

RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

2120 Euclid Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This Meeting was held via Zoom Webinar.

Board Members:

Ana Maria Pulido, President
Sharifa Wilson, Vice President
Stephanie Fitch, Clerk
Marielena Gaona-Mendoza, Member
Tamara Sobomehin, Member

Draft Minutes October 8, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL.**

Vice President Wilson reported that she will be chairing the Meeting. President Pulido is attending the meeting but she has a weak internet connection. Vice President Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Trustees Ana Maria Pulido, Sharifa Wilson, Stephanie Fitch and Tamara Sobomehin were present. Trustee Marielena Gaona Mendoza was absent.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

MSC (Sobomehin/Wilson) to approve the Agenda with a request by Ms. Lara Burenin to pull Item 7.J Consideration to approve contract with Let's Go Learn from the Consent Agenda and place it under the regular order of business. The fund listed for the financial impact is General Fund, but in fact, we can use the Learning Loss Mitigation Fund. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Gaona Mendoza and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:35 p.m. Open Session reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

3/4. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.1**

Vice President Wilson greeted the audience and reported that Trustee Gaona Mendoza was absent.

3. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957:

No report on Item 3.A.

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE/RESIGNATION.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. MSC (Pulido/Fitch) to approve the Minutes for the September 24, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **FROM THE FLOOR.** No one addressed the Board on this Item.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MSC (Pulido/Fitch) to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Consideration to Approve Personnel Recommendations.

1. Consideration to Approve the Permanent Classified Reemployment of James Fitch, Campus Relations Coordinator, effective October 6, 2020.

- B. Consideration to approve Payments to Vendors, September 1 to 30, 2020.
- C. Consideration to approve MOU with Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)
- D. Consideration to approve MOU with Health Right 360
- E. Consideration to approve MOU with Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, Child Mind Institute, Counseling And Support Services for Youth, Children's Health Council, One East Palo Alto, Ravenswood City School District, Ravenswood Education Foundation, Ravenswood Family Health Center, Stanford Children's Health, and The Primary School
- F. Consideration to approve service agreement with Partners in Communication LLC
- G. Consideration to approve Consultant Agreement with NewVoice Interpreting Services.
- H. Consideration to approve contract with Explore Learning for use of Gizmos program
- I. Consideration to approve MOU with Kepler's Literary Foundation
- K. Consideration to Approve Notice of Completion for East Palo Alto Charter Roof Restoration Project.
- L. Consideration to Approve Contract with HM Construction for the Los Robles-Ronald McNair Fencing Relocation Project.

7.J Consideration to approve contract with Let's Go Learn. Superintendent Gina Sudaria indicated that this item was pulled because under Financial Impact it states that we were going to use General Fund but we can use COVID Relief funds.

MSC (Pulido/Fitch) to approve the contract with Let's Go Learn. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

- A. Superintendent Gina Sudaria provided a video regarding the Hispanic Heritage Month Tribute. She informed the Board that the National Hispanic Heritage Month. It is Celebrated Nationally from September 15th through October 15 to pay tribute to many generations of Hispanic Americans who descent from Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Spain. She noted that there are significant contributions and influences the Hispanic culture has given and has positively impacted and enriched our nation with.

Superintendent Sudaria acknowledged the contribution of our staff, families and students who have enriched and provided some cultural wealth here in our Ravenswood City School District. She recognized that staff still have work to do to ensure that we do not inadvertently oppress and perpetuate inequities in our school district and in our schools. Site administration is taking the lead this year to conduct implicit bias training and ensure our curriculum reflects the rich culture and accomplishments of our Hispanic brothers and sisters. She asked staff members to share with her pictures so she could include them in the video she shared with the Board that highlights our beautiful community in Ravenswood.

President Pulido appreciated Ms. Sudaria taking the time to acknowledge the celebration of the Hispanic Heritage Month. It is a great way to celebrate and acknowledge our staff, our students, our parents and our community at-large. She thanked Ms. Sudaria again and indicated that she looks forward to being able to celebrate other cultures throughout the year.

B. Distance Learning.

Superintendent Gina Sudaria provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions regarding Distance Learning, Engagement, Connectivity and Devices. She shared with the Board what teachers are doing to help the students to become more involved: a Padlet where they can ask questions and students can either write, add pictures or videos. This is an example of one strategy to get feedback from students when a teacher might pose a question or want to have students demonstrate their understanding, they would ask students to respond and post their responses on this path.

Superintendent Sudaria informed the Board that Wednesday, October 7, marks the 30th day of school where staff, students and families have navigated through distance learning and we have done this together. After gathering insight from parent advisory groups, teachers, staff and taking the trustees' direction, we have come to an agreement that Ravenswood will continue with distance learning through the rest of the trimester, despite some neighboring districts that have begun to provide variant forms of in person learning on their campuses. State Superintendent Tony Thurmond states, "Many counties are coming off the most stringent tiers of the state's COVID-19 framework, and that means that school reopening is the topic on everyone's mind right now." We will continue to work with county superintendents and public health officials to monitor health and safety concerns and to make sure everyone has the support they need as they navigate these decisions." Superintendent

Sudaria pointed out that there is nothing more important to the Board of Trustees and herself than the health and safety of students, staff and their respective families during this pandemic while also maintaining student learning and development. The fact of the matter is the positivity rate for COVID-19 cases in the city of East Palo Alto is three times as high as the county average in San Mateo. At this time, it is in the best interest of the Ravenswood community to continue with distance learning through November 20, 2020, which is the end of the first trimester.

In the interim, the District will do its due diligence to procure resources and partner with agencies to provide devices, connectivity, and child care supervision via learning hubs. Our community focus is to ensure there is two-way communication with our families, staff and partners to gather feedback and continue to revise our recovery plan. The School Improvement Working Group meets Wednesday, October 14th to strategize how to move forward beyond the first trimester. We will continue to gather information from parents so we have current data points regarding their preference for distance learning from home or in-person learning on campus. Our next parent advisory meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15th at 6:00 pm. We encourage parents to participate so we may learn directly from you what you want to happen and why. Our teachers are doing whatever is possible. Teachers have extended themselves beyond their bandwidth to dive into new learning in order to plan and teach for distance learning. Despite being tapped emotionally, teachers and staff connect with students and families every day to monitor their well-being.

The District's order of 205 new Verizon hotspots has arrived and was configured for handout this week. The technology department began handouts and callbacks for all outstanding parent/student requests for Internet. Comcast free Internet Essentials code handouts continue as well. **Learning Hubs** are expanding as the Boys & Girls Club is managing additional pods at Costaño School of the Arts.

Per our County Superintendent of Schools, Nancy Magee, "The San Mateo County Office of Education contracting process with Curative was finally fully executed on October 4th. All districts, including Ravenswood will have the opportunity to piggyback onto this avenue for COVID-19 testing of staff. Regular COVID-19 testing will assist in further developing our recovery plan to phase in in-person learning when appropriate and when resources are made available per the implementation of the equity metrics.

Distance Learning Goals. In regards to student engagement, we want to engage students in learning as evidenced by participation for one, but also looking at what students are doing when they are participating online. Whether that is a verbal response or a written response and then obviously we want to modify our instruction based on formative assessment so it could literally be an assessment or can also be information collected through padlet so that we can figure out if what we are teaching is sticking. Also included in the presentation is: Mission; Strategic Priority 1; Multi-Tiered Support Systems: Collect student engagement data; 2020-21 Distance Learning Goals: Engagement; Formative assessment, Focus on culturally responsive teaching practices; Examples of collected data; Next steps to address engagement.

Devices and connectivity: Mr. Solomon Hill, Technology Director, provided a quick update on what they have been doing in terms of hotspot handouts and connectivity. Since our last Board Meeting, basically, the next day, we received the hotspots that we ordered plus 25 more that they sent by mistake. They handed out 79 new Wi-Fi hotspots, since we had 19 families who indicated in the survey that they needed hotspot and 60 more were on backlog, mostly from new families who had registered for the district, and we are still handing out a few at each site. Since August 17, they have handed out 408 new hotspots and 907 connectivity solutions in total. His report also included Resources in hand and Shifting from Resource based to System based: Implementation of better systems: Improve communication and data gathering, Real Time Student/Parent Tech support, Parent Technical Training.

Ms. Ronda White, RTA President, thanked the district, and especially Solomon and his team, for looking into getting the teachers some additional tech support. She stated that they are teachers and that is their strength and for some of them who are highly techie, they can navigate and help students while they are teaching, but for some of them who are learning all of this, it is very nice to have someone else who can help students and families

log on and troubleshoot things. They are very excited that Solomon and his team has taken this on and looking into some additional support.

- C. Report on Proposition 15. Superintendent Sudaria informed the Board that Proposition 15 is on the ballot for voters to consider approving it. She provided information on how it would impact the District. She shared a chart that shows how California currently spends less than many other states on a per pupil basis. Prop 15 would raise commercial property taxes and in turn, provide more funding for local governments and schools.

Ms. Ronda White, RTA President, indicated that she was going to read a letter from Randy Jackson, CSEA President and Opal Okikiadi regarding Proposition 15, and then she will say something about Proposition 15. The letter includes the following: Randy Jackson, President of CSEA, asked the Board to support proposition 15 this November, because it will provide the reliable and fair funding source our students deserve without raising taxes for hard working Californians like you or for small businesses. The letter provides an example of how unfair our state property tax system has become and how Prop 15 will make it right. It also states that many big corporations pay property taxes based on what their land was worth more than 40 years ago. In the last 42 years, the percentage of property taxes paid by California residents has increased from 55% to 72%. They are paying more to live in their homes and rentals while big corporations pay less and less for their warehouses and office buildings. Right now, California schools ranked 39 in per person spending and our schools are facing budget cuts and staff layoffs. Prop 15 will generate around 12 billion per year for K-14 in local government services by making large corporations pay their fair share through taxing commercial and industrial properties worth over 3 million based on their current market value. Proposition 15 will restore, balance and protect homeowners and renters by making corporations pay their fair share for our schools, healthcare and essential services. After reading the letter from CSEA President, Ms. White indicated that she would like to say a few words as the President of RTA in support of Prop 15. "I think that letter said it best and it says why do we need to find more money for education for our schools for resources and for things that we need, we have it right here, homeowners are ready to pay their fair share. Now it is time for big businesses to pay their fair share. The Ravenswood City School District is estimated depending on who you talk to between one to two, and one to five million in new money every year. So why would we, not vote yes on Prop 15? Ms. White asked the Board, on behalf of RTA and CSEA, to consider a resolution in support of Prop 15.

Superintendent Sudaria stated that there is no action on this item. It is a report, the district cannot take any political stance. CSEA and RTA can and Board trustees can collectively. This is in regards to whether there is direction to pursue a resolution for Prop 15. The Board directed the Superintendent to move forward with the resolution.

- D. First Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints 2020-2021, Education Code §35186. Superintendent Gina Sudaria informed the Board that no complaints were filed with any school in the district during the 2020-2021 first quarter (July - September) regarding Instructional Materials and Textbooks, Facility Conditions and Teacher Vacancy or Misassignment.

The Board thanked her for the report.

9. **STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- A. Consideration to approve a donation from Zenni Optical. Ms. Cindy Chin, Director of Student Services, informed the Board that Zenni Optical would like to donate blue light-blocking Blokz glasses (prescription and non-prescription) to all students in the district (approximately \$35,000 donation.) They come in three different versions, and Zenni can also engrave them for the District on the arm of the glasses as well on the lens cloth. It says: #oneravenswood. Ms. Chin pointed out that they would give RCSD all non-prescription glasses and vouchers for families who need prescription glasses.

Ms. Chin noted that Blue light-blocking lens can help protect young eyes from digital eye strain, both indoors and out. While we continue distance learning and students are using screens more, this can help mitigate exposure to blue light.

MSC (Fitch/Pulido) to approve the donation from Zenni Optical. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

A. PUBLIC HEARING

MSC (Pulido/Sobomehin) to Open the Public Hearing. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Opportunity for Members of the Public to comment on the Adequacy of Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials FY 2020-2021.

Ms. Lara Burenin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported that they have completed the instructional materials inventory in the core content areas with the help of our library instructional media specialists Rebecca Sanchez and Martha Andrade and noted that we have sufficient instructional materials for each site for the students enrolled and have extra materials available if needed or if more students enroll throughout the year. The teachers have been working really hard to put together our core materials and supplemental instructional materials and distribute them to make them available periodically for students and families. They also include a student device in our adopted materials for grades three through eight. They have also provided a device to every student TK through second grade. Staff is working hard to make sure students and families are getting the materials that they need.

2. Adjournment. MSC (Pulido/Wilson) to Adjourn the Public Hearing. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Consideration to approve Resolution #2020/2021 -8: Resolution on Sufficiency of Textbooks or instructional materials FY 2020-2021

MSC (Pulido/Fitch) to approve the Resolution #2020/2021 -8: Regarding Sufficiency of Textbooks or instructional materials FY 2020-2021. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

- A. Facilities Williams Report. Mr. Will Eger, CBO, and Ms. Delma Camacho, Director of Operations, provided a PowerPoint Presentation/Update on the Williams Audit. Mr. Eger indicated that Delma and her team have done a lot of work over the last couple of weeks. He noted that they provided this presentation in the Facility Sub-Committee. There are two main parts they are going to share tonight. The first part is about the district's overall facilities and some of our historic investments and the second is on the Williams data specifically. The PowerPoint included (1) District Context. (a) Data from our 2015 Facilities Master Plan. In 2015 we identified a significant amount of facility needs in our existing schools and significant amounts of educational program needs. Mr. Eger indicated that we have made significant progress since then and issued Bonds to address these needs. This Board has been very supportive of that. However, the amount of Bonds we have issued still have left us quite a bit short of the total amount that we need. (b) California school district facilities funding largely comes through bonds which are dependent on local property values: Total Bond Money Raised and Expended Since 1998 on a Per Student Basis. (c) Last year the number of RCSD reported deficiencies were similar to others in the county - despite lower facilities investments: Number of Reported Deficiencies per School, San Mateo County, SY 2019-2020. At our next Board Meeting they will share some exciting updates from RMS about how we are continuing to invest there effectively. They will also share other updates as well about how they are continuing to work to spend money that we have already raised. Mr. Eger was excited to share how they are pursuing outside State grants, outside opportunities and potentially private philanthropy ways to continue to invest as much as possible in our facilities and students.

Williams Audit Facilities Inspection. Ms. Delma Camacho informed the Board that the 2004 Williams case required the district to assess the safety, cleanliness, and adequacy of school facilities. As part of that, CDE amended the School Accountability Report Card to require extended information on school facilities. Each year, the County Conducts a surprise visit to schools in the early fall and assess the district across 15 categories. There are three categories of evaluation: **Ok** – There are no issues or the materials are clean, safe, and functioning, **Deficiency** – Clear evidence of the need for repair (not clean, safe, or functioning) and **Extreme Deficiency (D)**– Significant evidence of need for repair / in-operable equipment. Ms. Camacho was happy to report that we do not have any D at this time. (a) This year they embarked on a successful new process to address issues before they occurred as we expected an in-person inspection from the County. However, the County informed us that

we were going to be responsible for doing our own inspection and that we should act as an agent. Ms. Camacho reported on the work they did to get ready and the ongoing support from custodians. During the first week of the school year, the Maintenance staff conducted a “mock” audit to identify deficiencies and prepare for the County’s unannounced visits. (b) Graphic of the Audit Report. District Wide Williams Inspection Results, SY 20-21: 97.3% of our inspected areas were found to be in good working order.

Mr. Eger pointed out that the reports that Ms. Camacho produced reflects the dedication that she and her team have taken to inspect every single space at every school across 15 different categories. All the green in the graphic reflects a tremendous amount of time from Ms. Camacho, the custodians and the maintenance team and their commitment to addressing needs throughout our schools. Mr. Eger also shared that the robust process yielded improvements while also identified growth areas.

Ms. Ronda White, RTA President, thanked Ms. Camacho, the janitors and the maintenance crew. On behalf of the teachers, she indicated that it is nice to know that their rooms are cleaner than ever. The filters in heaters and air conditioners have been changed. The rooms are nice inside. They smell and look different, as well as a lot of things outside. All the wiring is being redone. So from the teachers, we cannot do what we do without CSEA, and she wanted to give a special shout out to Delma and her team and say thank you and that the teachers really appreciate it.

The Board thanked for the presentation.

- B. MSC (Fitch/Pulido) to approve the Resolution # 2020/2021 -7, Authorization of Personnel to Sign Orders on District Funds. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. MSC (Fitch/Sobomehin) to approve Resolution 2020/2021 -9 Intention To Seek a State Board Of Education Waiver In Relation To Lease Methods For Surplus District Real Property Of The Flood School Site. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. MSC (Fitch/Sobomehin) to approve Resolution 2020/2021 -10 Intention To Seek a State Board Of Education Waiver In Relation To Lease Methods For Surplus District Real Property Of The Menlo Oaks Site. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

12. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- A. MSC (Wilson/Sobomehin) to approve Resolution No. 2020/2021 -12 for Trustee Gaona Mendoza excused absence. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. MSC (Wilson/Sobomehin) to approve Board Policy 0470 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan presented to the Board for Second Reading and Action. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Pulido, Wilson, Fitch and Sobomehin, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Board Policy Revisions presented to the Board for First Reading: BP/E 3555 Nutrition Program Compliance; AR 4030 Nondiscrimination in Employment; BP/AR 4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 Sexual Harassment; AR 4119.12/4219.12/4319.12 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures; BP/AR 5141.22 Infectious Diseases; AR 5145.3 Nondiscrimination/Harassment; BP/E 5145.6 Parental Notifications; BP/AR 5145.7 Sexual Harassment; AR 5145.71 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures; BP/AR 6142.7 Physical Education and Activity; BP/AR 6159 Individualized Education Program; BP/AR 6159.1 Procedural Safeguards for Special Education; BP/AR 6159.2 Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education.

Ms. Nelly Maldonado stated that this packet of Board Policies was previously sent to the Board and Cabinet for their review and they are presented today for first reading with recommended track changes from Cabinet. The packet includes a guide sheet that identifies revisions made in the sample Board Policies

D. Board Reports/Communications.

President Pulido reported that trustee Wilson and herself met with the City of East Palo Alto, along with superintendent Sudaria to discuss efforts that the City has been placed in order to mitigate the impact of the spread of COVID-19 so that we are in a position to return to school in a foreseeable future. They kindly shared their efforts and an extensive plan that they put together. They are going to be launching a community campaign with banners, media and other tools that will allow us to get the word out about remembering to follow the guidelines so that we can work together as a community. We offered to use our facilities to hang any information that they think is useful to our community. We strategized some ideas of how to get the information out because they have a lot of informational materials that they have for the community. We are in a partnership to figure out how to distribute the materials in collaboration with them so that this can be a joint effort. President Pulido asked Trustee Wilson if she wanted to add more information about that.

Trustee Wilson reported that it was a very productive meeting and received a lot of information from them. She indicated that on October 2, the State Board ordered that counties cannot open unless they are at a certain level. In this County with a community that has all the high numbers, they are going to focus a lot of attention to East Palo Alto. So there will be some increased testing. She was very happy to hear about the protocols that the City has in place, and they are collecting a lot of data. They have what is called a “strike team” that work with the County, and they will go from apartment to apartment offering to test people and also sharing information about what they need to do to protect themselves and their neighbors. When they find cases where it is one person that is positive, but everybody else is negative, they will put them in a hotel, they will feed them, and they will give them some money for their needs so that they do not spread the virus. Trustee Wilson indicated that as of Friday, they will be opening up our playgrounds and bathrooms in the city parks. The staff is a little apprehensive about it but that was a decision that was made. They gave us some data about the COVID 19 percentages. There is a commitment to work together to educate the community. They are looking at finding ways to bring in more local people. So if you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a contact tracer, give the information to Gina for the City. Trustee Wilson is glad that they had that meeting.

Superintendent Sudaria stated that she is encouraged by the partnership and also how we may get additional support from the City to test staff and students as well as collaborating during the times where we distribute food so that we can capitalize when we have parents and families coming through.

E. Vice President Wilson reported that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on October 22, 2020.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Wilson adjourned the Meeting at 8:28 p.m.

October 22, 2020
Date of Approval

Clerk's Signature

/nm