

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:

Mele K. Latu, President
Tamara Sobomehin, Vice President
Bronwyn Alexander, Clerk
Ana Maria Pulido, Member
Jenny Varghese Bloom, Member

Minutes February 11, 2021

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

President Latu called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All Board Members were present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

MSC (Pulido/Sobomehin) to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Mele Latu, Tamara Sobomehin, Bronwyn Alexander, Ana Maria Pulido and Jenny Varghese Bloom, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:32 p.m. Open Session reconvened at 7:16 p.m.

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

President Latu reported that a discussion was held and direction was given on Item 3.A.

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE/RESIGNATION

5. **FROM THE FLOOR.**

No one addressed the Board From the Floor.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MSC (Sobomehin/Alexander) to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Latu, Sobomehin, Alexander, Pulido and Bloom, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- A. Consideration to approve Personnel Recommendations.
- B. Consideration to approve the Minutes for the December 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.
- C. Consideration to approve the Minutes for the January 12, 2021 Special Board Meeting.
- D. Consideration to approve the Minutes for the January 21, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.
- E. Consideration to approve Payments to Vendors, January 1 to 31, 2021.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

- A. Update on our TK and Unique Small Group Cohort Receiving In-Person Instruction on Campus and Consider Proposals to Bring Additional Classes Back to Campus.

Superintendent Gina Sudaria provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions regarding the update on our TK and Unique Small Group Cohort receiving in-person instruction on campus and proposals to bring additional classes back to campus. The PowerPoint included:

(1) COVID Updates: Current conditions, vaccines, antigen testing. She informed the Board that the San Mateo County is still in the purple tier because the number of new cases is more than 7 per 100k people. Superintendent

Sudaria noted that positivity rates have dropped dramatically. New cases are high but decreasing. New cases and positivity rates are declining across the County and in East Palo Alto.

Vaccine update related to education workers: Superintendent Sudaria stated that school workers are in Group 1b along with 65+ year olds. County Superintendent Nancy Magee along with the other 22 superintendents in San Mateo County developed an equity-based plan to get vaccines to all education workers. Ravenswood is going to be at the top of the list because the Equity Distribution Plan is based on the percentage of unduplicated students so those who qualified under low-income, English learners or foster youth and staff will be prioritized by the frequency that they have contact with students. The first priority is staff who works with students with moderate to severe special needs. The District is putting everything in place to make sure that when vaccines become accessible in the County, we have our priority list clearly defined. Superintendent Sudaria informed the Board that COVID antigen testing is coming for students and learning hubs staff. She noted that training is nearly complete for District staff and learning hubs. She shared a video of how the antigen test is administered. She noted that it could be self-administered by students. An MOU and a data sharing agreement will be sent to parents for approval. They hope to start testing students by February 17th.

(2) Updates on urgent learners on campus for in-person instruction (TK, Unique learners). Superintendent Sudaria reported that they started on January 27, with a TK class at Costaño. Mr. Salvador Germano welcomed 10 of his students back on campus. Superintendent Sudaria shared pictures of a parent of one of the students and Mr. Germano, and a picture of one of the students reading a book. She noted that there are ten students in the class and each student has their own desk, they are socially distanced, six feet or more. We have support in the class to be able to release Mr. Germano. The principal and para educator, all on deck to make this as successful as possible and more importantly, we have happy children and happy parents.

Mr. Jennifer Gravem, Director of Special Education, reported on the unique learners. She was happy to report that all our preschool students have already started on campus. She indicated that our preschools have been bringing in kids of one and two at a time and they are slowly increasing that time, which has been wonderful for the preschool teachers and staff to see the students so happy and in-person because for our youngest learners it is not ideal to be learning through an iPad, especially when there are learning differences involved. K-2 students: There were six students in the class, four families felt nervous so they did not want to come back. Two students are going to start in a group on Wednesday so we can provide a lot of opportunities for them. 3-5: They will also start on Wednesday. They felt more comfortable starting after antigen test was fully up and running, and now that the training that Gina had just mentioned has been completed, everyone is ready to come in and is excited to welcome the students starting on Wednesday. Ms. Gravem provided a video from this morning of one of the kids. She indicated that our Program Specialist was at the site and was able to bring our whole special education team into the preschool via Zoom, and this is a video from their Zoom that she clipped down. The video shows the first day of school ever of a 4-year-old student who was not finding success with the iPad, and she just wanted to share this burst of happiness. They could also see briefly the teachers doubled masked with a face shield.

(3) Proposals to bring additional classes back to campus. Superintendent Sudaria informed the Board that the School Improvement Working Group (SIWG) considered several proposals. For each proposal SIWG members considered **Safety**: Are we following cohort guidance? **Quality**: Does it enhance learning? Is the program at least as good as current distance learning? **Equity**: Will kids at home still get at least as good an experience as they do today? Superintendent Sudaria pointed out that not all the students in the class have families who want to bring their children on campus so they are still going to receive virtual instruction and we will not want to have the children coming onto campus impacting the learning of those who are receiving virtual instruction.

SIWG recommended that the Board approve the following three proposals: (1) Kinder at Costaño (Ms. Dekker's class): 23 students. She noted that we will have some students in-person and some would receive virtual instruction. Superintendent Sudaria indicated that Ms. Dekker is prepared to do both synchronous and asynchronous to create a good experience for virtual learners. She has the technology and the skills to use the technology to lead this model and is eager to pilot it. Her schedule will be from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. until spring break, then consider longer day. If approved, there will be a parent meeting next week to confirm interest and then they will be able to start the program on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

(2) Kinder at LRRM (whole grade.) The goal is to improve the learning experience for all the kindergarten students at Los Robles-Ronald McNair by adding in-person instruction to the existing learning hubs, and safely serve as many students as possible. There are two hubs on campus that serve 20 of the 32 kindergarten students

and we are working closely with the Boys and Girls Club to open up a third hub, so that we potentially would have 29 of the 32 students split across the three learning hubs. She noted that there are two teachers teaching all kindergarten students, Ms. Cuellar and Ms. Cirimele. Ms. Cuellar will do the push-in into all the learning hubs for 2 hours a day for in-person instruction, then she will rotate to a different pod each week and each student sees her in-person every three weeks. Ms. Cirimele will continue providing virtual instruction. They are already doing the team teaching. Superintendent Sudaria provided a schedule of the Learning Hubs.

(3) Newcomers (6th Grade) “Learning Hubs Plus.” Ms. Lara Burenin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, shared information about the newcomers, specifically the sixth graders. Ms. Burenin informed the Board that they have a proposal for our sixth graders in our newcomer class to come on campus. There are 14 students total. When we asked them in December, nine were interested in in-person learning, four were interested but potentially in waiting a little bit longer, maybe until March, and no response in one. If we are able to offer this class in-person, you can see in the newcomer teachers schedule in the chart provided that the students would be in the classroom the whole day 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the teacher would also be in the classroom at times when the students would be in the sixth grade newcomer class. She would get to do that instruction in-person at other times in the day, it would function almost like a learning hub in a sense of students are logging on to their other classes in their schedule and doing their regular distance learning and then the teacher would be teaching her other classes at those other periods. There is a few pockets in the day where the teacher would actually be able to provide some extra support to the students when she is not teaching those other classes. Superintendent Sudaria indicated that we are very excited to be able to potentially expand our learning hubs that we already are offering. San Mateo County offered a grant to expand our learning hubs and all of our learning hubs on campus, Boys and Girls Club, East Palo Alto Tennis Tutoring and the 49ers Academy have applied.

Superintendent Sudaria indicated that there are three items under this agenda where they would like the Board to consider approving.

1. Consideration to approve an MOU between the Ravenswood City School District and Public Health Institute (PHI) For District’s Participation In PHI’s Safely Opening Schools.

MSC (Alexander/Pulido) to approve an MOU between the Ravenswood City School District and Public Health Institute (PHI) for District’s Participation In PHI’s Safely Opening Schools. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Mele Latu, Tamara Sobomehin, Bronwyn Alexander, Ana Maria Pulido and Jenny Varghese Bloom, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration to approve a Data Sharing Agreement between the RCSD and Primary Diagnostics, Inc.

MSC (Sobomehin/Bloom) to approve a Data Sharing Agreement between the RCSD and Primary Diagnostics, Inc. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Mele Latu, Tamara Sobomehin, Bronwyn Alexander, Ana Maria Pulido and Jenny Varghese Bloom, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration to approve the Proposal to bring more Urgent Learners on Campus for In-Person Instruction.

MSC (Bloom/Sobomehin) to approve the Proposal to bring more Urgent Learners on Campus for In-Person Instruction. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Mele Latu, Tamara Sobomehin, Bronwyn Alexander, Ana Maria Pulido and Jenny Varghese Bloom, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration to approve Resolution 2020/2021 -15, Retirement Incentive Program.

MSC (Alexander/ Sobomehin) to approve Resolution 2020/2021 -15, Retirement Incentive Program. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Latu, Sobomehin, Alexander, Pulido and Bloom, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A. Consideration to approve Resolution No. 2020/2021 -13, Board Members Excused Absences. **All Board Members were present.**

B. Board Reports/Communications.

Trustee Bloom asked if we can update the dates on the website for enrollment purposes for TK and Kindergarten.

Trustee Alexander reported that she had the privilege of being able to attend the 6th grade orientation or information session that Principal Amanda Kemp did for incoming 6th graders with several fifth grade families. She hopes that this gets to continue in the future so that we can get more people interested in coming. She also reported that the painting on the wall for the mural at the Belle Haven School Kindergarten classroom has begun.

President Latu acknowledged Principal Amanda Kemp who was in the audience.

President Latu reported that there has been a lot of interest from the City to create a 2-2-2 type of committee between the City of East Palo Alto, the Ravenswood City School District and Sequoia Union High School District, and indicated that as a Board they need to start writing what their expectations are, and then they will discuss what they want from there, like where they like to land. She asked the Board Members if anyone has any comments about that.

President Latu reported on COVID vaccines that are available to the community of East Palo Alto who are 65 years and older, health care workers, and frontline workers. She wants to make sure that everyone gets that information if they visit the City of East Palo Alto website or connect with her or anyone on Facebook. They will pass that information along so that everyone gets vaccinated.

Trustee Alexander reported that COVID vaccines are also available for any adult who is a caregiver for a child with special needs regardless of age.

C. President Latu announced that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on February 25, 2021.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Latu adjourned the Meeting at 8:07 p.m.

February 25, 2021

Date of Approval

Clerk's Signature

/nm