



BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD

Notice of Special Meeting  
February 24, 2022 5:00 PM

Benicia Unified School District Board Room 350 East K Street Benicia, CA 94510. This meeting will be in-person and masks are mandatory. For those not in-person, we will continue to Livestream and it will be recorded via the BUSD YouTube channel.

**Attendance Taken at 5:01 PM:**

Present:

Diane Ferrucci  
CeCe Grubbs  
Mark Maselli  
Gethsemane Moss  
Sheri Zada

**1. CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 p.m.**

Minutes:

President Zada called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. Open Session - 5:00 P.M.**

**3.1. Announcement**

Quick Summary:

This meeting is recorded for livestreaming and archiving on the District YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/beniciaunifiedschooldistrict> for your convenience.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Approval of the agenda 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

## **5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Minutes:

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Zada.

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

### **6.1. Superintendent Report**

Minutes:

There was nothing to report.

### **6.2. Board Reports**

Minutes:

Trustee Maselli spoke to the mask mandate and will discuss during the item.

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

Minutes:

The following people spoke to the hiring of the new Superintendent:

Andrew Miller: A community member with children in our schools asked that we hire within the community.

Kasey Waggoner: Asked that we consider Town hall meetings in hiring process and consider internal.

Greg Thomas: Expressed that mistakes and unprofessional documents were a reflection of service that would be provided from search firm. Secondly, that although there were areas of improvement for the District not too much change is needed and we should consider internal candidates to keep the work going forward.

Quick Summary:

PLEASE NOTE: BUSD has moved to in-person Board meetings. We ask that members of the public, who wish to attend, including those who wish to address the board, wear a mask over their nose and mouth at all times. All functions of the Board meeting, including public comments, will take place in person. Members of the public may address the Board at a regular meeting on any item within the Board's jurisdiction. Speaker cards are available on the entrance table. Please note the item you wish to speak to and submit a card to the Board Secretary. The Board President will call all the "open session" general comments (Gov. Code Section 54954.3) during the public comment item. Comments for items on the agenda will be called during the specific

item. Comments are limited to no more than three minutes per speaker or the board may limit the total time to 20 minutes per item with the timer displayed on the monitors. 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 as students may be watching the board meeting, thank you.

## **8. COMMUNICATION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **8.1. Development of Materials/Timeline for BUSD Superintendent Search**

#### Rationale:

Mr. Ferguson, M & J, L.L.C consultant will inform the Board on the following in regards to the Superintendent Search: Materials for BUSD Search Brochure Advertising Venues Set-up and Schedule of Future Board Meetings Needed for the process Search Timeline Identification of different Stakeholder Groups within the District for search input

#### Minutes:

Mr. Ferguson was invited to make his presentation to the Board on the next steps in the Superintendent hiring process. The suggested timeline provided, although it states Davis at the top of he confirmed that it was for BUSD.

What do you want to see in your new superintendent?

Strong curriculum background and candidates that worked in a diverse community as well. Active in different associations within our school system.

Strong communicator regardless of the group they are speaking to and a good writer. Variety of experience within the education system. What types of relationships within the community they are serving.

Someone that is open and transparent. Someone who is responsive to all stakeholders. A wealth of experiences outside of our district and has been in the classroom sooner rather than later.

Someone that has crisis response training and is able to be proactive. Times are changing, education is changing this calls for someone that is forward thinking. Strong relationship builders.

Many of the characteristics have been listed in the previous brochure. We need to ensure we are more in alignment with what had been previously stated.

It would be a benefit to have someone that is bilingual. Flexibility

The truth of the matter is that we have a great staff/District with that said a potential leader of this district is thinking of this and can take it to the next level.

Concern of Out-of-State candidates is the cost of living, Ed Code is another issue, the teacher unions in California is some of the strongest, and Brown Act-California is one state that has it. Most states do not. We will not close the door, but this will not be a priority. There will be an additional fee for out of state advertising (which is about \$600) to keep in mind. This will be open to everyone internal/external candidates. If an internal candidate is applying, they should have the same treatment as external. All candidates will be treated exactly the same.

This brochure needs to be wrapped up and published in order for the advertising to begin as soon as possible.

Stakeholders: We want to get a group of stakeholders. All student groups should be involved not just student leadership. As many people's opinions will be collected.

Interview Process:

Social interaction-Breakfast, lunch etc. provided the opportunity to examine the community commitment and investment.

Timeline dates looking at the next Board meeting:

An hour will be needed during closed session starting at 5pm April 7, 2022. Short presentation during Open Session.

Special Closed Session Monday, April 25 starting 4:30-6pm.

Interview the candidates: 4-6 Candidates

Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1

Breakfast 8:30-9:15am

Nicole Anderson from McPherson & Jacobson took notes for them and summarized the process at the end for the Board that they will be sending to them.

## **9. INFORMATIONAL/NON-CONSENT ACTION ITEM**

### **9.1. Response to Mask Mandate**

Rationale:

The current mask mandate in place for California Public Schools is generating considerable discussion within individual school districts throughout the state and

recently, Benicia Unified as well. The Board will discuss the current mask mandate in place for California Public Schools in relation to the current timeline as per Governor Newsom's update for California Public Schools he will be delivering next week, Monday, February 28. The Board will discuss whether or not the Benicia Unified School District should lift the mask mandate ahead of the Governor's direction or wait for the direction and proceed accordingly. Either way forward will necessitate working closely with both employee groups and clear communication with our parent community.

Minutes:

The following people spoke in support of the lifting the mask mandate now with some allowed speaking more than once:

Nicole Waskow-Opperman, Natalie Heckaman, Lea Mojito, Janet Roberson, Courtney Cronon, Greg Thomas, Jennifer Kelly, Amber Clemons, Sandy Gallardo, Gareth Whatcott, Heather Kirby, Tania Kopper, Robin Pauletich, Colton Charlson, Andrew Miller, Kasey Waggner, Amber Clemons, Kasey Waggoner, Natalie Heckaman, Tanya Kopper, Janet Roberson, Heather Kirby, Nicole Wasko-Opperman, Amber Clemons, Nicole Lamet.

Once the second round of public comments took place Trustee Ferrucci made a motion in favor of mask being optional as of March 1, 2022, without a second to her motion the motion died.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm by President Zada.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Clerk

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Secretary