



**BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD**

Notice of Special Meeting

March 10, 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 via Zoom from the Benicia Unified District Board Room 350 East K Street Benicia, CA 94510

Attendance Taken at 6:05 PM:

Present:

Diane Ferrucci

CeCe Grubbs

Mark Maselli

Gethsemane Moss

Sheri Zada

Updated Attendance:

Sheri Zada was updated to absent at: 7:20 p.m.

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

Minutes:

President Zada called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Passed: Approve the Agenda as presented. Passed with a motion by Mark Maselli and a second by CeCe Grubbs.

Yes Diane Ferrucci

Yes CeCe Grubbs

Yes Mark Maselli

Yes Gethsemane Moss
Yes Sheri Zada

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

President Zada led the Pledge of Allegiance

5. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Minutes:

Comments from the following people were submitted into public record via our public comment voicemail:

1. Kathleen Smith - Commented on the confusion on the MOU's presented tonight and the quick return to school.
2. Parent of BUSD Students - Commented on the change of the return to school dates.
3. Parent of BUSD Students - Commented on the change of the return to school dates.
4. Melissa Coke - Commented on the change of the return to school dates and the lack of space in the neighborhood school.
5. Adam Qwin - Commented on the return to school dates and the need for vaccination first.
6. Julie Brink - Commented on the change of the start of school date.
7. Kathy Doss - Commented on the return to school and the fact that there is not room in the local site.
8. Kim Williams - Commented on the change of the return to school dates.
9. Megan Richards - Commented on the change of the return to school dates.
10. Kristin Kelly - Commented on the change of the return to school dates.
11. Kathleen Ruiz - Commented on getting the children back to school.
12. Gia Quinn - Commented on dates of reopening of school.
13. Javier Gallo - Commented on the dates and process of reopening of school.
14. Brittany Sapien - Commented on the special needs students and the quick return to school.

15. Constance Johnson- Commented on the quick reopening of schools.

16. Heidi Black - Commented on the quick reopening of schools.

17. Sarah Ferrucci - Commented on the quick reopening of schools.

18. Kara Bateman - Commented on the quick reopening of schools.

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. 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.

6. NON-CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Consideration and Approval of the Amended Health and Safety MOUs for Both BTA and CSEA#1096 and the In-Person Learning Model MOU for BTA during the 2020-21 School Year

Rationale:

The Benicia Unified School District (BUSD), Benicia Teachers Association (BTA), and Classified School Employees Association #1096 (CSEA#1096) recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates significant modifications to the operation of schools to minimize the health risks associated with COVID-19 infection for students, staff, and their families while also providing equitable access to education for students. BUSD, BTA, and CSEA #1096 had previously entered into the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for the 'Health and Safety MOUs with both BTA and CSEA#1096' and 'In Person Learning Model' with BTA regarding issues related to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the return to school during the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the recent changes in recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and needs of staff and students, 'Health and Safety MOUs' for both BTA and

CSEA#1096 and 'In-Person Learning Model MOU' for BTA have been amended. We greatly appreciate BTA and CSEA#1096 Association Leaders for collaborative work on revising these MOUs. Amendments in all three of the MOUs are underlined to make it easier for the readers to identify changes. Following any applicable public comment, staff recommends that the Governing Board approve the amended Health and Safety MOUs for both BTA and CSEA#1096 and In-Person Learning Model MOU for BTA during the 2020-21 school year as presented.

Minutes:

Dr. Khushwinder Gill, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the item and explained the changes in the documents. The Benicia Unified School District (BUSD), Benicia Teachers Association (BTA), and Classified School Employees Association #1096 (CSEA#1096) recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates significant modifications to the operation of schools to minimize the health risks associated with COVID-19 infection for students, staff, and their families while also providing equitable access to education for students. BUSD, BTA, and CSEA #1096 had previously entered into the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for the 'Health and Safety MOUs with both BTA and CSEA#1096' and 'In Person Learning Model' with BTA regarding issues related to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the return to school during the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the recent changes in recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and needs of staff and students, 'Health and Safety MOUs' for both BTA and CSEA#1096 and 'In-Person Learning Model MOU' for BTA have been amended. We greatly appreciate BTA and CSEA#1096 Association Leaders for collaborative work on revising these MOUs. Amendments in all three of the MOUs are underlined to make it easier for the readers to identify changes.

The Trustees asked about these two items listed: 6ft spacing and the actual class sizes.

Motion Passed: Approval of the amended Health and Safety MOUs for both BTA and CSEA#1096 and In-Person Learning Model MOU for BTA during the 2020-21 school year as presented. Passed with a motion by Mark Maselli and a second by CeCe Grubbs.

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

6.2. Discussion and Approval of the Dates for the Return to In-person Instruction

Rationale:

During the January 14th Board meeting, the Board Trustees voted to return to in-person instruction on March 22nd, state rules permitting. Currently, schools in Solano county can return to in-person instruction in grades K-6 based on Covid-19 case rates and once in the red tier, can return to in-person instruction in grades 7-12. As of March 8th, Solano County is at 8.2 cases per 100,000, with an adjusted rate of 7.7. In order to be in the red tier, counties must be between 4 to 7 cases per 100,000. Since the January 14th Board meeting, Covid-19 vaccine supply has increased dramatically, especially during the week of March 1st through the 5th. Every employee in BUSD who wishes to be vaccinated has an opportunity to do so. The CDC, CDPH and the Governor's office have not made the vaccine a prerequisite for in-person instruction, that being said, administration of the vaccine, along with the robust safety measures in place, will contribute significantly to further establishing staff confidence in returning to in-person instruction. The pandemic has created significant challenges for society resulting in considerable debate. There is no perfect pathway forward. Recommendations for public education and their interpretation during the pandemic, change frequently, thus necessitating tonight's discussion regarding the feasibility of returning to in-person instruction on the previously approved date. The importance of balancing the needs of our stakeholders, including students, staff and the parent community, needs to remain central to our decision making processes.

Minutes:

Dr. Young stated that during the January 14th Board meeting, the Board Trustees voted to return to in-person instruction on March 22nd, state rules permitting. Currently, schools in Solano county can return to in-person instruction in grades K-6 based on Covid-19 case rates and once in the red tier, can return to in-person instruction in grades 7-12. As of March 8th, Solano County is at 8.2 cases per 100,000, with an adjusted rate of 7.7. In order to be in the red tier, counties must be between 4 to 7 cases per 100,000. Since the January 14th Board meeting, Covid-19 vaccine supply has increased dramatically, especially during the week of March 1st through the 5th. Every employee in BUSD who wishes to be vaccinated has an opportunity to do so. The CDC, CDPH and the Governor's office have not made the vaccine a prerequisite for in-person instruction, that being said, administration of the vaccine, along with the robust safety measures in place, will contribute significantly to further establishing staff confidence in returning to in-person instruction. The pandemic has created significant challenges for society resulting in considerable debate. There is no perfect pathway forward. Recommendations for public education and their interpretation during the pandemic, change frequently, thus necessitating tonight's discussion regarding the feasibility of returning to in-person instruction on the previously approved date. The importance of balancing the needs of our stakeholders, including students, staff and the parent community,

needs to remain central to our decision making processes. The Trustees discussed waiting until the vaccines are completed. The change is actually 9 days. Some Trustees questioned the need for a change in the start dates. The Trustees questioned why TK-2 would go back earlier. The Principals suggested a type of orientation start for the younger students. The Trustees discussed the agreed upon dates from the previous meeting.

Motion Failed: Approve the return to in-person instruction for all grades starting March 22nd as previously approved by the Board. Motion failed with motion by Diane Ferrucci with no second.

Motion Passed: Approve the return to in-person instruction for grades TK-2 starting March 29th with the remaining grades, 3-12, returning to in-person instruction on April 12, the Monday following spring break. Passed with a motion by Mark Maselli and a second by CeCe Grubbs.

No Diane Ferrucci

Yes CeCe Grubbs

Yes Mark Maselli

Yes Gethsemane Moss

Absent Sheri Zada

7. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Clerk

Secretary