

DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 15, 2021

1. NOTICE: Board Meeting to be held remotely via Zoom due to COVID-19

2. 5:30 p.m. CLOSED SESSION

Minutes:

Board Vice President Carroll announced that to be in compliance with the Governor of California's "Safer-at-Home Order" due to COVID-19, this meeting was being held remotely.

Board members Carroll, Finlay, and Ku were in attendance. Mrs. Carroll proceeded to call the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m., and announced that at this time, the Board of Education would listen to communication from the public on any Closed Session agenda item. No Comments were received, and the board immediately recessed to closed session. Mr. Bell joined closed session at 6:00 p.m.

The board recessed from closed session at 6:30 p.m.

2.1. Government Code Section 54956.9 - Subdivision (d)(2) Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

One Case

2.2. Conference with Labor Negotiators - Designated Negotiators: Gordon Amerson, Superintendent; Rick Crosby, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel; Jim Bauler, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services; Nadia Hillman, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

2.3. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

2.4. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9(a))

3. ACTION RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Minutes:

Mrs. Carroll announced that the Board of Education had just returned from closed session, and Dr. Amerson reported the action taken while in closed session: the Board took action to approve/ratify the March 19, 2021 Final Settlement Agreement and General Release between the Parent on behalf of herself and the Student #11831 and the Duarte Unified School District OAH Case No. 2021010561. The vote was 4-0 and once absence.

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4. 7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Mrs. Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

5. ROLL CALL

Minutes:

All board members with the exception of Mrs. Diaz were present at the time roll call was taken. The superintendent, cabinet members, and Student Board Member Arianna Serna was also present. Student Board Member Olga Garcia was absent. Mrs. Diaz joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

6. FLAG SALUTE

Minutes:

Ken Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silent reflection.

7. BELIEFS/VISION/MISSION

Minutes:

Mrs. Ku read the District's Beliefs, and Dr. Finlay read the Vision and Mission Statements.

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion Passed: Adopt the agenda. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Dr. James Finlay.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell

Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll

Absent Mrs. Reyna Diaz

Yes Dr. James Finlay

Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minutes:

A welcome back video prepared by each of the site District administrators was played.

10. REPORTS FROM STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Minutes:

Student Board Member Arianna Serna reported highlights of school activities from Duarte High School.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Minutes:

Dr. Amerson reported that the reopening plans with procedures and protocols had been shared with the board; and he has found the enthusiasm shared by the principals uplifting. This transition period to reintroduce our students and staff back for on-campus learning is journey not a sprint, but he looks forward to the transition process. Back in March of 2020, we had to make the decision to close our schools, and it has been a long year. During this time there has been a lot of work, dedication, and commitment by our entire district to be able to endure this pandemic, but this team has done a great job in prioritizing the safety and security of our staff and students. Once the direction was to begin to transition back to campus, we prioritized providing vaccinations to our community. Throughout this time, Mr. Bauler and Mr. Geno have been leading the efforts of securing the proper PPE and necessary materials. He was happy to report that both of our high schools did extremely well in their most recent WASC reviews; all involved should be applauded. Duarte High School had their WASC review this week, and Mt. Olive had theirs several months ago. WASC is important because it validates the education our students go through. A WASC team not only comprehensively reviews the teaching and learning components, but also the school culture. He provided an update on Measure S and shared that in the coming months we will start bringing more reports and information to the board as we begin the initial first stage process. This will include a lot of engagement opportunities; we want the modernization and upgrading of our schools to be something everyone can celebrate. He shared an update on the directive given in December by our board president related to school consolidation and facility needs. The board has been briefed by our legal counsel on the process and next steps, and it has become clear to us that we want to take a pause to ensure we have a comprehensive process. As a result of that, the board is going to be considering this ongoing conversation into the 2021-22 school year before any final decisions are made. He thanked the Board, Student Board representatives, and his team for their commitment to our school district and the work we are doing.

12. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

13. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

13.1. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 4, 2021; and the special meetings of March 17, 2021, and April 6, 2021.

Motion Passed: Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 4, 2021; and the special meetings of March 17, 2021, and April 6, 2021. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Dr. James Finlay.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

13.2. Approve the Consent Calendar

Motion Passed: Approve the Consent Calendar. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Mrs. Ceci Carroll.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

- 13.2.1. Purchase Orders
- 13.2.2. Commercial B Warrants and Summary Report
- 13.2.3. Certificated Personnel Report
- 13.2.4. Classified Personnel Report
- 13.2.5. Consultants/Other
- 13.2.6. Conference Attendance
- 13.2.7. Duarte High School ASB Report
- 13.2.8. Fund Raising Activity Report
- 13.2.9. Addendum to the Master Contract with Intercare Therapy, Inc., a Non-Public Agency (NPA), for the 2020-21 School Year
- 13.2.10. Annual Membership Agreement with the San Gabriel Valley Food Service Purchasing Co-op for the 2021-2022 School Year

13.2.11. One Year Produce Emergency Contract on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Food Service Purchasing Co-op with Goldstar Foods for the 2021-2022 School Year

13.2.12. Agreement with the Regents of the University of California (UC San Diego) to Provide Medical Oversight to the District's Health Services Department

13.2.13. One Year Produce Emergency Contract on behalf of San Gabriel Valley Food Service Purchasing Co-op with Continental Sales Company/Valley Fruit and Produce for the 2021-2022 School Year

13.2.14. MOU with Azusa Unified SD for the K12 Strong Workforce Program (K12 SWP)

13.2.15. Pool Use Agreement with the City of Duarte for use of City-Owned Fitness Center Pool for the 2021 Swim Team Season

13.2.16. Additional Funding for Partners in Special Education, a Non-Public Agency (NPA), for the 2020-2021 School Year

13.2.17. Surplus Technology Items

13.3. First Reading/Approval of Board Bylaw

Motion Passed: Receive for first reading and approval: Duarte Unified School District Board Bylaw Number 9323. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Mrs. Jacqueline Ku.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell

Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll

Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz

Yes Dr. James Finlay

Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

14. PERSONNEL/STUDENT SERVICES

14.1. Proclamation No. 25-20-21 Declaring May 13, 2021, as "Day of the Teacher"

Motion Passed: Approve Proclamation No. 25-20-21, declaring May 13, 2021, as "Day of the Teacher". Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Mrs. Ceci Carroll.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Prior to approval of the motion, time was allowed for questions and answers. Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

14.2. Declaring Week of May 16-22, 2021, as Classified School Employee Week

Motion Passed: Approve Proclamation 24-20-21 declaring May 16-22, 2021, as "Classified School Employee Week". Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Dr. James Finlay.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Prior to approval of the motion, time was allowed for questions and answers. Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

14.3. MOU Between DUSD and DUEA Dated March 18, 2021

Minutes:

Prior to approval of the motion, time was allowed for questions and answers. Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

14.4. Reduction of Assigned Hours of Classified Position

Motion Passed: Approve the reduction of the Assigned Hours for a Secretary III, classified position. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Dr. James Finlay.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Prior to approval of the motion, time was allowed for questions and answers. Board members provided their vote by roll call. The preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast as an abstention to the motion.

15. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

15.1. Revised 2020-2021 Single Plans for Student Achievement

Motion Passed: Approve the Revised 2020-2021 Single Plans for Student Achievement. Passed with a motion by Mr. Ken Bell and a second by Mrs. Ceci Carroll.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Prior to approval of the motion, time was allowed for questions and answers. Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

16. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

16.1. Budget Adjustment Summary No. 3 to the 2020-21 Adopted Budget

Motion Passed: Approve Budget Adjustment Summary No. 3 to the 2020-21 Adopted Budget. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Ceci Carroll and a second by Dr. James Finlay.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Prior to approval of the motion, time was allowed for questions and answers. Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion.

17. NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS, STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS, AND SUPERINTENDENT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

Minutes:

Mr. Bell thanked the staff for putting together the welcome back video that was shared. He also thanked Miss Serna for keeping us abreast on what is going on at the Duarte High School Campus; he looks forward to continuing to hear from her. He shared that former Board President Doug Edwards had surgery. He asked that we keep him in our thoughts and prayers and perhaps send him something to let him know we are thinking about him.

Mrs. Carroll loved the beautiful welcome back video shared tonight, it warmed her heart. She is happy that her son is excited to return to campus for hybrid learning. She is very excited about results from the WASC review which appears to be a six year accreditation. She also participated in the WASC Zoom meeting. All the teachers were amazing, and she gave a special thanks to Leslie Bartlett for doing a wonderful job in leading the WASC. With those results there is much to celebrate, and our district is solid.

Dr. Finlay shared his thoughts on the DHS WASC accreditation process. It was great to see the hard work that is taking place there and throughout the district is being recognized by an outside body. He commended Leslie Bartlett and the Duarte High team for letting some outside visitors come in and see what a great place it is. He expressed his gratitude to all the teachers and administrators for the many ways they have pivoted to provide instruction during this pandemic; it is impressive. His youngest child started back at school; he had been counting down the days when he would get to see his teacher. His other children are also excited to go back. This year, more than ever, the staff is so deserving of recognition, and he hopes we can recognize them for Day of the Teacher and Week of the Classified.

Mrs. Ku shared that it was great to see everyone's faces in the meeting. She asked everyone to take a moment to recognize this is where we are at: getting back to school, people are getting vaccinated, and things are opening up. Throughout all this COVID-19 journey we have all been learning, and the Duarte school community has done an amazing job rolling with the punches. Everyone has been so positive and optimistic about the potential we can bring about. She is excited for what is to come and can't wait to see everyone in person.

Miss Serna is very proud to be a student board member and having the ability to share her voice as well as the voices of her classmates. Watching the welcome back video that was shared tonight made her very happy; she shares the same happiness that was shown by the students in the video. This is the home stretch and the time they have all been waiting for. She acknowledged the teachers, staff, and students for their hard work during these times. She loves that we have a Day of the Teacher and Classified Employee Week. Especially right now, it is very important to recognize them. She was glad to have participated in the WASC review and highlight her school. She is proud to be a Falcon.

Mrs. Diaz apologized for being late to the meeting. She shared that during the board meetings, she takes notes and reflects on them at home. Many parents do not know what WASC is, and long ago she did not know either, but she learned that WASC is very important and validates that we are preparing our students well so that when they do what they need to do in school, they can attend any university of their choice.

Dr. Amerson emphasized the importance of WASC; it is very high stakes. Upon meeting with the teachers for a debrief, they realized how important it was. They have put in so much work to ensure the school was in a good place to receive the WASC committee and to showcase the wonderful progress that has been made over last few years. He is very proud of the leadership of Mr. Haro, Mr. Earnest, and Leslie Bartlett, and everyone else at DHS-kudos to everyone that played a role. So that everyone could fully appreciate the importance of the WASC validation, he explained exactly what WASC is: Western Association of Schools and colleges. It is an accreditation body that creates standards and expectations that govern whether a school meets the criteria to be designated that their high school diplomas, and the program by which it was created, warrants acceptance by colleges and universities.

18. CLOSED SESSION

19. GENERAL SESSION FOR ACTION

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Adjourn. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Ceci Carroll and a second by Dr. James Finlay.

Yes Mr. Ken Bell
Yes Mrs. Ceci Carroll
Yes Mrs. Reyna Diaz
Yes Dr. James Finlay
Yes Mrs. Jacqueline Ku

Minutes:

Board members provided their vote by roll call. A preferential vote by Student Board Member Serna was cast in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Gordon Amerson, Superintendent

Reyna Diaz, President