

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, April 20, 2021

Unadopted

Members Present: Beth Albiani, President; Crystal Martinez-Alire, Clerk; Nancy Chaires Espinoza, Carmine Forcina, Gina Jamerson, Anthony Perez and Sean Yang

Others Present: Christopher R. Hoffman, Superintendent; Robert Pierce and Mark Cerutti, Deputy Superintendents; David Reilly, Associate Superintendent; Bindy Grewal and Craig Murray, Assistant Superintendents; Shannon Hayes, Chief Financial Officer; Steve Mate, Chief Technology Officer, Xanthi Soriano, Director of Communications

CLOSED SESSION: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. to address items 1 through 4 on the closed session portion of the agenda.

- I.** Government Code Section 54956.9 Subdivision (d) Paragraph (1): Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
- II.** Government Code Section 54956.9 Subdivision (d) Paragraph (2): Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Significant Exposure to Litigation
- III.** Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint
- IV.** Government Code Section 54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiators
Agency designated representatives: Christopher R. Hoffman,
David Reilly, Robert Pierce, Karen Rezendes

Employee Organizations: All Elk Grove Unified School District
Bargaining Units and Unrepresented Employees

OPEN SESSION VIA ZOOM: Ms. Albiani called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and announced that the Board met in closed session and no action was taken.

Ms. Albiani provided a welcome to Elk Grove Unified School District's virtual board meeting through the Zoom Webinar platform.

Ms. Albiani informed everyone that Legislative Bodies including School Districts are now permitted to hold board meetings telephonically or by other electronic means because on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20, suspending certain provisions of the California Ralph M. Brown Act. In addition, consistent with the March 19, 2020 Statewide Shelter in Place Order issued by the Governor, Executive Order N-33-20, the Sacramento County Shelter at Home Orders issued on March 19, 2020 and April 7, 2020, and the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) social distancing guidelines which discourage public gatherings, this Board meeting was conducted via the Zoom Webinar platform.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance** – Craig Murray, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education, led the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Presentations/Recognitions**
 - 1. High School Student Board Representative Reports - Laguna Creek and Sheldon High Schools** – Students from Laguna Creek and Sheldon High Schools reported on activities and academics at their schools via a prerecorded video.

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III. Resolutions

1. **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** – Ms. Albiani called on Xanthi Soriano for public comments submitted through the District’s Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none.

Motion 130, 2020-21 - Motion by Mr. Yang, seconded by Mr. Perez and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Board members present that Resolution No. 58, that designates May 2021 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month be adopted. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

2. **Day of the Teacher** – Ms. Albiani called on Xanthi Soriano for public comments submitted through the District’s Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none.

Motion 131, 2020-21 - Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Ms. Chaires Espinoza and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Board members present that Resolution 61, recognizing May 4, 2021 as Day of the Teacher in the Elk Grove Unified School District, be approved. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

IV. Student Expulsion/Involuntary Transfer Recommendations - None

V. Public Comment

Live public comments via Zoom:

Loreen Pryor expressed her frustrations from the last meeting and assured that she wasn’t contacted. Ms. Pryor has requested an apology for not receiving the information about the disproportionate discipline of black children that she has requested for over a year.

Exusitive Huntly requested an apology from the school board be made to Loreen Pryor and expressed concerns about the disproportionate discipline of black children.

Carol Rogers, Suzanne Lander, Jennifer Miur, Carol Kinser and Pat Skeels requested that EGUSD send letters home on a yearly basis educating parents about the importance of gun safety. Requested that the Safe Storage Resolution be placed on a board meeting agenda for adoption as soon as possible. Ms. Lander shared that this resolution has been passed by several school districts in California.

Brittany Kissinger kindergarten teacher at Reese ES, expressed concerns over the use of Illuminate.

Public comments that were submitted in writing to be read by staff are attached.

- VI. **Consent Agenda – Action** - Ms. Albiani called on Xanthi Soriano for public comments submitted through the District’s Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none.

Prior to the vote on the motion, Mr. Forcina requested that Item 14 be pulled for discussion/action.

Motion 132, 2020-21 - Motion by Ms. Chaires Espinoza, seconded by Ms. Jamerson and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Board members present that items 1 through 20, except for item 14 on the consent agenda be approved. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

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Motion 133, 2020-21 - Motion by Ms. Chaires Espinoza, seconded by Ms. Albiani and carried by vote of Board members present that item 14 on the consent agenda be approved. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – Forcina; Absent – None*

- 1. Approval of Minutes** – Approved the minutes from the special board meeting/board workshop that was held on April 13, 2021 and April 14, 2021.
- 2. Personnel Actions** - Approved personnel appointments, leaves of absence, rehires, probationary releases, promotions, resignations, retirements, and returns from reemployment lists as submitted.
- 3. Certification of Administrator’s Competence to Evaluate** – Granted Certification of Administrator’s Competence to Evaluate for Michael Blomquist, district administrator who has successfully completed the District’s training process
- 4. Warrant Register No. 9** – Approved Warrant Register No. 9 – Warrant Numbers 079938 - 081107, 414036 - 414665. All Funds: March 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.
- 5. Acceptance of Gifts** - Approved donations to the District’s schools/programs as submitted.
- 6. Ratification of Contracts for Services** - Approved contracts signed by authorized staff in accordance with Board Policy 3312 as submitted.
- 7. Ratification of Grant Contracts/Agreements for Funding** - Approved grant contracts/agreements signed by authorized staff as submitted.
- 8. Approval of Purchase Order Encumbrance Modification History** – Approved purchase order encumbrance modifications from March 17, 2021 – March 31, 2021.
- 9. Approval of Purchase Order History** – Approved purchase orders for the weeks of March 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.
- 10. Elk Grove High School, Phase 2 – Increment #1 Site Utilities Lease-Leaseback Agreement Amendment** – Approved a Lease-Leaseback Amendment with Flint Builders, Inc. for the Elk Grove High School Modernization Project – Phase 2 (“Project”); and approved a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$3,936,801.00 for the construction of Site Utilities, Phase 2 of the Modernization Project.
- 11. Valley High School, Fire Academy & CTE/POT Inc#3 - Change Order No. 1** – Approved Change Order No. 1 with The Boldt Company and authorized a District Representative to sign the approved change order. Change Order No. 1 changes the contract amount of \$2,660,779.00 by (\$52,004.00) to \$2,608,775.00.
- 12. Valley High School, Fire Academy & CTE/POT Inc#3 - Acceptance and Notice of Completion** – Accepted the construction of the Valley High School, Fire Academy project, and authorized the filing of the Notice of Completion.
- 13. Approve Option of One-Year Extension to the Lease Agreement with Bartholomew Associates for a Portion of Elk Grove Shopping Center** – Approved an option for a one-year extension to the Lease Agreement with Bartholomew Associates at the Elk Grove Shopping Center to continue the use for the Technology Services, Research and Evaluation, Special Education, and Education Services departments; and authorized Susan Bell, Chief

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Facilities Officer, Facilities and Planning to finalize and execute the 2021-2022 Lease extension on behalf of the District.

- 14. Approval for the Safety and Security Department to Enter into a Purchase Agreement for Two (2) Work Trucks** – Authorized the purchase of two (2) 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 crew cab work trucks through Winner Chevrolet. These vehicles will be replacing three (3) vehicles that have been surplus due to the cost of ongoing and projected future repairs.
- 15. Approval to Award RFP #679-20/21 – Merv 13 Air Filters** – Authorized the award of RFP #679-20/21 Merv 13 Air Filters. The District recommends the award of a one (1) year contract, with the option, upon mutual agreement, to extend any resulting agreement for two (2) additional one (1) year terms with Trane Supply. This contract will commence on July 1, 2021.
- 16. Approval of Head Start Cost of Living Funding Application for 2021-22 School Year** – Approved the 1.22% Head Start Cost of Living (COLA) funding application for the 2021-2022 school year. There is no cost to the district, however, this increases the amount of the original contract by \$43,181.00.
- 17. K-5 Science Instructional Materials Adoption** – Adopted the following instructional materials for Science in Grades K-5 to replace the previously-adopted materials from 2008: *Amplify Science*, Copyright 2018, Amplify Education, Inc. (Science, Grades K-5)
- 18. Instructional Materials Adoption** – Adopted the following instructional materials:
Basic
STEMscopes CA-NGSS 3D – HS Physics in the Universe; Copyright 2018, Accelerate Learning, Inc. (Physics of the Universe, **Newcomer English Learner**, Grades 10-12) [This basic instructional material will be paid for using EGUSD Instructional Materials funds.]
STEMscopes CA-NGSS 3D – HS The Living Earth; Copyright 2018, Accelerate Learning, Inc. (Biology of the Living Earth, **Newcomer English Learner**, Grades 9-12) [This basic instructional material will be paid for using EGUSD Instructional Materials funds.]
The Young Champion's Mind, How to Think, Train, and Thrive Life an Elite Athlete; Copyright 2018, Penguin Random House ("Sports Psychology;" "Sports Psychology Survey," Grades 9-12) [This basic instructional material will be paid for using EGUSD Instructional Materials funds.]
Street Law, A Course in Practical Law, Tenth Edition; Copyright 2021, McGraw Hill ("You and the Law," Grades 9-12; "Introduction to Public Service," Grade 10) [This basic instructional material for "You and the Law" will be paid for using EGUSD Instructional Materials funds. This basic instructional material for "Introduction to Public Service" will be paid for using CA Partnership Academy funds.]
Essentials of Psychology Concepts and Applications, Fifth Edition; Copyright 2018, Cengage (Psychology, Grades 9-12) [This basic instructional material will be paid for using EGUSD Instructional Materials funds.]
Signing Naturally Student Workbook, Units 7-12; Copyright 2014, Dawn Sign Press (American Sign Language II, Grades 9-12) [This basic instructional material will be paid for using site funds.]
Supplemental
Application Skills, San Diego Office of Education (Misc. CTE, Special Education, and Work Experience Courses, Grades 11-12) [This supplemental instructional material will be paid for using CTE funds.]

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Essential Skills, San Diego Office of Education (Misc. CTE, Special Education, and Work Experience Courses, Grades 11-12) [This supplemental instructional material will be paid for using CTE funds.]

The Hero Two Doors Down, Copyright 2016, Scholastic, Inc. (English/Language Arts, Grade 4) [This supplemental instructional material will be paid for using site funds.]

Project Lead the Way, Cybersecurity (IT Support Specialist, Grades 11-12) [This supplemental digital instructional material will be paid for using CTE and/or site funds.]

Google IT Support Professional Certificate Course (IT Support Specialist, Grades 11-12) [This supplemental digital instructional material is a free resource, no funding is needed.]

Rocket Math (Mathematics, Grades 1-6) [This supplemental digital instructional material will be paid for using site funds.]

Reading Plus (ELA/Reading, Grades 3-6) [This supplemental digital instructional material will be paid for using site funds.]

Star Early Literacy (ELA, Grades K-6) [This supplemental digital instructional material will be paid for using site funds.]

19. **New High School Courses and Update to an Existing High School Course** – Adopted the following new high school courses and update to an existing high school course:

NEW COURSE REQUESTS:

American Sign Language II (World Language, Grades 9-12) (one-year equivalent, 10 credits) In this course, students will learn the language by watching (receptive skills) and responding (expressive skills), increasing their abilities acquired from ASL I. Students will learn to use the language through continuous exposure to both receptive and expressive ASL. Students will continue to learn to sign about themselves and others, requests, opinions, and storytelling. The class will be conducted using the target language and will expose students to Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community to be able to communicate appropriately and effectively about the various Level II topics.

Entrepreneurship II (CTE Elective, Grades 10-11) (one-year equivalent, 10 credits) This course provides a survey of all business areas, including accounting, law, human resources, management, marketing, economics, and finance. The course is designed to be taken by students interested in business.

IT Support Specialist (CTE Elective, Grades 11-12) (two-year equivalent, 20 credits) This year-long, 20-credit course prepares students for careers in computer technical support. Students have the opportunity to gain the Google IT Support Professional Certificate along with additional cybersecurity skills through Project Lead the Way Cybersecurity curriculum. Students will also participate in Essential Skills and Application Skills training to learn how to navigate the workplace and obtain employment.

Pre-Requisite(s): None

Biology of the Living Earth, Newcomer English Learner (EL Science, Grades 9-12) (one-year equivalent, 10 credits) This laboratory course provides English learners in a Newcomer Program a foundation for the biological and earth sciences. Topics include ecosystem interactions and energy, history of Earth's atmosphere, evidence for evolution, inheritance of traits, structure and function, and ecosystem stability, and the response to climate change. This course integrates ELD standards-based instruction to include a focus on academic vocabulary, expository writing, and expository reading of science texts. (See NGSS Performance Expectations & Disciplinary Core Ideas.) Instructors use a variety of scaffolded instructional techniques focusing on listening, speaking, reading, and writing to address the specific needs of Newcomer English Learners. This

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course emphasizes developing conceptual models through asking questions, analyzing data, designing and carrying out experiments, and designing solutions to real-world situation.

Physics of the Universe, Newcomer English Learner (EL Science, Grades 10-12) (one-year equivalent, 10 credits) This laboratory course addresses the relationships of physics in the universe for English learners in a Newcomer Program. Emphasis is on observing phenomena, gathering and interpreting data, developing models, discovering graphical and mathematical relationships, and engineering and refining solutions to realistic problem scenarios. This course integrates ELD standards-based instruction to include a focus on academic vocabulary, expository writing, and expository reading of science texts. (See NGSS Performance Expectations & Disciplinary Core Ideas.) Instructors use a variety of scaffolded instructional techniques focusing on listening, speaking, reading, and writing to address the specific needs of Newcomer English Learners. This course includes units on motion and forces, energy conversions, waves and electromagnetic waves, nuclear processes, and stellar processes.

UPDATE/REFRESH TO AN EXISTING COURSE:

AP Computer Science A (Course #07513) (Computer Science, Grades 10-12) (one-year equivalent, 10 credits) This course is equivalent to the first semester of a college-level course in computer science. The course introduces problem-solving and programming using Java. The topics in this course include program class design, implementation techniques, programming constructions, java library classes, and interfaces included in the AP Java subset, testing, debugging, runtime exceptions, program correctness, algorithm analysis, primitive data types, strings, classes, lists, one and two-dimensional arrays, sorting, searching, and operations on data structures. A minimum of 20 hours for hands-on lab experiences are also part of the course. This course is accepted by UC/CSU as a 4th year math course.

20. Revisions to High School Courses – Approved revisions to the high school courses below:

AP Computer Science A (Course #12118) (CTE Elective, Grades 11-12)

Computer Aided Design/Drafting (CADD) (Course #12100) (Mathematics, Grades 9-10)

Transition to Quantitative Reasoning (Course #03661) (Mathematics, Grade 12)

Quantitative Reasoning with Advanced Math Topics (Course #03147) (Grade 12)

Engineering Design A (Course #12346) (Grades 10-11)

Driver Education (Course #07001) (Elective, Grades 10-12)

IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL1 (Course #20080) (Grades 11-12)

VII. LCAP Update - None

VIII. Reports

- 1. Series 2021 Bonds: Issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds, Election of 2016, Series 2021, of Elk Grove Unified School District in the aggregate principal amount of \$140,500,000** - Ms. Albiani called on Xanthi Soriano for public comments submitted through the District's Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none.

Rob Pierce provided the board with a report regarding the sale of Measure M Bonds that occurred on April 6, 2021. On November 8, 2016 the electorate approved Measure M, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the District in an amount not to exceed \$476,000,000. Consistent with the parameters prescribed by Resolution No. 54, 2020-21, the District successfully sold the third series of Measure M bonds in the amount of \$140.5 million and the sale resulted in a significantly lower cost than budgeted in the previously presented and original bond series and structuring plan.

Board members thanked Rob and staff for the informative report.

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IX. Race and Educational Equity

1. Progress Report on Race and Educational Equity in EGUSD - Ms. Albiani called on Xanthi Soriano for public comments submitted through the District's Public Comment Form related to this item; the following live comments were made:

- Loreen Pryor addressed the Board via Zoom and expressed her concerns about what she felt the presentation was missing. Ms. Pryor requested that the District partner with her group for assistance on helping black students.
- Joel Boyd addressed the Board via Zoom and shared his concerns about the plan. He requested that the disproportionate discipline of black student be addressed and that the District hire black teachers and administrators so that the right people are in place to assist black students.

Staff provided the board with a report on the District's Race and Educational Equity Strategic Plan with a particular focus on racial justice. Regular progress reporting and monitoring of the implementation of the educational equity strategic plan is necessary for accountability, transparency, and guidance. The presentation included information specific to:

- An update on Racial Justice
- Families of Black Students United (FBSU)
- Newcomer/Refugee Supports
- Upcoming events

Board members provided input and thanked Mark Cerutti, Lisa Levasseur, Mat Espinosa and Lucy Bollinger for the presentation.

X. Budget Update – None

XI. Facilities Update – None

XII. Bargaining Units - None

XIII. Public Hearing/Action Items

1. First Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding, dated September 24, 2020, between Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) and National Union of Health Care Workers (NUHW) in Response to COVID-19 Coronavirus 2020-2021

Ms. Albiani opened the public hearing and called on Xanthi Soriano for public comments submitted through the District's Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none. Ms. Albiani closed the public hearing.

Motion 134, 2020-21 - Motion by Ms. Chaires Espinoza, seconded by Mr. Perez and carried by vote of Board members present that the MOU between Elk Grove Unified School District and National Union of Health Care Workers in response to COVID-19 Coronavirus 2020-21, be approved. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – Forcina; Absent – None*

XIV. Discussion Items – None

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XV. Action Items

- 1. Education Code Section 17556, et seq.: Consideration of Resolution of Intent to Convey Electrical Facilities Easement to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District for the Pleasant Grove Elementary School Project** - Ms. Albiani called on Xanthi Soriano for public comments submitted through the District's Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none

Rob Pierce provided the Board with an update about the Sacramento Municipal Utility District requesting that the District convey an Electrical Facilities Easement on the Pleasant Grove Elementary School site at 10160 Pleasant Grove School Road, Elk Grove, California. The final configuration of the easement will be determined, at SMUD's expense, upon the completion of the installation of the electrical facilities, recording the easement accurately in relation to the facilities. The purpose of the easements is to allow the Sacramento Municipal Utility District to access, construct and maintain electrical facilities serving the Pleasant Grove Elementary School campus.

Motion 135, 2020-21 - Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Mr. Perez and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Board members present that Resolution No. 60, Intent to Convey Electrical Facilities Easement to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District for the Pleasant Grove Elementary School project be adopted and that a public hearing be held on May 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Center. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

XVI. Board Member and Superintendent Reports – None

XVII. Information Items

- 1. Other Items from the Floor**

Ms. Chaires Espinoza read a statement from the District's Legal Counsel.

Mr. Forcina requested that the Board engage in a dialogue about having a student board member. Mr. Forcina also requested that public comment responses be placed on the agenda for discussion. Motion 136, 2020-21 - Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Mr. Perez and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Board members present. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

Ms. Chaires Espinoza requested that a table with the public comments that includes staff responses be sent to the Board.

Superintendent Hoffman apologized to Loreen Pryor and stated that he also apologized in writing. He shared that the District has a process for responding and will follow-up with her again to address the issue face to face.

Mr. Yang thanked the Board and EGUSD staff for sending out the letter of support for the Asian community.

XVIII. Adjournment – 10:00 p.m.

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Submitted by: Christopher R. Hoffman, Superintendent

Approved by: _____
Beth Albani, Board President

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ATTACHMENT: Public Comments submitted in writing to be read by staff

Timestamp	First Name	Last Name	Public Comments of Persons Desiring to Address the Board.
4/18/2021 21:26:10	Cynthia	Shallit	<p>Good evening Superintendent and Boardmembers, As an active volunteer for Moms Demand Action I urge you to inform parents about the importance of locking and storing guns safely in the home. We must do something about the 350 children who die every year from unintentional shootings. A letter, like the sample we have provided you, reminds parents how important this is and provides important information on HOW to store guns.</p> <p>In California , some cities such as Los Angeles and San Diego have already passed resolutions agreeing to send out Safe Gun Storage letters to parents every year, but Elk Grove would be the first in Northern California if you pass this resolution soon. We especially appreciate it that your staff is putting information on secure gun storage in the upcoming security and safety newsletter from their security office. Thank you so much for your willingness to do more than offer "thoughts and prayers" to our gun violence epidemic.</p>
4/19/2021 7:41:30	Robert		<p>Dear Board,</p> <p>Last month I put in a comment regarding light pollution from Foulks Ranch School. Thank you to the Board and Mr. Bill Hartin of EGUSD for the prompt response on correcting the offending situation. I had to be persistent to get the issue addressed. There may be other impacted individuals that may not know how to raise an issue of light pollution.</p> <p>So to be clear – light pollution is pollution and trespass. The mantra of the Board should not be that “we are going to pollute and trespass, and then when someone complains we will stop the pollution and trespass.” The mantra of the Board should be not to pollute and trespass in the first instance. If one can see glare from a property line, it is an indication that lights are not properly installed.</p> <p>While analysis is required to determine applicability, provided is a link to the Elk Grove Municipal Code on lighting that has as its intent to limit nighttime glare. Links are also provided to the Kern County Code because it has good illustrations, and the San Bernardino Land Use Services Division draft report on Light Trespass from February 2021 as informative.</p> <p>Recommended is that the Board provide any and all resources to EGUSD to inspect and adjust lighting as needed to prevent or abate light pollution. A metrics progress report posted on the EGUSD website would be nice to keep the public informed. Thank you.</p> <p>I can be contacted via email at 916-226-6873 or email at RSulli4098@aol.com.</p> <p>https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/ElkGrove/html/ElkGrove23/ElkGrove2356.html#23.56</p> <p>https://library.municode.com/ca/kern_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT19ZO_CH19.81_OULIDASKOR</p> <p>http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/lus/pc/LUS-PC-02-04-2021-Staff%20Report%20-Light%20Trespass%20Ordinance%20FINAL.pdf</p>

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4/19/2021 8:40:27	Anonym ous		<p>The April 6th Board of Trustees meeting of the Elk Grove Unified School District hit a new low. Let's review the highlights:</p> <p>1. Once again, there was an attempt to silence constituent voice by removing the ability to provide written comments. If it weren't for an observant member of the Parent Coalition, getting the ability for written comment back just 24 hours prior to the Board meeting, 49 voices would have silenced. Of course, we don't know how many tried to comment and couldn't prior to restoration. Although that seems to be fine with the Board President since there's a comment at every meeting about how long the meeting is going to take. It's worth reminding all the Trustees that you volunteered for this role. If working on behalf of students is too much, feel free to resign at any point.</p> <p>2. Although a motion made by Ms. Chaires Espinoza and approved unanimously by all the Trustees to agendize a discussion of a return to 5-day per week school prior to the end of the current school year, it wasn't on the agenda. As we are already in the final quarter of this school year, why wasn't this time critical item agendized immediately? Why did Ms. Chaires Espinoza remain silent and not demand to know the status of her item? Why didn't the Board President make any remarks on why it wasn't on the agenda?</p> <p>I'm sure there will be some arm waiving excuse that it can't be discussed due to the relationship with "labor partners". Which continues to be the priority over kids. At the end of the day this is just a big game of, "Gavin may I?". You are just going to wait until Gavin tells you what to do...total lack of leadership.</p> <p>3. The most egregious behavior though is reserved for the Superintendent. He straight up, and flat out lied about having a conversation with a parent constituent. There will be an apology because it was demanded but there's little confidence fundamental behavior will change since this Administration has a history of miscommunication, misrepresentation, twisting of the facts and manipulation. How can we trust anything that he says going forward? Frankly, it's time for this Superintendent to unconditionally resign.</p>
4/19/2021 8:50:02	Anonym ous		<p>I'm a sophomore at Franklin High. I didn't want to give my name because I'm afraid these comments might be held against me. Anyway, here it goes. I saw the District's April 4th Tweet that said, "We are committed to empowering our young people by giving them the educational resources they need and by helping them have a voice." If that's true, when can we go back to real school? I've been watching your meetings and don't understand how putting a time limit on comments if we're supposed to help us have a voice. Thank you for your time.</p>
4/19/2021 14:10:16	Julia	Butz	<p>Please extend the 4-day in-person learning model to 5 days. There is no valid reason that students should not attend school in person on Mondays. Being able to be back in the classroom with students and then going back to teaching remotely has just reaffirmed how ineffective the teaching and learning process is over Zoom. My students spent the first 15 minutes of Monday morning telling me how disappointed they were they had to be back on Zoom instead of in the classroom. Every minute of instruction counts and it should be in person whenever possible. Send the students back to school on Mondays for the remainder of the year.</p>

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4/19/2021 15:35:29	Mark	Graham	Good evening Board of Education Members and staff, Mark Graham in Elk Grove. Did you know the medical definition for Microwave Sickness according to Merriam-Webster dictionary is: a condition of impaired health first reported in the Russian medical literature that is characterized by headaches, anxiety, sleep disturbances, fatigue, and difficulty in concentrating and by changes in the cardiovascular and central nervous systems and that is held to be caused by prolonged exposure to low-intensity microwave radiation?- Did you know the short-term effects of microwave radiation exposure are: insomnia, headaches, nose/earbleeds, skin tingling/ heating/ flushing/rashes, pain, fatigue, nausea, irregular heartbeats, cognitive impairment, behavior issues, learning disabilities, anger, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and more?- Did you know it is a SCIENTIFIC FACT that long term exposure to microwave radiation causes biological effects that include developmental delays and neurological effects such as Depression, Suicide, Violence, Anxiety, Autism, Addiction, Behavioral Issues, Heart Episodes, Infertility, ADD/ADHD, Dementia, Alzheimer's and Cancer?- Did you know there are thousands of peer-reviewed studies dating as far back as 1969 supporting these findings?- Did you know children are more at risk due to thinner, softer craniums and bones, greater absorption of RF radiation into their brains, eyes, and bone marrow, and their developing immune, neurological, and reproductive systems? - Did you know that 1 in 3 children will become diabetic?- Did you know the closer you live to a cell tower the higher your blood glucose?- Did you know the way you create a model of diabetes in lab rats is by exposing them to 2.4 ghz?-Did you know there is an epidemic of mental health, such as suicide, violence and opioid addiction?- Did you know that colon cancer and rectal cancer are occurring at an increasing rate among young and middle-aged adults throughout the U.S and scientists suspect it is from keeping cell phones in their pockets? Our question is: Why are school officials closing their eyes to the overwhelming evidence of harm to our children in our schools?
4/19/2021 18:18:47	Lisa	Stanley	I am with Black Youth Leadership Project and I am profoundly disgusted with the complete disregard of our Black students' mistreatment by the Elk Grove school district. Black students are targeted, humiliated, overseen and disciplined at astronomical rates. To be exact, #1 in the state! The ongoing abuse by your staff is gross negligence and with schools reopening, we will NOT tolerate this behaviour! We will not subject our babies to the ignorance and bias of teachers, administrators, and staff and we demand a plan to address these statistics now!! We demand the board use The CARES Act funds to make this happen. Your staff should possess adequate competency skills in and beyond the classroom and yet they are perpetuating racial harm on a daily basis. The districts' utter inability to acknowledge and address these issues years ago is the sole responsibility of each one of the school board members. When you look in the mirror, YOUR inaction and silence contributed from 3rd to 1st place in the recent study, Don't Suspend our Future. In a time of heightened racial tensions, Black men and children are being murdered in the streets, in the middle of a global pandemic, your time to act is long overdue. You are in these seats to address the constituents concerns. Well here is your time! We will continue to show up, speak out and against the blatant racism that goes on on your campuses. Furthermore, Mr. Hoffman owes my colleague Lorreen Pryor and all of BYLP an apology for the lies he spoke at the April 6th School Board meeting. No one from his office has been in contact with her regarding her public comments over the last 3 years regarding the disproportionate discipline rates in the school district. I am appalled at what I heard! This is Completely unacceptable and must be addressed today!!
4/19/2021 20:32:36	Kristin	Mullard	Please consider the impact to our students if k-1 teachers are required to complete 1:1 assessments in our current instructional model.

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4/20/2021 6:43:24	Minerva	Mandap	<p>Dear Superintendent Hoffman and Board Members, My name is Minerva Mandap. I am a parent of one child at Elliot Ranch Elementary School and one that recently graduated from Cosumnes Oak High School. I am writing to you today because I am concerned for the safety of all our children in Elk Grove. I want to respectfully request that the Elk Grove School District send letters home yearly to all parents, to educate them on the need to safely store all firearms that may be present in the home per the resolution put forth by the Moms Demand Action organization.</p> <p>An estimated 13 million American households with children under the age of 18 contain at least one gun, and approximately 4.6 million children live in a household with at least one gun that is stored loaded and unlocked. Every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. An overwhelming majority of unintentional shootings by children could have been prevented had the gun been stored securely.</p> <p>As an oncology RN at Sutter General Hospital, I regularly have to deal with life and death issues which is an expected outcome working on a cancer unit. But I know that gun violence in America is becoming way too frequent and is at an epidemic level, and I feel this resolution proposed would have a positive outcome in preventing deaths for our young children in our Elk Grove community. It's better to be proactive to prevent further gun catastrophe.</p>
4/20/2021 10:33:04	Anonym ous		<p>I am writing today in regards to the newly mandated Illuminate testing for K-2. As a parent of both a 2nd grader and a Kindergartner in EGUSD, I am frustrated that my children are going to be subjected to yet another new format of testing at the end of the year. This year has been filled with change. While children are resilient, some kids, like my 2nd grader, worry by nature. To throw another new test at them at the end of the year is just stressful for students. Teachers should be able to give the same tests they've been using all year long (such as the BPST) and let that remain the one constant thing in their education. While I understand a common baseline for student data is necessary, I do not feel this is the right time to administer a mandatory district test. We all know that in the fall, the new teacher is going to give diagnostic assessments for beginning of the year data – why not wait and give these mandatory assessments then? The data will be far more accurate and it will give both students and teachers TIME to take a break in what has been an incredibly stressful year.</p>
4/20/2021 11:45:49	Aimee	Morgan- Lopez	<p>The phrase of 2020 -2021 school year has definitely been "Show Grace". However, this is one thing that has not been shown to our educators. Teachers have been one of the only professions that have completely transformed the way they perform their jobs. With innovation and flexibility, teachers have continued to provide quality education, attended to the social emotional needs of their students, and have accommodated decisions made by others - people NOT in the trenches with them. At the beginning of this school year, EGUSD polled the community asking for their priorities. Social emotional needs were ranked as the top concern for families. Yet the recent decision to proceed with state accountability testing and standardizing K-2 assessments has shown that EGUSD's priority is to determine what has been learned this year - in the middle of a global crisis. This is in direct contrast to what EGUSD claimed would be their focus for the 2020-2021 school year - SEL. Students, families, and educators have experienced trauma this year. Although I understand the need to determine the effects the loss of instructional time has had on students, I would like to ask if the board has considered the fairness of assessing students while they are still experiencing ongoing trauma? I would like to ask that the board consider "giving grace" to its students and educators, at least in these last five weeks of school. Rather than rushing through assessing students in these final weeks, give grace and allow teachers to maximize the limited instructional time they have left. Standardized entry assessments would provide the baseline needed to determine instructional growth after interventions, but better than that, staying end of the year assessments would offer the often touted grace to our educators and students, who deserve it so very much.</p>

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4/20/2021 12:14:09	Anne	Spencer	<p>Dear Board of Trustees and Superintendent Hoffman, This letter is being submitted in the form of a written comment because those who participate in the meetings and provide telephonic comments are not able to re-access the meeting upon completion of their statements.</p> <p>It has been over six months since parents have repeatedly asked to be included in the process of reopening our schools. Now, parents are being offered a virtual facilitated listening session and breakout rooms. We were initially told the meeting would be tomorrow evening. Last week we received an email asking for us to choose between four meeting choices, ALL of which fall within typical working day hours. The system asked for us to rank our preferences one through four including one option of cannot attend. I made my selections, but received no notice of confirmation or an email as to which session I may attend. Yesterday, I received two more notifications asking me to make my selections, I responded yet again. It is now the day before the meetings, I have not received ZERO communication. This hardly feels like a true intent of inclusion. At this late date and the current offering of meeting hours, it is unlikely that I will actually be able to attend since I have a job which requires me to be present and in person. Further, if parents do not attend, we may once again be accused of not "availing" ourselves of the opportunity to participate.</p> <p>Is it your intent to include parents as representatives of their children--your students? If so, then a true committee meeting should be held during the evening hours when parents are able to attend. I look forward to an additional meeting time being offered.</p> <p>The time is ticking away on this school year, I implore you, our children NEED to be in the classroom five full days a week with transportation offered to students who are unable to get there. The two or four mornings a week currently being offered is not adequate to provide the academic and social growth our children's developing minds need. The 34% return to in-person instruction rate should alarm you! Where are the rest of your students? Are their academic and social needs being met? Answer these questions truthfully and get our kids back to school!</p>
4/20/2021 12:26:32	Anonym ous		<p>This is a collaborative comment from our kindergarten grade level in regards to the mandatory K-2 Illuminate testing.</p> <p>Professionally speaking, our time would be better-used meeting students' academic and social emotional needs in the 120 minutes of in person learning. Because our numbers of in person learners are so high on our campus, this 30 minute one-on-one test does not allow for an equitable distribution of our instruction time.</p> <p>We understand the desire to secure as much funding as possible, however, administering this assessment at this point in time, takes away from the short amount of time we have with our students – both daily and for the rest of the year. While our goal is to create independent learners, having 20+ kids in the classroom forces this test to be given outside the boundaries of our contract. It is just not physically feasible to expect us, or the instructional coaches, to complete this last minute request within the new time parameters.</p> <p>This is causing undue stress on all parties involved. This assessment was advertised as optional up until last week. So many teachers do not feel confident or have had ample time to familiarize themselves with this assessment and yet are now forced to give it with very little notice. We have been bombarded with change in the last two months. First, we adapted to one of the most arduous schedules, on more than one occasion, but now we are forced on yet another change.</p> <p>It is within your power to alleviate this undo stress and offer Grace for your employees, teachers, and kids alike. We are asking for a reprieve. Please consider our social and emotional needs over funding.</p>

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4/20/2021 14:30:23	Rachel	Brock	<p>Dear Superintendent Hoffman and Board Members - My name is Dr. Rachel Brock, and I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.</p> <p>I am concerned for the safety of all our children. I am writing today to respectfully request that the Elk Grove School District send letters home every year to all students' households, to educate them on the need to safely store all firearms that may be present in the home.</p> <p>In early medical training, we were taught that asking about firearm safety was part of a basic childhood safety screening. In addition to asking if children wear bike helmets, wear seat belts, and use sunscreen, we were taught to ask if there were guns in the home, or in homes that the child visits. If there were firearms in the home, we were taught how necessary it was to educate the parent or guardian on safe firearm storage.</p> <p>In my practice today as a radiologist I've seen the incredible immediate and long-term damage that gun violence can do. To keep our children safe, annual education about safe firearm storage is an important step in preventing devastating, unnecessary injuries and deaths.</p>
4/20/2021 15:09:00	Anonym ous		<p>I wanted to say thank you for all that you have done for the students and staff. You have put our health and safety first and that has not gone unnoticed by the majority of us. You don't deserve all the backlash you have received this past year, a year like no other. In the midst of a pandemic, blame should not be on those who have had no control over it. We have never experienced this. Thank you for putting our health and safety first.</p>
4/20/2021 15:35:47	Karen	Siopong co	<p>Dear Superintendent Hoffman and Board Members. My name is Karen Siopongco. I am a concerned parent with two children, Karissa and Caden, attending Cosumnes Oaks High School and Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School, respectively. I am concerned for the safety of all our children. I am unable to attend the zoom meeting but I wanted to take the time to respectfully request that the Elk Grove School District send letters home yearly to all parents, to educate them on the need to safely store all firearms that may be present in the home. Schools up and down California are adopting a School Resolution on Safe Storage similar to the one we emailed you a few weeks ago. Los Angeles USD did theirs a couple years ago. And San Diego USD passed this resolution a month or two ago. Many other smaller school districts have also adopted this resolution. The National PTA stands behind the safe storage of firearms to protect children. We need to educate Elk Grove parents about this critical tool keeping children safe. My husband and I are both RNs who have committed our working lives to save people's lives but we need Elk Grove school district to adopt this resolution to help save lives. Thank you for your time in considering this valuable resolution to protect our children.</p>
4/20/2021 15:49:03	Vivian	Cruz	<p>Pls address kids safety with at home and school.</p>

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4/20/2021 15:50:41	Sommer	Lawton	<p>Good evening members of the board. As a Kindergarten teacher, I am having difficulty understanding the mandated assessments this late in the year. Teachers received clearance for the entire year on September 28th from the district. In the email states, "For the 2020-21 school year EITHER the Recommended Interim Assessments for the 2020-21 school year OR the Benchmark Assessments from the 2019-20 school year may be used..... During COVID-19 the thinking is to "require" fewer assessments and give teachers the flexibility to choose their own method of assessment for many items on the report card.". The email that was sent from the district, last week goes completely against what we have been previously instructed.</p> <p>I would like to say that panic has now ensued, but it has already been there. Asking Kinder and 1st-grade teachers to assess in a 2-hour window, and 2nd-grade teachers to assess while teaching concurrent has already made us anxious. Now we are being told to use a testing platform that many of us have not used this year (Illuminate) and to give different assessments. I can speak for Kindergarten when I say, these assessments are not aligned with our standards and our report card. We have not been given time to work with the assessment, or to be fully trained on Illuminate. We do not have time in our day to add something new.</p> <p>In addition, we are being told that our fabulous site coach will be available to help us. That's wonderful! But, I don't think the district realized that this one person will be responsible for 3 grade levels at 3 different sites. We have approximately 100 kindergarteners enrolled, 100 1st graders, and 125 2nd graders. That's 325 students at our site, times 3 sites. Our coach is expected to assist with an average of 975 total students at 3 sites?! How is this possible?</p> <p>How about our testing window? For the Modified Traditional Kindergarten schedule, we have 8 weeks left of school, but only 6 weeks left to assess. In those 6 weeks, we are still teaching the basics of how to be students. We are teaching how to hold a pencil, how to raise your hand, how to get supplies out each day, and so much more. We can barely get through 2 activities each day. How are we supposed to assess? Our site coach cannot be everywhere at once.</p> <p>The Illuminate program is not a flawless platform. The assessments have not been created by teachers who are currently teaching Kindergarten, First, or Second grade. The tests are not aligned with how teachers have been teaching. This is a program that we are rushing to use, instead of addressing the issues and listening to teachers.</p> <p>We have been told to put it on a timesheet if we need to add extra hours. I don't have enough hours in a day to do this. I work until 5:30 most nights as is, not including the additional planning I do on weekends or materials I have to bring home to prep. I need to be a parent after 5:30. I have put my life on hold for my job this year. If this isn't the time to say, "Enough is enough!", when is?</p> <p>We have been asked to do the impossible this year and we have done that. Now we are being asked to do it again. I can't. I'm spent.</p>
4/20/2021 16:25:20	OLIVIA	SOSA	<p>I am requesting the the EGUSD board adopt a resolution for gun safety. Millions of children and teen live in homes with unsafe gun storage. The district can help fix this by sending out info regarding the safe storage of guns in the homes to avoid unintentional shootings by children. Over 1700 of these occurred between the years 2015-2019. Thank you for your support.</p>