

# **Escalon Unified School District**

**Board of Education**

**August 17, 2021; 7:00 PM**

**Location: District Office**

## **Minutes**

### **Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:**

#### Present:

Sarah Bava

Nicholas Caton

John Largent

Kate Powell

Janai Stanton

Richard Thompson

### **1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM**

### **2. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

### **3. CLOSED SESSION**

#### **3.1. Call closed session to order**

#### **3.2. Discuss employment/discipline/release/acceptance of retirement/resignation/appointment or replacement of district employees**

#### **3.3. Conference with Superintendent and District Negotiator regarding negotiations**

#### **3.4. Superintendent Employment**

#### **3.5. Adjourn closed session**

### **4. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM**

Minutes:

7:00pm

### **5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Minutes:

Recited

## **6. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Minutes:

The board accepted Superintendent Ron Costa's resignation from Escalon Unified School District effective June 30, 2022.

The Board appointed Ricardo Chavez as Superintendent effective July 1, 2022 pending approval of his Superintendent employment contract at the September 7, 2021 board meeting.

## **7. ADDITION TO THE AGENDA**

Minutes:

None

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1. Escalon High School Board Representative**

Minutes:

Superintendent Costa introduced and welcomed the new Student Board Representative for the 2021-2022 school year Sarah Bava.

Sarah reported on events taking place at Escalon High School. Back to School Night is Wednesday, August 18, 2021. A Pep Rally is taking place on Friday, August 20, 2021. The first home game is taking place against Linden. Fall sports are in full swing.

## **9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

Minutes:

Superintendent Costa shared a letter the Escalon Unified School District Board of Trustees should have received from Tomas Argon, Director and State Public Health Officer of the California Department of Public Health responding to the letter the board submitted to him and his department.

## **10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Minutes:

Superintendent Costa updated the board on the 2021-2022 inter/intra district transfers. The district has approved 193 incoming inter-district transfers, and denied 19. The district has approved 80 outgoing inter-district transfers, and denied 7. There are 126 approved intra-district transfers, and 3 denied.

An email was sent to Tammy Alcantor, the Escalon City Manager, suggesting resuming the monthly city/school meetings.

School sites have been doing a warm body count, and as of today the district has 2594 students, which doesn't include Gateway. Enrollment shows the district has 2917 student enrolled, including Gateway.

Nelarie Romo has taken the lead on making charts showing the guidelines, for both students and adults. The charts will show the steps required to take when individuals are either COVID symptomatic or COVID positive. Sites will receive copies of the charts to ensure the district is following state guidelines and continue to make safety a priority.

Superintendent Costa read to the board and the community his letter of retirement.

## **11. FACILITIES REPORT**

Minutes:

Director of M.O.T John Lial reported on facilities. His department is still short bus drivers, but a few interested candidates have come forward.

The Collegeville parking lot looks amazing, and the back playfield is ready for hydroseeding.

Grounds crews have been working hard to keep the grounds in good condition. Sports are starting back up and the lining of the football field is schedule, along with getting the soccer fields ready for the next season.

TPH Architects have submitted the plans for the restroom renovations at Collegeville, Farmington, and Van Allen. The project is pending DSA final approval.

## **12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Minutes:

Joel Johannsen, Principal of Gateway Charter Academy thanked the board for their support during the difficult times everyone is living through. He commented on his career working alongside Superintendent Costa and thanked him also for his leadership.

Ryan Roberson commented his children cry before going to school because they have to wear a mask all day. He questioned what the process would be as a parent to change the districts mask mandate. Board President John Largent asked him to please call Superintendent Costa.

City Councilman Peter Krumeich commented on how strongly he feels against enforcing mask wearing in the community. He stated he wasn't going to speak on the decision school districts made on mask wearing, but did ask the board to take a stand against the mask mandate.

He stated he is choosing liberty over government, and isn't going to be controlled by the pandemic.

Josh Icorn commented he is very happy kids are no longer on distance learning. His daughter is not yet 5 years old, and has to wear a mask all day, even during nap time. He is not happy with the district decision to enforce mask wearing for students, and asks that the decision be reconsidered.

Kristen mother of 4 commented wearing a mask has really never been about health. Her daughter has been ill because of the mask. Wearing a mask is affecting their mental health. They are unable to see their teachers expression and it's affecting their immune system.

She asked that EUSD stand with parents against masking kids.

Mark Farley commented he moved from Stockton so his kids could attend Escalon schools. He is asking EUSD to fight for kids not wearing a mask. His kids are happy attending Escalon schools, and he'd like to keep them in this district.

Kristen Lial commented how much she and the community appreciate that EUSD schools returned to in-person learning while other districts hadn't. She stated she understands it's not up to the board, but a state mandate. Her family has taken trips lately, and they didn't have to wear a mask. She asks the board to consider giving families the choice.

Katrina commented her husband recently underwent a kidney transplant and she knows how to keep him healthy, but can't help her daughter with the effects of wearing a mask all day at school. She is concerned that her daughter has had to wear a mask on the bus and all day at school, while temperatures have been over a 100 degrees.

Janet Arneth commented kids are not meant to be wearing a mask all day. She feels they can cause cancer, and it's affecting their mental health. She asked the board what research they need to make a different decision on the mask mandate in schools, because she has data showing that masks don't protect. It even states it on the box.

### **13. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Kate Powell and a second by Nicholas Caton.

Yes Nicholas Caton  
Yes John Largent  
Yes Kate Powell  
Yes Janai Stanton  
Yes Richard Thompson

#### **13.1. Approval of Minutes, July 20, 2021 & August 3, 2021**

#### **13.2. Approval of Bills/Warrants**

#### **13.3. Retirements/Resignations**

**13.3.1. Melanie Houser Pagano, Cafeteria Assistant, Van Allen Elementary, effective immediately**

**13.3.2. Micah Cook, Custodian / Other Duties, EHS, effective 08/27/2021**

**13.4. Request to Hire/Change Status**

**13.4.1. Martha Torres, ASP Instructional Assistant, Collegeville Elementary, effective TBD**

**13.4.2. Maria Teves, Cafeteria Assistant, Dent Elementary, effective 08/01/2021**

**13.4.3. Chelsea Martin, Yard Duty, El Portal Middle School, effective TBD**

**14. ACTION ITEMS**

**14.1. Consider Approval to Surplus E-Waste Materials**

**Motion Passed:** The Administration Recommends the Escalon Unified School District Board of Trustees Approve the Surplus E-waste Items as proposed. Passed with a motion by Kate Powell and a second by Richard Thompson.

Yes Nicholas Caton  
Yes John Largent  
Yes Kate Powell  
Yes Janai Stanton  
Yes Richard Thompson

**14.2. Consider Approval of Updated EHS Stipend Assignments**

**Motion Passed:** The Administration Recommends the Escalon Unified School District Board of Trustees Approve the EHS Updated Stipend Positions Passed with a motion by Janai Stanton and a second by Kate Powell.

Abstain Nicholas Caton  
Abstain John Largent  
Yes Kate Powell  
Yes Janai Stanton  
Yes Richard Thompson

**14.3. Consider Approval of Board Policy Revisions**

**Motion Passed:** The Administration Recommends the Escalon Unified

School Board of Trustees Approve the Board Policy Revisions Passed with a motion by Richard Thompson and a second by Nicholas Caton.

Yes Nicholas Caton  
Yes John Largent  
Yes Kate Powell  
Yes Janai Stanton  
Yes Richard Thompson

## **15. INFORMATION**

Minutes:  
None

## **16. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Minutes:  
Board Clerk Nick Caton thanked the parents and community members who attended today's board meeting. He asked they take their enthusiasm to the state level. He congratulated Ricardo Chavez on being appointed Superintendent beginning the 2022-2023 school year. He commended Superintendent Costa for his dedication, especially in the last 18 -20 months during the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that because of Superintendent Costa kids returned to school before other districts had.

## **17. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**17.1. August**

**17.2. September**

## **18. ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes:  
7:43pm