



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.1f

Meeting Date: February 18, 2021

Subject: Approve Minutes of the January 26, 2021, Board of Education Meeting

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Superintendent's Office

Recommendation: Approve Minutes of the January 26, 2021, Board of Education Meeting.

Background/Rationale: None

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Family and Community Empowerment

Documents Attached:

1. Minutes of the January 26, 2021, Board of Education Regular Meeting

<p>Estimated Time of Presentation: N/A Submitted by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent Approved by: N/A</p>



Putting
Children
First

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AND WORKSHOP Special Meeting

Board of Education Members

Christina Pritchett, President (Trustee Area 3)
Lisa Murawski, Vice President (Trustee Area 1)
Darrel Woo, Second Vice President (Trustee Area 6)
Leticia Garcia (Trustee Area 2)
Jamee Villa (Trustee Area 4)
Chinua Rhodes (Trustee Area 5)
Lavinia Grace Phillips (Trustee Area 7)
Isa Sheikh, Student Member

Tuesday, January 26, 2021
4:30 p.m. Closed Session
6:00 p.m. Open Session

Serna Center
Community Conference Rooms
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95824
(See Notice to the Public Below)

MINUTES

2020/21-18

1.0 OPEN SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ATTENDANCE BY LIVESTREAM

Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting may do so by livestream at: <https://www.scusd.edu/post/watch-meeting-live>. No physical location of the meeting will be provided to the public.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: President Pritchett, Vice President Murawski, Second Vice President Woo, Member Garcia, Member Phillips, Member Rhodes, and Member Villa

A quorum was reached. Student Member Isa Sheikh arrived at 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION AND OPEN SESSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

Public comment may be (1) emailed to publiccomment@scusd.edu; (2) submitted in writing, identifying the matter number and the name of the public member at the URL <https://tinyurl.com/SCUSDcommentJanuary26>; or (3) using the same URL, submitting a request for oral comment only when the matter is called, instead of written comment. Regardless of the method by which public comment is submitted, the submission deadline for closed and open session items shall be no later than noon,

January 26. Individual public comment shall be no more than two minutes in length on each agenda item. The total time for public comment on each agenda item shall be no more than 15 minutes in length. However, with Board consent, the President may increase or decrease the length of time for individual public comment and may increase the total time for public comment, depending on the agenda item and the number of public comments.

*Public Comment:
Meredith Nikkel*

3.0 CLOSED SESSION

While the Brown Act creates broad public access rights to the meetings of the Board of Education, it also recognizes the legitimate need to conduct some of its meetings outside of the public eye. Closed session meetings are specifically defined and limited in scope. They primarily involve personnel issues, pending litigation, labor negotiations, and real property matters.

3.1 *Government Code 54957.6 (a) and (b) Negotiations/Collective Bargaining SCTA, SEIU, TCS, Teamsters, UPE, Non-Represented/Confidential Management (District Representative Pam Manwiller)*

4.0 CALL BACK TO ORDER

5.0 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

No announcements

6.0 AGENDA ADOPTION

President Pritchett asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. A motion was made to approve by Second Vice President Woo and seconded by Member Villa. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

7.0 BOARD WORKSHOP/STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER INITIATIVES

7.1 *Resolution No. 3180: Recognition of District Structural Deficit (President Pritchett)* **Conference/First Reading**

Second Vice President Woo presented the resolution. He said that this is a very important resolution that articulates why the District is in a deficit, and he gave examples.

*Public Comment:
Daniel Darby
Alison French-Tubo
Steve and Pam Johns*

Board Comments:

Member Murawski thanked President Pritchett and Second Vice President Woo for bringing this resolution forward. She feels that responsible Board members and stakeholders should be pushing the District to make decisions that maintain long-term fiscal health. She noted that this is a first reading, and encouraged thoughts from others, but also said she largely supports the resolution.

President Pritchett said the resolution is not an attack on anyone, and if it is, it is an attack on students. She stated that one-time funds should never be used for on-going expenses and said that the Board has a duty to be good stewards of the District. She feels that this resolution is a good start in standing together and moving forward.

Member Garcia reflected that the resolution does not paint a pretty picture; unfortunately it provides one that shows where the District is and provides a background on how we got here. It also provides a picture of how the District can move forward, however. She asked how the resolution might include priorities to make reductions moving forward. President Pritchett said that the Board can work on that before bringing it back to the next meeting.

Member Phillips said she is trying to figure out if the resolution is an attack, as it speaks loudly to what the actual problem is. It seems to her that there is a lot of solution that does not stick with why a lot of parents, teachers, and staff are all writing in saying why they want to save their schools. It is more of a plan to go at teacher pay and go at classified staff pay. She said we do realize, obviously, that benefits are very costly and as a result of them being very costly it does look like we have to resolve in some kind of way to have things work out in a way that is going to be best for our student body. She is concerned about the language in the resolution, as she feels it encourages finger pointing. If we are all in the same boat as others have mentioned, she wants to make sure that it is not just the Board and the District, that it is also our teachers and unions, and that we are all part of this. She feels everyone recognized that there is a structural deficit and some went one way and some another, and we still need to come together on this.

President Pritchett noted that the resolution states a lot of facts, and that the facts are not pretty.

Member Villa said it is very frustrating to constantly go through this, as the District has gone through this for years, and we are still here. She said it is not pretty and not a finger pointing, but that this is an opportunity for everyone to work together. She acknowledged the work of staff and how difficult it must be to present the negative information. She said it is imperative, as representatives of the District, that they always put students first and stated that these cuts will hurt students. She wants to work together to move forward to do the right thing.

Student Member Sheikh echoed a public comment that stated we need less resolutions and more solutions. He agrees, but feels we do need a resolution. He noted all the audits completed showing the District's structural deficit. He noted that no one wants to cut teacher pay, but also acknowledged the clear cut numbers presented by staff time and again. He feels that to pretend as if recognizing the problem, which is real, is somehow an attack is incredibly tone deaf in a District that wants to avoid receivership.

Member Rhodes asked for an explanation of a current deficit versus a structural deficit. Ms. Ramos gave the explanation. Member Rhodes asked Ms. Ramos to clarify that the District does not now have a current deficit, but a structural deficit. She said that is correct. Member Rhodes asked for an explanation of why it is purposeful to have a resolution to recognize the structural deficit when that is already well documented. Superintendent Aguilar responded by saying that it is important for all to start from a baseline understanding of what the facts are, related to the District's structural budget deficit. The Board's understanding of those facts are stated in the resolution.

Member Murawski added that she feels it is important to communicate to the community if the Board is making significant decisions that affect programs and services for students, and the basis for those decisions.

Member Villa said it is important that we are all on the same page with the same voice and that the community is presented with facts that give an understanding of where the information is coming from and how we can move forward with those set of facts. Therefore she feels it is very important that the resolution move forward.

Member Rhodes thanked the Board for saying why this is important, and he said that he also thinks the Board needs

to center a lot of their conversations on community. Moving forward, he stated that they have to involve community along with stakeholders and partners. He suggested that the resolution also state how the District will work with its partners and engage community around this new resolution. He said that if the Board says it stands for something, he wants to know beyond that what will be done.

President Pritchett said she agrees with Member Rhodes and reiterated that this the opportunity to be a collective voice. She also pointed out that when there is a resolution on the agenda, it is typically voted on that night, and that this needs to be the next step of moving forward of working with all involved parties. This is why it is being brought forward for Board feedback; it will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Member Rhodes asked for a staff report analysis of the impacts. President Pritchett asked for a clarification. Member Rhodes explained. President Pritchett asked Superintendent Aguilar to reach out to staff. She also mentioned that there are several links within the resolution, and she feels it is clear what the impact is. Superintendent Aguilar suggested revisiting the comment after the presentation to see if there are some connections to allow Member Rhodes to give some more guidance.

Member Villa said she thinks what Member Rhodes is stating is that the staff reports are the reports that are noted in the resolution and the impact on the community and the schools is receivership. This is acknowledging that we are in the place that we are in, and she believes that Ms. Ramos has provided many staff reports and that other staff members have provided a lot of information on this topic up to this point in the last year or so specifically. She said that this is how she views a staff report and that this resolution acknowledges that we are in a current situation. Member Rhodes said he understands that, but thinks Member Villa's interpretation what he is asking for is what she described. He spoke about Board analysis moving forward as a body, and he looks forward to a future discussion at a later time.

President Pritchett clarified that this is not a ceremonial resolution but an impactful resolution.

7.2 Budget and Fiscal Recovery Plan Update (Rose Ramos)

Information

Chief Business Office Rose Ramos, along with District Cabinet members, presented. She gave a history and background on the District's budget, and the District's current budget status and multi-year projection (based on the 2020-2021 first interim financial report). They then went into the fiscal recovery plan discussion and provided a summary.

Public Comment:

Steve and Pam Johns

David Fisher

Nikki Milevsky

Cindee Stewart

Daniel Darby

Alison French-Tubo

Renee Webster-Hawkins

Angel White

Daniel Ruiz

Brenda Mork

Kara Synhorst

Stacey Sayre

Kevin Borrelli

Amy Woodhull

Kristen Tudor

Ingrid Foster

Marco Colucci

Stacey Hayashi

Crystal Richardson

Josh Clark

Sloane Richardson

Mary Kelly

Heather Haight

Lori Merritt

Michael Richardson

Brittany Barham-Guerrero

Elizabeth Campbell

Jennifer Wallace

Devon Davis

Katherine Sanders

Sarah Soto-Taylor

Dave O'Toole

Rebekah Scoville

Dan Goulart

Ryan Johnson

Chris Thoma

Terri Clark

Angela Asch

Adrianna Alcalá-Beshara

Patrick Neff

*Nancy Fitzpatrick
Cindi Brosemer
Catherine Warmerdam*

Board Comments:

President Pritchett spoke about how the presentation reminded her about when she was a new Board member eight years ago at her second Board meeting facing school closures. She noted how children in the lowest grades then are now facing the District making cuts again. She noted the drop in enrollment presented, and foresees that families that can will make decisions on whether they want to keep their children in the District, and so things can potentially get much worse. She said it is disappointing that we are looking at items that are directly impacting students because they are non-negotiable. She said receivership should not be an option at all; she hopes that the Board takes that into consideration as this is being discussed.

Vice President Murawski said reality has to be embraced and noted that it is looking a little brighter due to the COLA. Since we are in a better place, she said we are better able to address cuts in a strategic way. She appreciates that the cuts were presented in various ways and categories. She suggested five points of how to approve: keep focused on negotiated solutions, take some cuts off the table (as she feels some cuts need more time and strategic thinking), move forward with general funds cuts that can be made (while at the same time retaining direct programs and services that serve students with federal CARES funds to the extent available), and bring back to the Board information on what has been done so far to maximize efficiency of the District office. She spoke more about each of these five areas. She said she can provide written notes on these areas to the Board members.

Member Rhodes commended Vice President Murawski's recommendations and spoke about IB testing and program cuts. He said that if we are talking about preserving the IB programs we need to also preserve the IB testing.

Member Garcia said she believes she is aligned with some of Vice President Murawski's recommendations. She also spoke of things that need to be taken off the table that completely eliminate IB programs. She feels there are areas that require additional analysis, and she wants to make sure a timeline is given for when this analysis is

brought to the Board. She said there are ways of serving students, just not in the same delivery model. She feels these things need to be thought about more broadly because there may be opportunities of which advantage can be taken. She said things may look differently, but the programs may still be in place to some extent. She does think that, to the extent that additional recommendations or “elements” as they are called in the document, are identified that can be paid for with additional CARES dollars (recognizing that they are one-time dollars which still do not necessarily address the structural deficit) it is appropriate in some instances to maybe come back with additional items or elements that can be paid for through COVID dollars. She knows that districts have not yet received those dollars that were approved in late December from our federal government. Therefore we do not know yet what the District will get and what restrictions those dollars will have, so perhaps the list presented (slide 33) is still not exhaustive. She asked how we might be able to increase professional development using some other federal dollars, as professional development is a priority under CARES dollars for educators, and since slide 29 showed removing some professional development dollars. She also spoke about the distinction that Vice President Murawski made between removing some recommendations and coming back with elements that need further study. She asked if we are thinking about the information that is coming back to the Board to be considered for the next fiscal year in 2021-22, or are we talking about 2022-23. Superintendent Aguilar reported that we are talking about a fiscal recovery plan that impacts the 2021-22 fiscal year. Those elements that are not acted on would then continue on for the 2021-22 academic year. Those that the Board deems as needing additional analysis would take effect in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Member Garcia then spoke about pre-school, saying that this would be part of a larger plan for transitional kindergarten. She asked what it would mean if we are able to offer transitional kindergarten regarding state revenue and the pre-school budget. She also asked what our target number is, realizing that we are talking about a fiscal recovery plan that primarily focuses on non-negotiated solutions. She feels is important that the Board talks about the larger picture; she asked if there can be a date where we know we can have a solution by June. She said a timeline would be helpful; she is thinking of next steps and about the Board taking action and meeting deadlines that must be met per state law and an implementation plan for whatever is approved. She asked how soon an

implementation plan can come back to the Board and how many times the Board gets to see that implementation plan as it unfolds. She would also like to see a list of how the Board is going to prioritize removing or restoring some of the cuts that will be identified for next week.

Superintendent Aguilar said what we would be looking for mostly from state and federal funding is on-going funding, and he spoke about the mandatory layoff notification timeline. Cancy McArn, Chief Human Resources Officer, was asked to give an overview of the timeline later in the presentation.

Member Villa thanked Vice President Murawski and Member Garcia for their comments as she agrees with much of what they said. She added that the Board needs to think about long term strategy and the way that they are looking at education in Sacramento. She agrees that many items should be off the table, especially IB schools and GATE, Art and Music. She wants to look at a long term strategy for the District from a business standpoint as well, rather than continually playing catch-up, and she feels the starting point for that is negotiated solutions rather than anything that directly impacts students.

Vice President Murawski gave follow-up on the comments made so far. She reminded everyone of where we are with the strategic planning process and the LCAP planning process and said there is an opportunity to invest in facilities through Measure H funds. She feels that these should all be aligned. She noted from the presentation that SCOE's fiscal responsibilities can continue until the structural deficit is eliminated and asked for clarification. Ms. Ramos said that is correct, because the District could swing between qualified and non-qualified due to one-time funds.

Member Garcia asked, thinking about coming up with a target number and state and federal funds, how the one stop process works as part of offsetting the \$30 million dollars, even before implementing any cuts. She is thinking of natural attrition and enrollment.

Superintendent Aguilar noted that any sites included or have elements in the fiscal recovery plan will not be finalized until the Board takes action. Ms. Ramos explained the budget development process alignment with enrollment. Member Garcia said she wanted to make sure that, before closing, they go through what happened in summary. She also wants to make sure that the Board gave enough direction to staff to prepare for the following week.

Superintendent Aguilar asked that each Board member send their notes from tonight to him. He addressed Member Garcia's comment about a target number by saying that we may have to backward map to get to that number by using the Board's direction, and he gave an example from the presentation.

Member Garcia asked to hear the recommendations from Vice President Murawski again. It was clarified that the recommendation was to take the IB programs, LDV, inclusive practices, and Waldorf off the table for further discussion. Vice President Murawski clarified that her recommendation also included pre-school.

Member Rhodes said he supports these areas for further analysis.

Member Villa said she thinks some of those programs, IB and Waldorf, should be off the table; she followed-up with what Member Rhodes had stated, which was removing the other teachers from the other programs would be highly impactful and unfair. President Pritchett said she thinks they should determine if those programs would survive with those cuts during the analysis.

Member Murawski said she thinks the way it has to be looked at is to ask what is the best way to serve students with the resources we have, and make it sustainable. Therefore, it has to be thought of as which cuts are actually worth moving forward on from a fiscal perspective. Some cuts on the list she does not feel will result in a fiscal benefit.

Member Rhodes said he supports the further fiscal analysis, but when we just look at the fiscal side of things, often that takes out the human side of the impacts. President Pritchett said she agrees and said however that if they do not make these decisions, someone will make them for them, and that needs to be examined. She said they need to be a collective voice together as a team and fix the budget.

Superintendent Aguilar asked the Board to send their comments to him and include In-House Counsel Raoul Bozio. Ms. McArn then gave an overview of the timeline regarding layoff notices.

8.0 FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES / LOCATIONS

- ✓ *February 4, 2021 4:30 p.m. Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*
- ✓ *February 18, 2021 4:30 p.m. Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Open Session, Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue, Community Room, Regular Workshop Meeting*

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

President Pritchett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; a motion was made by Second Vice President Woo and seconded by Student Member Sheikh. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent and Board Secretary

NOTE: The Sacramento City Unified School District encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the public portion of the special Board meeting, please contact the Board of Education Office at (916) 643-9314 at least 8 hours before the scheduled Board of Education special meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. [Government Code § 54954.2; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, § 202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)]