

Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting: May 26, 2020
Open/Closed Session: 5:00 p.m.
Open Session: 7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting

- I. OPEN SESSION – President Holohan opened the meeting at 5:04 p.m.
 - a. ROLL CALL – Patty Holohan, Jim O’Neill, Cristina Puraci, Michele Rendler, Alex Vara

Staff Attending:
Mauricio Arellano, Superintendent of Schools
Bernie Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Ken Wagner, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Sabine Robertson-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

- II. PUBLIC INPUT
 - a. COMMUNITY INPUT
 - 1. None.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:05 p.m.

- III. CLOSED SESSION
 - a. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT
 - 1. Classified Management

During Closed Session, the Board took action to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Ms. MaryRone Shell to the position of District and Community Relations Specialist, effective May 27, 2020, at Year 4 of the Management Team Salary Schedule.

On motion of Cristina Puraci, second by Michele Rendler, and unanimously carried (Ayes: Holohan, O’Neill, Puraci, Rendler, Vara), the Board took action to:

Appoint Ms. MaryRone Shell to the position of District and Community Relations Specialist, effective May 27, 2020, at Year 4 of the Management Team Salary Schedule.

- b. STUDENT MATTERS/STUDENT SAFETY
 - No Action* was taken.

c. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

1. Two Cases

No Action was taken.

d. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

1. Superintendent of Schools

No Action was taken.

IV. ADJOURNMENT TO OPEN SESSION

a. The Board adjourned to Open Session at 6:40 p.m.

V. REGULAR MEETING – OPEN SESSION – President Holohan opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., noting that the meeting is being held remotely.

a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Board Member Alex Vara.

b. ROLL CALL – Patty Holohan, Jim O’Neill, Cristina Puraci, Michele Rendler, Alex Vara

Staff Attending:

Mauricio Arellano, Superintendent of Schools

Bernie Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Ken Wagner, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Sabine Robertson-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

c. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Michele Rendler, second by Cristina Puraci, and unanimously carried, the Board took action to:

1. Approve the minutes of the May 8, 2020, Board of Education Special Meeting and the May 12, 2020, Board of Education Regular Meeting.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. COMMUNITY INPUT

1. **Jacob Pace**

- Noted his “disgust” that the District is “stripping” the seniors of the ability to walk across the stage in front of their friends, family, and peers to “limit” the spread of a virus that has been on a decline for the past weeks.

- Stated the District should let the students decide whether or not to walk, noting students know every single safety method and is up to the students if they want to implement them in a true graduation setting.
- Asked that the Board let seniors finally have their moment to shine and let them make their families proud.

2. **Amanda Tran**

- Noted she is a student in the District.
- Stated that earlier in the year, she was verbally bullied at school.
- Shared that she was able to get through it with the help of her school counselor.
- Suggested a change in the District's Anti-Bullying Policy, which would allow the victim to speak to the bully, with counselor supervision, as the current policy of keeping the bully and victim apart does work for a while, but is not a solution.
- Realizes that the suggested bully-victim discussion is not a perfect solution, but does feel it would be a very beneficial change to the District's current anti-bullying policy.

3. **Dr. Carol Ann Jones**

- Stated she is a parent of two children in RUSD, a Biochemist with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and currently an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at San Bernardino Valley College.
- Expressed her concerns with the possibility of schools reopening with a split day schedule, as parents need to work and this type of schedule would be hard to manage.
- Noted her opinion that students' education was harmed as a result of projected grades being given to students before the District closed schools. Students should not move onto the next level in some courses without a specific level of understanding at the previous level, noting science and math courses are the best examples of this.
- Stated that her family needs school to resume in August as it was originally scheduled, without any of the time changes that have been suggested. She has been monitoring raw data and real research to determine that it is in the best interest of her family and many other families in RUSD to resume the Fall 2020 school year in a somewhat normal manner. She would like to see additional handwashing stations set up on campuses, but is not in favor of forcing students to wear masks all day, as it is not a healthy thing for them to do.
- Shared that due to the fear the mass media has induced in many, families will need to be surveyed to determine the level of protection they feel is necessary in order to be comfortable sending their child(ren) back to school; although it is likely many will not be returning in the fall. She feel comfortable sending her children back to school in a similar format to what was in place when they left.
- Noted that for her daughter, online learning was a disaster. Her child recently advanced out of special education and it was devastating to see her struggle and constantly have breakdowns when she and her husband are unable to assist her. Her son is having an easier time but feels the format is not good for him either, as it allows him easy access to a computer and the

ability to watch online videos all day instead of doing his homework, as it is impossible to monitor what he is doing since she and her husband both work full time.

- Lastly, noted that all students do not learn the same and dealing with the diversity of the classroom is much easier in a face-to-face format for many students.

4. **Elysa Valentino**

- Expressed her appreciation to the District for all the accommodations made for families during this unprecedented time.
- Shared her concerns about the upcoming school year and the state-wide and community response to COVID-19, noting that the commitment to close down the economy and take children out of schools was done under the premise that 2.2 million people could die if extreme measures were not taken and a plan to slow the spread and not overwhelm hospitals. However, now with real data, all can see that the death toll was well-overstated, hospitals have not been overcrowded, and the virus has had little impact on the Redlands community.
- Shared that she believed that making large adjustments to the traditional school setting will cost far more educationally than the benefit of possible prevention and slowing the spread. She has coached her children through distance learning and it has been challenging. If Distance Learning is to be the new method of teaching for the 2020-2021 school year, she will leave the Redlands School District and put her funds into a Homeschool Charter.
- Shared her concerns with many of the recommendations made by the CVC and Governor for “safe” school environments, noting she believes these recommendations would greatly impact learning outcomes.
- Recognizes that many families feel vulnerable sending their students to school in the traditional school model, and those families could utilize the virtual schools and homeschooling options.
- Noted as a parent, she would support additional hand washing stations on campuses and students who are experiencing symptoms of sickness being sent home immediately.
- Lastly, noted she supports keeping the traditional school model as close to normal as possible, as it will have the best learning outcomes.

b. PUBLIC HEARING

1. None.

c. PRESENTATION

1. Measure J Citizens’ Oversight Committee Annual Report Wendy McEwen

Wendy McEwen noted she is the Chair of the Measure J Citizens’ Oversight Committee, and expressed her gratitude to Principal Cullen and his team at Clement Middle School, where her son attends, for their caring and dedication especially over the past months. The Measure J Citizens’ Oversight Committee met three times over this past academic year and has agreed to continue on that schedule as needed for the 2020-2021 school year. Thanked District Office staff,

among them, Bernie Cavanagh, Ken Morse, Brian Guggisberg, Michelle Cole and Rebecca Teal. Also wished Mr. Cavanagh well in his upcoming retirement.

Further, Mrs. McEwen noted that the Citizens' Oversight Committee has reviewed the independent auditors report and findings, documents presented by District staff, and the updates on the progress of various improvement, modernization and renovation projects at various sites in the District and has concluded that District expenditures of Measure J Bond Funds are in full compliance with the provisions set forth in Measure J and in conformity with the requirements of Article 13A Section I.B.3. of the California Constitution. As of April 8, 2020, an approximate balance of \$2.15 million remains in the Measure J Budget to be used for future safety and security projects.

2. Governor's Budget Proposal/Overview – Bernie Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

Assistant Superintendent Bernie Cavanagh shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Proposed May Revision, noting that LEA's must budget from the May Revision but the only certainty is that the final budget will be different from this proposal. Mr. Cavanagh stressed that this budget is unknown and no one knows the total affect that the Pandemic will have on the budgets.

Mr. Cavanagh further illustrated the loss of revenue in the State, noting that the final funding will not be known until after the July 15 tax deadline. Further noted that the May Revision assumes that the State will suffer from a \$41.2 billion loss in revenues compared to January estimates in 2019-20 and 2020-21 combined (-\$.1 billion for 2019-20, -\$32.2 billion for 2020-21), also noting that revenue losses are compounded by the growing number of Californians who need access to State safety new services, bringing the State's total shortfall to \$54 billion. Shared that the Budget Stabilization Account or "Rainy Day Fund" currently has about \$16.2 billion, noting that Proposition 2 stipulates that a withdrawal may not exceed half of the balance in the first year of a budget emergency. The May Revision proposes to draw down the entirety of the \$16.2 billion over three years, including \$7.8 billion for 2020-21. The State will like need to revise its budget when more information becomes available later in the Summer.

Mr. Cavanagh also shared that cash deferrals, used during the Great Recession to implement State-level budget cuts and/or improve the State's cash position, will once again be used in June and July 2020, and April, May, and June 2021. Whether they will be used in July 2021 is unknown. Mr. Cavanagh went on to share that there will be reductions in funding for 2020-21 LCFF Programs, Lottery funding, Special Education, and Categorical Programs.

Mr. Cavanagh further shared some "good news" in that the May Revision revised the California Public Employees' Retirement System 2020-21 and the California State Teachers' Retirement System 2020-21 employer contribution rates have been reduced by two percent (2%).

Lastly, Mr. Cavanagh shared the possible implications to the RUSD Budget due to the May Revisions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

- a. None.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Colton Redlands Yucaipa-Calimesa Regional Occupational Program [CRY-ROP] – Ms. Holohan noted that the grants for programs through CRY-ROP will be cut and those cuts will be discussed at the next CRY-ROP Board meeting.
- b. Redlands COMPACT – Mrs. Rendler noted the scholarships for Multiplying Your Generosity were awarded – Emily Cervantes and Carolyn Ung received \$1,000.00 for their project which was supporting family services by collecting toys, books, and school supplies for students and they also made 100 bookmarks. Mimi Tang received \$500.00 for her project collaborating with Make a Wish Club and was able to get hygiene products donated to Our House Youth Shelter in Mentone. Maddy Skidmore received a \$500.00 scholarship for honoring Redlands Fire Fighters, with the help of family and community members, by hand painting forty [40] pictures and delivering them to the different Fire Departments in Redlands.
- c. Redlands Educational Partnership Foundation [REP] – Mr. O'Neill noted there was nothing to report.
- d. City of Redlands Cultural Arts Commission – Mrs. Puraci noted there was nothing to report.
- e. City of Redlands Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission – Mrs. Rendler noted there was nothing to report.
- f. San Bernardino County-Wide Drug and Gang Task Force – Mr. Vara noted there was nothing to report.
- g. SANDABS – Ms. Holohan noted there was nothing to report.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Mauricio Arellano, Superintendent of Schools:
 - 1. Wished everyone who has tuned in this evening a warm welcome.
 - 2. Kudos to RUSD teachers who have helped the District as we transition to Distance Learning - our Ed Services Tech Teachers On Assignment – Caleb Rothe, Jennifer Hunt, Nicole Howes and Dwayne Cowles – he is very grateful for all they have done training teachers and being available. Thank you to them from him and all their colleagues – everyone has noticed their support and appreciate them.
 - 3. Have a very exciting event coming up on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. It is a YouTube live event entitled, Music in Redlands, a Tradition of Excellence. The

District Instrumental Music Teachers and all levels of bands in the District have put together a show, noting that Board Member Jim O'Neill is a lead actor in the program. This is another way our Teachers have involved their students.

4. Noted that the District was excited last Friday, May 22, when new orders had been put out by San Bernardino County. He spoke with Dr. Erin Gustafson and shared his concerns and listened to her concerns about Drive-Up Graduation Ceremonies and how they should be held and safety concerns for those involved. The next day a new order came out noting that Drive-Up Graduations are now allowed in San Bernardino County. On Wednesday, June 10th, Drive-Through Graduations for Orangewood High School [11:00 a.m.], eAcademy [5:00 p.m.], and Adult Education [6:00 p.m.] will be held at Citrus Valley High School. On Thursday, June 11th, the three Comprehensive High Schools [Redlands High School, Citrus Valley High School, Redlands East Valley High School] will hold their graduations at their respective schools beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Virtual Graduation Ceremonies will also still be held on Tuesday, June 23rd for Citrus Valley High School and Orangewood High School, on Wednesday June 24th for Redlands East Valley High School and eAcademy, and on Thursday, June 25th for Redlands High School and Adult Education. The District is excited that the Class of 2020 will be able to hold Drive-Through Graduations and Virtual Ceremonies. As per the County Order, In-Person graduations are still not being allowed.
5. Noted that Friday, May 29th, ends the Distance Learning Program, noting the work done by the Teachers and staffs in the District have been outstanding. After that time, Teachers will be finalizing grades and cleaning out classrooms, etc.
6. Shared he is aware of the concerns and fears being experienced by families regarding the opening of school for the 2020-2021 school year, noting that State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and the California Department of Public Health are, in the near future, providing guidelines for the opening of the 2020-21 school year.
7. Noted that in reference to his comments made at the last Board Meeting, the Redlands Community News generated an article that inadvertently made it appear that some of the items discussed were already in the decision mode and they were not. This caused angst, questions and frustrations as the community felt they had not been engaged in the process. He is thankful to the Redlands Community News for generating a new article stating that no decisions have been made and the District is in the beginning phase of the process of putting together focus groups and reaching out to the community to hear feedback.
8. Shared that the District will be engaging Teachers, parents, and students for feedback through the use of Thoughtexchange. Information will be disseminated soon regarding this Thoughtexchange. Also Administration will be notifying District staff that they will be putting together Focus Groups that will be made up of Administration, Teachers, Classified Employees, Union Leaders to talk about sharing and helping plan the instructional program, personnel issues, facilities and safety.

9. Noted his excitement that at the next Board Meeting, we will be recognizing retirees and student Board representatives. Also we will recognize students who had perfect attendance from Kindergarten until they graduate – there are four students. It will also be Bernie Cavanagh’s last Board Meeting.

X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- a. Superintendent Arellano noted that all Districts throughout the State appreciate the Governor accessing the Rainy Day Funds to help offset the planning increases to PERS and STRs. It is going to be important for all to advocate at the Federal level for funds to offset some of the budget cuts. Districts are also looking for some level of protection from litigation as there are different opinions whether schools should reopen and when they do if a student gets sick, will parents sue Districts and will there be assistance to Districts if this happens. Also, Districts are looking for flexibility in some of the Ed Code provisions pertaining to flexibility in instructional minutes, number of days in school year, and relaxing of the rules for using the substitute workforce.

XI. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

XII. BUSINESS SERVICES CONSENT ITEMS

On motion of Cristina Puraci, second by Jim O’Neill, and unanimously carried, the Board took action to:

- a. Approve all Consent Items as detailed in Items XII.b. – XII.k.
- b. Approve Letter of Understanding with Redlands Community Hospital to provide Tuberculosis Screenings and/or Risk Assessments to District employees, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at a rate of \$15 for each administered injection or assessment, and \$2.50 for injections ordered and not used, not to exceed \$6,000.00 per year, to be funded by District General Funds (Appendix Item).
- c. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with South Coast Community Services to provide Student Assistance Programs (SAP) counseling services at District school sites, effective August 8, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at no cost to the District (Appendix Item).
- d. Award Bid 10-20 for Flooring at Various Sites to the lowest responsible/responsive bidder, Mike’s Custom Flooring, in the amount of \$120,090.76, to be funded by Maintenance funds. Authorize Bernard A. Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, and Amy Drummond, Purchasing Manager, to sign related documents on behalf of the Board.
- e. Award Bid 16-20 for Painting at Various Sites to the lowest responsible/responsive bidders, Paramount Painting, in the amount \$170,000.00, and PolyChrome Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$66,800.00, to be funded by Maintenance Funds. Authorize Bernard A. Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, and Amy Drummond, Purchasing Manager, to sign related documents on behalf of the Board.

- f. Extend Bid 2-20 for Bread to the lowest responsible/responsive bidder, Galasso's Bakery, effective July 1, 2019. This extension is for one year, and may be extendable up to three years, not exceed a total of four years. Authorize Bernard A. Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, and Amy Drummond, Purchasing Manager, to sign related documents on behalf of the Board.
- g. Approve Change Order No. 2 with Three Peaks Corp, Inc., for Administrative Office Remodel at Mariposa Elementary for Secure Entry Access, Bid No. 14-20, in the amount of \$14,661.17, to be funded by Local Construction Funds (Appendix Item).
- h. Approve the California Interscholastic Federation [CIF] Southern Section 2020-2021 Designation of CIF Representatives to League. Authorize Mauricio Arellano, Superintendent, to sign on behalf of the Board (Appendix Item).
- i. Accept donations. Instruct secretary to write letters of appreciation on behalf of the Board (Appendix Item).
- j. Approve Payment Transmittal Number 20002847 through 20002912 for May 26, 2020, in the amount of \$3,119,712.18. Authorize Bernard A. Cavanagh, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, to sign on behalf of the Board (Appendix Item).
- k. Ratify/Approve Attendance at Professional Meetings (Appendix Item).

XIII. BUSINESS SERVICES ACTION ITEMS

- a. None.

XIV. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CONSENT ITEMS

On motion of Alex Vara, second by Jim O'Neill, and unanimously carried, the Board took action to:

- a. Approve recommendation of the District Curriculum Committee for two new courses in the Secondary Course of Study (Appendix Item).

XV. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACTION ITEMS

- a. None.

XVI. HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT ITEMS

On motion of Cristina Puraci, second by Michele Rendler, and unanimously carried, the Board took action to:

- a. Approve all Consent Items as detailed in Items XVI.b. – XVI.f. – (Assignments are tentative and informational and subject to change by the Superintendent)

- b. Certificated - Ratify/Approve revised salary placements/assignments for certificated bargaining unit personnel (Appendix Item).
- c. Certificated – Ratify/Approve employment of hourly/daily certificated personnel (Appendix Item).
- d. Certificated – Ratify/Accept resignations/separations from certificated hourly/daily personnel (Appendix Item).
- e. Certificated - Accept resignations/separations from certificated bargaining unit personnel (Appendix Item).
- f. Classified - Ratify/Accept resignations/separations from classified contract personnel (Appendix Item).

XVII. HUMAN RESOURCES ACTION ITEMS

- a. None.

President Holohan reported the following:

In Regard to the Public Employee Appointment Part of the Agenda:

During Closed Session, the Board unanimously took action to appoint MaryRone Shell to the position of District and Community Relations Specialist, effective May 27, 2020, at Year 4 of the Management Team Salary Schedule, with the following vote: Holohan, O’Neill, Puraci, Rendler, Vara voting Aye.

XVIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. None.

XIX. BOARD COMMENTS/REPORTS

- a. Jim O’Neill:
 - 1. Thanked Mr. Cavanagh and Mr. Guggisberg for the great presentation, appreciate all the information.
 - 2. Thanked Mr. Arellano for all doing in working with staffs and principals and looking forward to all events coming up.
- b. Cristina Puraci:
 - 1. No Comments.
- c. Michele Rendler:

1. Congratulated Bella Rodriguez, 10th grader at RHS, who won the National History Day California State Championship and goes to final round in June.
 2. Watched on May 21st, the Little Mermaid Musical on YouTube presented by Citrus Valley – very enjoyable end to a long day.
 3. Thanked Ed Services and everyone involved who made Distance Learning so wonderful for all students, including her grandchildren.
- d. Alex Vara:
1. Gave a *shout out* to Citrus Valley for the Little Mermaid – it was great!
 2. Shared that he is glad, during these unprecedented times, that Mr. Arellano is putting together focus groups and would like to ensure that there is an even representation from all groups – parents, students, and staff.
 3. Feels it is a blessing that he is a Board member as his children’s friends are calling him for advice and help.
 4. Noted he was impressed by call he received from MaryRone last week about all that is going on in District, particularly Child Nutrition Services and Betty Crocker. Thank you to Nutrition Services and Betty Crocker for all you do for the students in the District.
- e. Patty Holohan:
1. Noted that as begin the final week of Distance Learning, wanted to express her thanks to Dr. Wagner and his team and all District staff for all their hard work and patience during this unplanned, difficult time.
 2. Expressed her thanks to parents for hanging in there and supporting the District and the Teachers for rearranging their schedules and working collaboratively with the District as we navigated through this pandemic.
 3. Reminded everyone that at the June 9th Board meeting the District will be recognizing and honoring our retirees and student representatives, one being Mr. Cavanagh – so you don’t want to miss it, it will be a great evening.
 4. Noted she is glad the District is able to honor the Class of 2020 with the Drive-Through Graduations – it is important and glad able to do it.
 5. Expressed her thanks to David Massaro and Scott Starr for all their work in setting up the virtual meetings and ensuring they run smoothly.

XX. CLOSED SESSION

- a. None.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Adopted:

Cristina Puraci, Clerk

Date