



BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD

Notice of Regular Meeting

February 18, 2021 6:00 PM

In Compliance with Executive Order N-29-20 and N-35-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 12th and 21st, 2020 respectively, this meeting will be Livestreamed and recorded via the BUSD YouTube channel linked here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/beniciaunifiedschooldistrict>  
Meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom from the

**Attendance Taken at 6:04 PM:**

Present:

Diane Ferrucci  
CeCe Grubbs  
Mark Maselli  
Gethsemane Moss  
Sheri Zada

**1. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 p.m.**

Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by President Zada at 6:04 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

Quick Summary:

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort for our community's voices to be heard, BUSD has transitioned to accepting public comments via the "Public Comment" voicemail that will now be available. Members of the public wishing to address specific items on the Board meeting agenda are requested to call 707-748-2787 (one comment per person, per item limited to 3 minutes) on the day of the meeting between 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please note that no anonymous messages will be played. If your comment is for "closed session" please be sure to state that so that it can be addressed prior to "closed session." The board clerk will play the recording of all the "open session" public comments to the specific items then being discussed by the Board (Board Bylaw 9323) during the public comment item. The Governing Board allows speakers to speak at regular meetings on agendized and non-agendized matters under public comment. Comments are limited to

no more than three minutes per speaker at which time the voicemail will be cut off. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during the public comment periods and matters may be referred to staff for placement on a future agenda of the Governing Board. Please be reminded to keep your comments respectful and that students may be watching the board meeting.

#### **4. CLOSED SESSION - 6:00 P.M.**

Minutes:

Meeting was adjourned to closed session by President Zada at 6:05 p.m.

##### **4.1. Public Employment/ Action/ Appointment/ Discipline/ Dismissal/ Evaluation / Release**

Rationale:

Dr. Khushwinder Gill will present the Personnel Action List to the Board.

##### **4.2. Conference with Labor Negotiators**

Rationale:

The Governing Board will conference with Labor Negotiator, Dr. Khushwinder Gill, regarding Employee Organizations BTA, CSEA and unrepresented groups.

##### **4.3. Conference Regarding Pending Litigation: one case OAH Case No: 2020090689**

Rationale:

The Governing Board will discuss pending litigation pursuant to EC 54956.9, 1 case. The Governing Board will discuss pending litigation pursuant to EC 54956.9, 1 case. The Governing Board will discuss pending litigation pursuant to EC 54956.9, 1 ca

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Diane Ferrucci and a second by Mark Maselli.

Yes Diane Ferrucci

Yes CeCe Grubbs

Yes Mark Maselli

Yes Gethsemane Moss

Yes Sheri Zada

##### **4.4. Individual Student Matter(s)/ Student Need(s)**

Rationale:

The Governing Board will discuss student matters in the case of  
The Education Code requires Closed Session in these cases to prevent the disclosure of confidential student information.

## **5. OPEN SESSION - 7:00 P.M.**

Minutes:

Meeting was reconvened by President Zada at 7:03 p.m.

## **6. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Minutes:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Dr. Moss.

## **7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Mark Maselli and a second by Diane Ferrucci.

Yes Diane Ferrucci

Yes CeCe Grubbs

Yes Mark Maselli

Yes Gethsemane Moss

Yes Sheri Zada

## **8. HIGHLIGHT: Black History Month-BHS Book Club**

Minutes:

President Zada introduced Principal Kleinschmidt to share about the first ever BHS Reads event. For Black History Month the BHS Book Club selection is Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates and Ms. Kleinschmidt along with three of her students shared about their selection.

## **9. REPORTS - (NO ACTION REQUIRED)**

### **9.1. Student Reports**

Minutes:

Mikayla Moldero, ASB Principal - reported out on upcoming events for Benicia High School. Madison Ferle, ASB Vice Principal reported out on the things that have taken place at Benicia High School.

### **9.2. Superintendent Report**

Minutes:

Dr. Young began the evening by thanking our viewers and everybody in the system who is tending to our students, thank you! He also asked that we all remember to tend to one another. He also said that he would like to keep messaging the importance as a learning community and a town that we continue to work together in ways that build community in ways that are inclusive, respectful, and hopeful. It is such a great town and such a great school district that he wants us to keep thinking about how we build community together because the "virus" will eventually go away and we will all be here together. We

need to do this for ourselves and for our kids. Next, he mentioned the governor's plan had reached a legislative agreement today and when he has all of the details he will report on them. Lastly, he mentioned that he will try to have more information tomorrow in his update to the community about the vaccine.

### **9.3. Board Reports**

Minutes:

Trustee Grubbs shared that she got to participate in a couple of things last week. Along with Mr. Slater, she was asked to be a judge with two 5th grade classes for a debate determine which group supported their topic of either for or against "Plastic Straws" or for or against "Self Driving Vehicles". She was very impressed by the level of research, articulation, and statement of evidence with explanations of all sides by these students. Well done! The same evening she also had the honor of being invited to by Andrew Barrett along with Dr. Moss, to sit in on the Culturally Responsive Teaching PLC led by Lindsay Fuller. This is a dedicated group of teachers that are exploring their own bias, their own cultures and they are reading a book called Culturally Responsive Teaching by Zaretta Hammond. Trustee Grubbs concluded by saying that this work takes courage as well as the desire to grow and make change. Ms. Fuller was an amazing facilitator that asks some tough questions, but she asks them with grace and understanding. She also mentioned that she understands that Dr. Beatson has contracted with Ms. Fuller to conduct a five session workshop and she wants to strongly recommend it to staff all BUSD personnel. It's very powerful work! Trustee Ferrucci shared that she sat on LCAP committee meeting this week with Dr. Beatson and Ms. Rice. This team has been working very hard and she thanked everyone for their hard work. President Zada just wanted to tell our teachers and staff how much their efforts are appreciated.

## **10. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Minutes:

The following comments were submitted for public record via the public comment voicemail:

- Nancy Rothstein, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process
- Rosalyn Johnson, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process & incorporation of 1619 Project
- Kindergartner, inviting board to the Rally on February 26th
- Brandon Finch, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process & keeping equity in mind
- Roshana Lee, Racial Inequity in Benicia's Schools
- Brittany Sapein, Item 13.2 In-Person Small Group Instruction
- Jennifer Burns, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process/1619 Project & Item 13.2 In-Person Small Group Instruction
- Elementary School Student here in Benicia, inviting board to the Rally on February 26th
- Laura Cohen, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process and keeping Equity in mind

- Matt Burns, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP and including curriculum that is historical correct and keeps equity in mind.
- Elaine Kociolek, Item 13.2 In-Person Small Group Instruction and specifically individual student needs
- Gia Quinn, 13.2 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction
- Amira Barger, Item 12.3 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction
- James Ferrucci, in support of Item 13.2 and invitation to rally.
- Brandon Greene, Item 12.3 in support of an Equity approach to the LCAP Process
- Aaron Sapien, Item 13.2 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction
- Scott Swoboda, Item 13.2 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction and general comment regarding Benicia Vaccination Taskforce
- Anonymous, Item 13.2 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction
- Memat Shakur, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process and addressing Racial Inequity
- Sarah, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process and the Racism here in Benicia be addressed through curriculum
- Jean Walker, Opposing Recall
- Kaitlyn C.-Item 13.2 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction
- Kate, Invitation to the rally next week to reopen schools.
- Kathleen Ruiz, Item 13.2 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction
- Robert Crowley, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process/1619 Project Curriculum
- Krista Heredia, Item 12.3 Strategic Plan/LCAP Process keeping Equity in mind
- Sarah Ferrucci, in support Item 13.2 in support of In-Person Small Group Instruction and equal representation of the board

#### Quick Summary:

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort for our community's voices to be heard, BUSD has transitioned to accepting public comments via the "Public Comment" voicemail that will now be available. Members of the public wishing to address specific items on the Board meeting agenda are requested to call 707-748-2787 (one comment per person, per item limited to 3 minutes) on the day of the meeting between 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please note that no anonymous messages will be played. If your comment is for "closed session" please be sure to state that so that it can be addressed prior to "closed session." The board clerk will play the recording of all the "open session" public comments to the specific items then being discussed by the Board (Board Bylaw 9323) during the public comment item. The Governing Board allows speakers to speak at regular meetings on agendized and non-agendized matters under public comment. Comments are limited to no more than three minutes per speaker at which time the voicemail will be cut off. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during the public comment periods and matters may be referred to staff for placement on a future agenda of the Governing Board. Please be reminded to keep your comments respectful and that students may be watching the board meeting.

## 11. CONSENT CALENDAR - ACTION ITEMS

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the Consent Calendar as presented Passed with a motion by Diane Ferrucci and a second by CeCe Grubbs.

Yes Diane Ferrucci  
Yes CeCe Grubbs  
Yes Mark Maselli  
Yes Gethsemane Moss  
Yes Sheri Zada

**Quick Summary:**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered by the Board to be routine and will be approved by the Board in one motion. There will be no discussion on these items unless members of the Board, staff or public request specific items to be pulled and discussed.

**11.1. Minutes for the Meetings of: February 4, 2021 and February 6, 2021**

**11.2. Approval of Personnel Action List**

**11.3. Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 20-21-14, Resolution of the Benicia Unified School District Requesting the Treasurer to Make a Constitutional Advance to the District**

**Rationale:**

In order to meet cash flow needs, each year the district requests that the county advances its property tax funds to the district prior to the December and April tax collection dates.

**Motion Passed:** Approval of Resolution No. 20-21-14 requesting the Solano County Board of Supervisors authorize the County Treasurer to transfer approximately \$13,660,891.00 in one or more loans to the Benicia Unified School District to cover one or more cash shortages caused by delays in receipt of revenues from the State to which the district is lawfully entitled on a roll call vote of 5-0 Passed with a motion by Diane Ferrucci and a second by CeCe Grubbs.

Yes Diane Ferrucci  
Yes CeCe Grubbs  
Yes Mark Maselli  
Yes Gethsemane Moss  
Yes Sheri Zada

**12. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**12.1. Measure S Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report**

**Rationale:**

Roxanne Egan, Bond Director, will provide the introduction. David Sells, the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Chairperson will provide the annual report from the Bond Oversight Committee. As per the bylaws, the Committee shall present to the Board, in Public Session, an annual written report which includes the following: a) A statement indicating whether the District is in compliance

with the requirements of Article XIII A, section 1(b) (3) of the California Constitution and b) A summary of the Committee's proceedings and activities for the preceding year

Minutes:

President Zada introduced Roxanne Egan along with committee chair David Sells to provide the Measure S Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report.

## **12.2. Measure S Quarterly Bond Update**

Rationale:

Roxanne Egan, Bond Director, will provide the Quarterly Update on the Measure S Bond Program. The purpose of this update is to provide information on the school facility projects funded by the Measure S bonds and review items from the quarterly BUSD Citizens' Oversight Committee on the Measure S General Obligation Bonds meeting.

Minutes:

President Zada explained that she was so excited about Dr. Beatson's presentation that she skipped over this item 12.2 and invited Roxanne Egan, Bond Director back to provide the Measure S Quarterly Bond update.

## **12.3. Strategic Plan/LCAP Process**

Rationale:

Dr. Leslie Beatson, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, will report on the Strategic Plan-LCAP process. The purpose of the report is to inform the Board and public of the requirements, components, process and timeline for the development of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan-LCAP. Presentation

Minutes:

President Zada introduced Dr. Beatson to share an update and the process for the development of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan/LCAP.

# **13. NON-CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

## **13.1. Consideration and Approval of the Site and District Safety Plans**

Rationale:

The safety of students and staff is of the utmost importance and an essential component of ensuring student and staff safety is the annual development and review of the Comprehensive School Safety plans for each site and the Emergency Operational Plan for the District. Each site works with their stakeholders annually to update the plan through the School Site Council or through a School Safety Committee appointed by the SSC. The comprehensive plan includes both procedures to use in case of an emergency and strategies to use to create a safe and healthy school climate. The school safety/operational

plans are approved by School Site Councils annually and are presented to the governing board for review and approval. In addition, there is a district Safety/Operational Plan that provides a guide for overall safety within the district and outlines specific procedures to be followed in case of an emergency. Over the past few years the plans have seen significant growth, include district-standardized best practices for crisis response and they are approved by BPD/BFD. The District is currently reviewing the release of students' protocol as well as mutual aid agreements with the county and local LEAs and will update the plans when this work is completed. The Safety Plans are not published publicly due to a recommendation by law enforcement. The plans are available in the Superintendent's office for review. The governing board is being asked to review and approve site safety plans as well as the overall District safety plan.

Minutes:

President Zada introduced Sean Thompson, Vice Principal of Benicia High School as well as our District Safety Coordinator to provide an overview of our site and district safety plans and protocols.

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the Site and District Safety Plans as presented Passed with a motion by Diane Ferrucci and a second by Gethsemane Moss.

Yes Diane Ferrucci

Yes CeCe Grubbs

Yes Mark Maselli

Yes Gethsemane Moss

Yes Sheri Zada

### **13.2. Consideration and Approval of In-Person Small Group Instruction**

Rationale:

Dr. Leslie Beatson, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services will report on staff and student data regarding returning for in-person small group instruction.

PRESENTATION

Recommendation: Approve the recommendation to return for in-person small group instruction with the staff who volunteer to do so based on the data provided.

Minutes:

President Zada invited Dr. Beatson back to share the information that had been requested by the trustees at the last board meeting of February 4, 2021 for consideration of this items approval.

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the recommendation to return for in-person small group instruction with the staff who volunteer to do so based on the data provided Passed with a motion by Diane Ferrucci and a second by Gethsemane Moss.



Yes Diane Ferrucci  
Yes CeCe Grubbs  
No Mark Maselli  
Yes Gethsemane Moss  
Yes Sheri Zada

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes:

Meeting was adjourned by President Zada at 9:48 p.m.

Quick Summary:

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2021

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

---

Clerk

---

Secretary