

## **Plumas Unified School District**

August 04, 2020 5:00 PM  
50 Church Street, Quincy

**1. All Trustees and administrative staff may participate remotely from their homes due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Zoom link is in quick summary. Public Comment will be honored by participants raising their virtual hand.**

### **2. Call To Order**

Minutes:

President Edlund called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

### **3. Approval of Agenda (Action)**

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the agenda. Passed with a motion by Traci Holt and a second by Dave Keller.

Absent Joleen Cline

Yes Leslie Edlund

Yes Traci Holt

Yes Dave Keller

Absent Dwight Pierson

### **4. Public Input - 20 minutes**

Minutes:

No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any items not appearing on the posted agenda except that members of the Board or the Plumas Unified School District staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed (Education Code 54954.2). There is a 3 minute time limit for each person who addresses the Governing Board during public input. Note: speaker time limit of 3 minutes is monitored, with a limit of 20 minutes per topic.

Public Comment will be honored by participants raising their virtual hand or by emailing: [toestreich@pcoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:toestreich@pcoe.k12.ca.us).

Tristan McMichael Unhappy about one music teacher position being flown for 6 different locations. He shared a myriad of reasons why it is logistically improbable for this to be effective. He recommended hiring two at the very least. He read an original poem from his Freshman year "I am the Music Program".

David Little shared his and his wife's perspective as parents, that children should be given the opportunity for live in person instruction, providing social and extra-curricular activities. He

urged action by the board for in person instruction, due to the low numbers of active COVID cases in our rural county.

Alec Morgan 5th grade teacher and parent. Nothing he wants more than to be in the classroom, hovering over our students, teaching them. Does not want to risk the health of his family with so many unanswered questions. Distance online learning we can be consistent and safe for the start of the school year, returning to sites when it is safe to do so.

Virginia Ekonen Shared her opinion that we should provide a quality music program for each school, in order to continue connecting kids to music.

Sara Murphy read an excerpt of an article from a teacher comparing a fire or active shooter to the pandemic. If taking the virus to school there is a risk to students; if virus is taken home there is risk to their family. Returning to school is not a drill. Questions have yet to be answered. Urged the board to go to full distance learning for the start of school.

Michelle Callahan shared a list questions that she would like answered before making a decision whether she is able to teach in person or via distance learning.

Marty Walters shared appreciation of the public meetings. Member of the community, sharing ways that we can tap into community resources. Would like PUSD to participate in music support to leverage resource richness. Would like the district to coordinate tutoring opportunities for community members. Shared the support of Plumas Performing Arts as we move forward.

Trustee Joleen Cline joined the meeting at 5:30.

Daryl Hutchins shared support of the difficulty of the situation that the board and district admin is facing. Plumas Co is low incidence, but looks at this virus as a paradigm. Thinks that this will get worse. Scared that he could bump shoulders at work with someone who tests positive. Thinks that it will be problematic to get students to wear masks. Believes that we should move forward with plans for a solid online system from the start.

Misty Banchio Agreed with the Little family. There are a lot of unknowns, but there are many families who cannot learn online. Cannot live our lives in fear. Provide options for students who do not wish to come back. She has been driving the bus throughout this pandemic. Those who need to remain distant, should do so.

Melissa Nickerson parent of a senior. If we go with online, he will not attend school here. Sports are very important to him. They will consider sending him somewhere else for school. During the spring she had her own 4 kids and 2 day care students trying to participate in online learning. It is a ridiculous expectation to continue this way. Very important for the students to learn in the classroom and be provided with

Shannon Harston has a senior with a compromised immune system. One truth has emerged: no 100% safe answer. Three club basketball teams went to Yuba City. Sports are still happening, with no regard to social distancing. We are surrounded by counties on the watch list. Campgrounds are full of people from out of the county. Many residents feel that the virus is a hoax, a political ploy. They are adamant about reopening schools, while not following social distancing protocols. Hopeful that the board will outline out we will provide safe practices while educating our students.

Solana Agreed with much of what Shannon shared. Has a Junior and a 4th grade student.

Shared concern about the excessive use of disinfectants in the schools should we reopen. Shared her perspective regarding problems that may emerge in both online and distance learning, including how parents will cope with ensuring that one parent is home with their students.

Tyler Raney shared that he saw pictures from the start of school in Georgia, with lack of social distancing, lack of masks, allegations of bullying toward those who are wearing masks. How will be cope with this type of behavior?

Dana Benham concerns: 3 children, one independent study, 2 with IEP's, one autistic. 7th grade needs social interaction with teacher to be successful. Youngest must have one to one interaction. Does not do well with digital learning. Concern about lack of learning. Some kids will be disadvantaged by not going to physical school.

Tasha Coleman - biggest concern for the kids is only half of them are able to log on for distance learning. This will affect kids for years to come. Kids need to be in school, the teachers are their lifeline. We need to be sure that they are safe. We are damaging our children. Agree with the Littles. Kids need to go back to school or we will have a bigger mess than we already have. We will all be affected in one way or another whether or not we return to school.

Coleen Banchio wanted to weigh in on the importance of the kids being in school. Wants to know what data we are using to make our decisions. Feels that we are failing our kids by being afraid. Can we start school outdoors, or in large spaces, such as the gymnasium? Concern about kids falling far behind due to kids not having an adult keeping them on track with their learning. Believes it is worth starting school in person.

Heidi Kingdon part of her concern about distance learning is difficulty of reaching kids by this method. Concern that survey results were not accurate as some responses were not recorded. Many families requested anything in school, but unsure if their responses were recorded. Choice is good as every family situation is different. Important for students with strong immune systems have the opportunity to learn in person, while offering the choice to other families to select another option that works for them. Understands that this is difficult, willing to do what it takes to make this work. Considering opening a private school to offer education to students if we are not going to offer in person learning. Choice is important for all people. Concern that some parents plan to put their kids in Charter as they have promised in class instruction. Choice is good, and important key for decision making.

Don Fregulia has 2 children at CRC. Shared his concerns about returning to school. Wants to know what plan PUSD has. Appreciates public education.

Cassie Lavley in favor of choice. Their essential worker jobs will not allow them to be at home with their children. Important for them to have in person teaching. Hopeful that we will not let the fear of the virus, but to look at what is best for the masses. Important that all have the opportunity to make the best choice for their family. Appreciates the opportunity to provide input.

April - husband works at Safeway. Around people all of the time. Fearful for her kids to go back. 8th grader wants to go back, not ok with the mask, and 11th ok with distance learning. Shared that distance learning was hard but ok. Shared news from other states where positive cases are increasing.

Lacey Banchio - Senior, wants to return to school. Wants to graduate with her class. If we do have an outbreak, then we can revert to distance learning. Have you asked the students what they want? We live in America because we have choices.

Lewis thinks that kids need social contact, but does have concerns about parents who send their kids to school when they are sick. Understands that schools plan to screen students.

President Edlund shared her appreciation of those who shared their concerns with the board, also reminding the audience that the Brown Act does not allow the board to respond unless an item is agendaized.

## **5. Guest Presentations**

### **5.a. PCTA Update - 10 minutes**

Minutes:

Suzanne Stirling, former president of PCTA, will be acting through August (160 participants) Appreciated the comments from those who have spoken tonight. Common thread. Why she chose to stay here to work and raise her family. Appreciates all of those with different beliefs and concerns.

PCTA is not taking an official stance, as some unions in CA have done. Letting each individual teacher take their own stance. Some are excited to start school in person, some are very worried and want to teach online. Read a statement from a PUSD teacher who is concerned about health of self, family, students, and community. Concerns about the unknown long term effects of COVID-19. Thanked the district and board for offering choice. Supports everyone and their right to choose what works best for them.

Yvonne - MOU PCTA continues to negotiate with PUSD; items include additional days on Canvas. It is been positive and productive negotiating with PUSD, looking forward to continuing.

## **6. Student Achievement**

### **6.a. Return to School - 60 minutes**

Minutes:

Discussion / Action item: The discussion regarding Return to School will continue. A list of benefits and challenges will be created as the conversation evolves specific to in person instruction, distance learning, as well as health and safety considerations. The attached template will be used to guide and document our conversation.

Leslie shared a recap of events leading up to this point in a slideshow presentation.

Half day model was selected as it was considered to be the best option for students, with them doing school work at home the remainder of the day; with options 2- blended, and 3- ISO.

This year regular grading of work will be in effect. We will look into the concern that all survey results were not recorded. Every aspect was discussed on 7/29.

Purpose today is to discuss the return to school and create a list of benefits and challenges. Meetings with Admin and principals have been compiled as they have returned to work this week.

Principal list was shared showing Health and Safety, Learning, and Social Emotional, detailing benefits and challenges in each category.

(see presentation attached to agenda)

Joleen shared information regarding the current increase in social despair issues.

Leslie stated that they had agreed previously on the am/pm model. Consideration of what other districts and countries are doing, where some have had severe outbreaks when they returned. Denmark was successful in reopening on a smaller scale, starting with the youngest students first, detailing some of the protocols that were in place. Belgium used community parks to provide education. Students and staff who were at risk were recommended to stay home. They were ready to return to distance learning at any time if conditions warranted that.

Consideration of smaller learning pods on campus, which could be done a number of different ways, depending upon staff availability; those who want to attend in person could, others could participate remotely; Details would need to be worked out. Could enable us to meet both needs. Smaller groups would simplify contact tracing; smaller contact group. Provide learning in an outdoor setting when possible.

Joleen liked the idea of offering choices, with options for SEL. Concern about the complexity of trying to offer the concept of pods. Still in favor of the decision made on 7/8/20. Could also offer pods if feasible? The Governor and Health Officials are all weighing heavily on our decisions. Don't change gears, but continue to add other options if possible. Do we have enough teacher to offer the am/pm model at this time?

Terry shared that we have 18 or 19 teachers who are interested in distance learning, many in Quincy. Would require transfer of teachers over to Quincy to fill the vacant positions. Not enough subs available to start the year with subs in place of those who want to do distance learning.

Lisa shared information regarding liability issues. There has been legislation proposed that districts would not be held liable if all protocol were followed. At this time the District could be forced to cover the cost of any legal challenges from students and their families if

the virus was contracted. Concern that CISC, Certificated insurance provider, will not cover COVID if contracted at school.

Leslie's concern about am/pm option and consistency, and the fluctuation of attendance if staff member becomes ill. Hates the idea of distance learning; wants to have kids in classrooms. Learned a lot from the spring, opportunity to do this better. Pods could allow kids who need support, or don't have internet connectivity. We have to do the best that we can for our students. Feels an overwhelming sense of responsibility regarding this whole things. Does not want to live our lives in fear, but also has an overwhelming sense of responsibility for all of our staff and our students and their health and well being. Hopeful that testing procedures are improving, which could change how we do business.

Dave struggling with this. If we move forward with am/pm; if someone gets ill, then those who were exposed must be tested; we've got an empty classroom. Distance Learning creates a host of challenges. Benefits and deficits for both returning to school and distance learning. We can try the am/pm model, then switch over to distance learning.

Traci shared that with every crisis comes challenges, but also opportunities for transformation. As a parent of a senior and board member, she is struggling with these decisions. Too quickly we will make mistakes, if making long term decisions, we will make mistakes. We have not been receiving solid guidance from above. Hear from many parents in her community who support each possibility. We make the ultimate decision. We have to base the decision on the information that we have. The information can differ depending upon the source. Weighing the risks and opportunities. Protection of our students will be hard for us to do. We need to consider behavioral health and emotional support. This type of learning may be the way of learning in the future. Teachers are vital to us and society. Hoping the crisis will bring us together, set aside our differences and work together. Not an easy process. Struggling with both options; likes pod or learning lab ideas. Worry about social emotion, mental health of our students.

If we return to the classroom, if someone tests positive, and school must be shut down, what is our transition back to distance learning? Sometimes the decision is out of our hands. Would pods then be a possibility?

Admin continues to work with the PCPHA; we could still have our learning pods as long as we are able to follow our safety protocols. Discussion with principals is that when we open up a sector, it is not if, but when, we will have positive tests. At any time that we were to go into distance learning it would cause disruption. If we start with distance learning, we can add other options when feasible. It is not currently recommended to use fans in the classrooms, to avoid spread of germs.

If one school site has quarter to half of their staff in the high risk category, or becomes sick what would happen? We would use subs as available, or need to utilize a principal or admin staff to support the class, or call the parents to let them know that we must go into distance learning. We have worked hard to consider all of the health and safety issues with all of the options that are being considered. They have identified processes for when to close a classroom, or a school, or a district. There are a lot of variables. At this time, when one school closes, we will likely be required to close the district, with the outcome being distance learning.

Email from student to Superintendent: junior at QJSHS; understands that return to school presents issues; believes that online start may be the best option. Not what they want, but safer for students and the community. The effects from a health condition puts this student at risk.

Another student shared that they love the pod idea, wondering if we could access community members with this concept, such as Marty Walters suggested.

Leslie shared that we have 1.4 million acres of public land that we could use for outdoor learning, and learning landscapes.

Kristy shared that ~ 150 students expressed an interest in Independent Study in one survey. Perhaps we could look at ways that we could do focus groups based upon different themed areas of interest. How can we make the best of a situation that none of us want to be in. We will do the best that we can to make this the best opportunity for our students.

Recommendation: In the event that an item is presented between the time this agenda is published and the actual day of the meeting, staff will provide their recommendations on items that require board action.

Joleen shared that we need to provide our families with some consistency and make a decision so that they can begin to plan.

The most challenging decision that this board has had to make. We will have an amazing distance learning program, which we have planned for. With the addition of pods we will get kids together in a safe manner.

Recess: 7:50 pm 8:00

**Motion Passed:** Motion to start school with 100% distance learning, with the development of pods to get students back on campus for a variety of subjects or purposes. Passed with a motion by Joleen Cline and a second by Dave Keller.

Yes Joleen Cline

Yes Leslie Edlund

Yes Traci Holt

Yes Dave Keller

Recuse Dwight Pierson

## 7. Facilities

### 7.a. Measure B Project Updates - 15 minutes

Minutes:

Information/Discussion/Action item: Project requests, including contracts, change orders, and bid awards may be discussed as well as dialogue regarding future projects and timelines recommended by Kevin Nolen, CRM Group.

There may be two attachments:



The attached spreadsheet includes new contracts, change orders, and bid awards. Additional project information may be shared as soon as it is available.

The only addition, if available prior to the meeting, will be the geothermal cost estimates.

Recommendation: Approval is requested for the project requests and exhibits as presented. In the event that an item is presented between the time this agenda is posted and the actual day of the meeting, staff will provide their recommendations on items that require board action. In addition, administration requests approval to move forward with recommended projects.

MSB replacement: each proposal is for two schools in each community, previously included in the budget, but waiting for DSA, and due to COVID were placed on hold. Now recommending approval. This is for electrical work only, engineering was bid separately. This is the majority of the cost for this project.

Waiting for info from NCE regarding Geothermal, hopeful to have it by next week.

**Motion Passed:** Motion to approve the Measure B project updates included with this agenda. Passed with a motion by Traci Holt and a second by Joleen Cline.

Yes Joleen Cline

Yes Leslie Edlund

Yes Traci Holt

Yes Dave Keller

Recuse Dwight Pierson

## 8. Closed Session

Minutes:

President Edlund called for a closed session at 8:06. Superintendent Oestreich shared with the audience that there would be no decisions made following closed session.

**8.a. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8. Negotiating party: Plumas USD; Agency negotiator: Terry R. Oestreich.**

**8.a.1. Property: Pioneer, Taylorsville, Feather River Middle School, and Lee Road.**

**8.b. Pursuant to Section 54957 of the Government Code the Board will consider personnel matters including:**

**8.b.1. Superintendent's Contract, Goals and Evaluation**

**8.b.2. Public Employee Evaluation(s): principal(s), administrator(s), management**



**8.b.3. Public Employment: Position: Personnel transactions included with this agenda.**

**8.b.4. Public Employee(s) Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment**

**8.b.5. Pursuant to sections 54957.6 and 3549.1 of the Government Code, Conference with Labor Negotiator(s): Agency Negotiators: Terry Oestreich. Association(s) PCTA and CSEA; and All Unrepresented Personnel - Administrators, Management, Confidential, Classified.**

**8.c. Anticipated Litigation, pursuant to Government Code 54956.9.**

## **9. Reconvene**

Minutes:

President Edlund reconvened the meeting at 9:02 pm.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

## **11. Adjourn**

**Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. Passed with a motion by Dave Keller and a second by Joleen Cline.

Yes Joleen Cline  
Yes Leslie Edlund  
Yes Traci Holt  
Yes Dave Keller  
Yes Dwight Pierson

These minutes have been reviewed and approved by the Governing Board at its Regular Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Edlund, Board President    Terry R. Oestreich, Superintendent