashing in schools.

**Consent Calendar Approved (G-1/G-9)**Visitor Comment:

Scott Rafferty spoke regarding item G-6, suggesting a clarification in the resolution.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, that the consent calendar items G-1 through G-9 be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**Personnel (G-1)**

Appointments, leaves of absence and separations — 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, Greer Elementary School and McKinney-Vento program.

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

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

**Resolution No. 2981 School Board Election Order (G-6)**

Adoption of Resolution No. 2981 School Board Election Order.

**CIVITAS Senior Award Scholarships (G-7)**

Approval of CIVITAS senior award scholarships for four students at Rio Americano High School.

**Grant: Learning Communities for School Success Program 2020-2023 (G-8)**

Approval to implement, if funded, the following grant: Learning Communities for School Success Program 2020-2023.

**Grant: K-12 Strong Workforce Program, Career Technical Education Program Grant 2019-2022 (G-9)**

Approval to implement, if funded, the following grant: K-12 Strong Workforce Program, Career Technical Education Program Grant 2019-2022.

### **Second Interim Budget Report (I-1)**

Deputy Superintendent Kent Stephens presented the 2019-2020 Second Interim Report, certifying the Second Interim Report as positive, with the understanding of the fiduciary responsibility to maintain fiscal solvency for the current and subsequent two fiscal years. The Second Interim Report reflects actual revenue and expenditures through January 31, 2020, forecasts the remainder of the 2019-2020 fiscal year and provides a multiyear projection for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Ms. Villescaz acknowledged the uncertainty of the upcoming Governor's May (budget) Revision and inquired about the unanticipated decline in student enrollment. Superintendent Kern discussed enrollment, staffing and the work of the district's Budget Review Committee. Ms. Villescaz reiterated the district's long-standing commitment to not spend one-time funds on ongoing expenses, and commented on concentration grant funding and the demographic shift in the district.

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Ms. Creason, to approve the 2019-2020 Second Interim Report and the budget revision reflecting projected-year budget totals and the positive certification of the district's ability to maintain fiscal solvency for the current and subsequent two fiscal years. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

### **California Voting Rights Act – Intent to Transition to By-Trustee Area Board Elections (I-2)**

General Counsel Linda Simlick introduced Michelle Cannon, an attorney from Lozano Smith Attorneys at Law, who gave a presentation on the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). Ms. Cannon explained that CVRA addresses "racially polarized voting," and she provided detailed information on the process to transition from the current at-large election system to a by-trustee area model for the 2020 election cycle. Ms. Cannon went on to explain the next steps in the process, which includes applying for a waiver of the election requirement from the State Board of Education (SBE), hiring a demographer to develop trustee areas and receiving approval from the County Committee. Superintendent Kern noted that the County Committee meeting would likely take place on the east side of the district, so the committee can attend a similar meeting in Folsom on the same night. Ms. Cannon reviewed the estimated timelines and list of other considerations. She noted that the additional actions to satisfy the SBE waiver requirements, which included notifying bargaining groups and conducting meetings with the LCAP PAC and DELAC advisory groups, have already taken place.

Ms. Costa shared that she supports preventing racially polarized voting, stating that she is sorry that the process is rushed and does not allow time to be thoughtful and deliberate, and that all five board members are advocates for all district students. Ms. Creason stated she supports by-trustee area elections, but she expressed concern about the cost and timing of the process, apologized for lack of stakeholder engagement due to the rushed legal deadlines and is disappointed that all demographic groups will not be accurately reflected in the 2020 voting cycle. Dr. McKibbin said that he will vote to approve this resolution, but expressed concerns about the process regarding the potential lack of representation from all groups, the creation of trustee areas creating fiefdoms and the expense and rushed timelines. Dr. McKibbin remarked that no matter how elected, this board will continue to represent each child in the district. Mr. Hernandez stated he would support the resolution and asked for community input on the topic. Ms. Villescaz asked clarifying questions regarding the SBE waiver process, which Ms. Cannon answered. Ms. Villescaz concurred with the comments made by her colleagues, stating that she wishes the money spent on this process could instead be spent on students. Ms. Villescaz expressed interest in creating guiding principles to be used by current and future board members; Superintendent Kern suggested getting input and feedback from district committees in order to represent all.

#### Visitor Comments:

Magali Kincaid expressed her thoughts regarding the need for more diverse representation, stating she looks forward to this change.

Patricia Johnson expressed her support for by-trustee area elections.

Timothy Irvine voiced his appreciation for making this change now, rather than waiting, and suggested a shift to a seven-member board.

Juan Yniguez expressed his concerns and recommended using evidence-based information to shift to a seven-member board.

Damaris Canton stated she was glad to hear the board supports the change and hopes it will help address inequalities for black, brown and poor students.

David Hildebrand encouraged the board to act now and pass the resolution.

Scott Rafferty explained this is a basic civil rights violation that needs to be rectified now.

Ed Murray urged a yes vote on the resolution, which he believes will eliminate, not just minimize, racially polarized voting.

Blaire Murray stated it is important that diverse voices are heard.

Kendra Lewis expressed her support for by-trustee area elections.

Caroline Flores expressed her concerns regarding poverty in schools and stated she supports the use of a Latino-friendly demographer and the establishment of seven trustee areas.

Herman Barahona, speaking on behalf of United Latinos, thanked the board for supporting this voter-rights issue.

After visitor comments, Ms. Cannon clarified for Ms. Creason that the term “racially polarized voting” is from CVRA, not language that the district created.

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, to adopt Resolution No. 2982, declaring the intent to transition from at-large to by-trustee area board elections. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

### **Public Hearing: California Voting Rights Act – Waiver of Election Requirement (I-3)**

General Counsel Linda Simlick presented the topic. Ms. Villescaz declared the topic of seeking a State Board of Education waiver of the election requirement a public hearing and the public was invited to speak.

#### Visitor Comment:

Scott Rafferty expressed his support for by-trustee area elections, stating that it will give the board a stronger connection to voters.

Following public comment, it was moved by Ms. Creason, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to adopt Resolution No. 2983 authorizing the superintendent to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

### **Tentative Agreement: CSEA (I-4)**

Assistant Superintendent of School and Labor Relations Jim Shoemake stated that the one-time, off-schedule payment will not increase employees’ base compensation. There being no public comments, it was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Costa, that the tentative agreement between California School Employees Association (CSEA) and San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) be approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

### **Recommendation for Reducing or Discontinuing Particular Kinds of Services (TK-12 Certificated) (I-5)**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Paul Oropallo presented the topic.

It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, to adopt Resolution No. 2972, reducing or discontinuing particular kinds of services and the corresponding amount of certificated staffing that will be reduced as a result. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Ms. Creason, to adopt Resolution No. 2973, establishing criteria to apply to break a tie in seniority for certificated staff affected by program reductions and who have the same date of hire. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

### **Recommendation for Reducing or Eliminating Certain Certificated Services in the Early Childhood Education Program (I-6)**

Mr. Oropallo presented the topic.

It was moved by Ms. Costa, seconded by Mr. Hernandez, to adopt Resolution No. 2974, reducing or eliminating certain certificated positions in the Early Childhood Education Program, effective June 30, 2020, because of lack of work and/or lack of funds. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

It was moved by Dr. McKibbin, seconded by Ms. Creason, to adopt Resolution No. 2975, establishing criteria to apply to break a tie in seniority for certificated staff affected by program reductions and who have the same date of hire. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**Notice of Intent to Reduce Classified Positions (I-7)**

Mr. Oropallo presented the topic. It was moved by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Dr. McKibbin, to adopt Resolution No. 2971, reducing or eliminating certain classified positions, effective June 30, 2020, due to lack of work and/or lack of funds. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY [Villescaz, McKibbin, Creason, Costa, Hernandez].

**Board Resolutions (I-8)**

In order to gauge interest from the board, Ms. Villescaz initiated a discussion regarding the passage of board resolutions that encompass a broader range of topics. Dr. McKibbin expressed support for the idea, but questioned how to establish parameters. Ms. Villescaz stated, she envisions the establishment of agreed-upon guidelines, rather than a review committee. Ms. Creason stated, she likes the idea and supports having a process and identifying parameters and that such resolutions are meaningful to the community. Mr. Hernandez commended that since board members are elected on a nonpartisan basis, he is reluctant about adopting resolutions that make a political statement, but would be open to topics that relate to students and the district. Ms. Costa said she is open to considering adopting resolutions that support district students, staff and families, but has concerns with divisiveness; politically motivated resolutions; the use of resolutions, rather than policies and procedures, to correct district problems; and time constraints during board meetings. Superintendent Kern suggested identifying and codifying the board's common interests and messages of support and then having further discussion and consideration. Ms. Villescaz expressed appreciation for the discussion, which she feels has been a starting point for further discussion on the topic.

**Board Reports (J)**

Ms. Creason reported that she attended Read Across America events at Cameron Ranch Elementary School and Starr King K-8, and that she, along with other board members, attended the Del Campo High School groundbreaking event.

Mr. Hernandez shared that he enjoyed participating in a recent high school WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) visit.

Ms. Costa reported that she took part in a high school WASC visit and also Read Across America.

Dr. McKibbin stated he attended Read Across America events at Cameron Ranch and Northridge Elementary Schools as well as Starr King K-8.

Ms. Villescaz shared that she read to eighth-graders at a Read Across America event, and she also thanked the governance team for its support during her increased workload related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Superintendent Kern praised the board for publicly handling themselves with dignity even when faced with adversity, stating that students benefit from the work of the board.

**Future Agenda (K)**

There were no items added to the future agenda.

**Adjournment (M)**

At 8:58 p.m., there being no further announcements or business, the regular meeting was adjourned.



Paula Villescaz, President



Kent Kern, Executive Secretary

Approved: 03/31/2020

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