



Inspiring Hope and Empowering All Students To Courageously Pursue Their Goals and Dreams

**Governing Board
Study Session and Special Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER STUDY SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING:

Mr. Sunn, Governing Board President, at 4:00 p.m., called the study session and special meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL: Mr. Delson Sunn, Mrs. Nubia Briceno, and Mrs. Susan Doucet were in attendance.

Administration Present:

Kristine Morris, Superintendent

Ana M. Avalos, Director of Human Resources

Susan O’Rielly, Executive Director of Business Services

Dr. Randy Watkins, Hurley Ranch Principal

Renee Estrella-Chavez, Dos Rios Assistant Principal

Melanie Block, Director of Academic Services

Carrie Brandon, Director of Student Services

Michael Welsh, Union Principal

Matthew Haley, Network Administrator

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Briceno, seconded by Mrs. Doucet to approve the agenda. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mr. Sunn, Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS: 2020-2021 School Re-Opening Plan

Q. Mr. Sunn stated that since the number of cases is rising, the Governor may shut down schools again, have you thought about that?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded yes.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked Ms. Melanie Block how did you come up with the class sizes?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded that she took the staffing ratio that we have and divided it out.

Q. Mrs. Briceno stated we can’t always get substitute teachers and in the past we split up classrooms. What are we going to do?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris stated that we are working on a reporting protocol so that we can create options for those situations. Ms. Ana Avalos and principals are the working group for this task.

Q. Mr. Sunn directed his questions to Ms. Ana Avalos asking if we will notify parents at the beginning of the year of the options if a teacher is out so that it doesn’t come as a complete surprise to the parent?

A. Mrs. Ana Avalos responded yes. At any given time we have to be ready to mobilize any option. We have to work with the team to be able to provide learning opportunities even if we have to shut down a classroom.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked how will the A/B day schedule work?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded that the groups would rotate from being at school 2 days one week to 3 days the next week.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked how are we accounting for holidays with the A/B schedule, so students are getting the same time in class?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded that she has planned around holidays. For example, “A” day would start on Tuesday if the holiday were on a Monday, so that we are not losing one group all the time due to Monday holidays. Ms. Kristine Morris stated that this would require communication to parents well in

advance so they can plan.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked how many hours in class with an AM/PM day?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded that I am proposing 3 hours in class and 3 hours remote to give us 6 hours.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked if that was the normal time when we have kindergarten half day? Is it around 3 hours?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded it is about 3.5 hours. Mrs. Susan O'Rielly added that to meet instructional minutes for our 4th-8th grade students 6 hours a day would be the requirement to meet statute.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked what would be the normal hours to log in? Is there assistance for those that need help after hours that cannot log in during the normal hours? Is there assistance for those students if they have a question with logging in or with questions related to the lesson? Will there be someone available even if it is random hours?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded that it would be to support with technology and instruction. We do have a support team that you can submit a support ticket too. With regards to instruction this is something we haven't thought about and I will make a note to look into it. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that we do have in mind that it would reflect more traditional school day hours, and we would not give only one device per family, but a device per child so they could have access. We are also working on headphones, so the noise levels are not competing. We are putting in place some structures to better support families. We also know we may need increased tech support (STEM teachers, library media specialists could assist possibly as the help desk) to help.

Q. Mrs. Briceno stated that some may need help with online learning, or they may need help accessing the internet. How can we help them?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded that we will work to assist and help those in need of access to internet or devices early.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked if we know what search engine works better, especially to download documents?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that we will put that into our tech support plan.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked how can we let our students know which program will download documents as challenges can arise?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris stated that we are talking about considerations possibly with 1:1 training with parents and students. Meet the teacher night may be more of a working session to train them. Mr. Sunn did add that a list could be provided to assist families.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked if we are buying more textbooks for 7th and 8th grades as they share?

A. Ms. Melanie Block stated she will look at ELA. Ms. Kristine Morris added that we will need to add to ELA. With math, we just adopted new curriculum so there should be no issues there.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked how will we service students with an IEP since we have less time?

A. Mrs. Carrie Brandon responded that once we know which model or models we are moving forward with we will begin planning and finding out where that time will come from. We will be flexible and meet all the different needs of students. A lot of individualization will be occurring to help all students.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked if the federal guidelines are out yet? If the regular ed model is not 8 hours and it is 6 hours, and because special ed is designed to provide access to general and curriculum, does that change anything with their model?

A. Mrs. Carrie Brandon responded that we are waiting. Part of it is how do we have the conversations with the parents and what does an equivalent service looks like. We began doing some Co-Teaching last year and this may be a different service model that may be more appropriate right now and we may want to put more resources in that to ramp it up. The teacher would go to the students. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that there is still a lot to be figured out in that arena. With cognitive support we are thinking that it would be best to have them fully in person, as we can have small enough class sizes with appropriate distancing. Those are the highest minutes, the most contained, except for some that are medically fragile. This may be the best model for most.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked what measures are being put in place for hacking, looking at students, etc.?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that we have to overcome all protocols and informing parents that we have a streaming option in case they do not want their child in that window and set them outside of the camera. We are having to work through many things.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked if the student could communicate through chat?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded yes. Also, the teacher could communicate with the students to check for understanding or to follow along.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked the governing board if there are other things, we should be thinking about relative to this? How are you all feeling? What should we be thinking about relative to the spread? Your authority as a board and what guidelines you would like to provide? This is not binding this is just giving us some direction.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked if you are hearing from people?

A. Mr. Sunn responded that some are not wanting to come back, scared, and anxious to have their kids come back.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked if there are any of the models we want to look at? Do you want us to proceed with a hybrid even if they don't change the funding? We will get reduced cost if we proceed with hybrid. Do you want to proceed with 2 options: in person and online?

A. Mrs. Briceno responded the 2 options. Mr. Sunn responded that some did well online and may want to continue with that.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked if we should proceed with the two options in the focus groups with parents? If we offered these 2 would that meet the needs of a family? Ms. Kristine Morris will get with principals to try and get a better representation of some of those that didn't complete the survey to be a part of the focus group.

A. Mr. Sunn responded that we have to discuss as a board as it's relatively new. He can't make a decision right now. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that we will keep exploring all 3 and gathering information on all 3 different models in the focus groups.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked if she needs to continue looking at a possible delay of our schools opening by a week or two to allow for training, and communication with families? Would you rather us start so we do not have to make up time.

A. Mr. Sunn responded that he thinks we have enough time before school starts and we could start on time. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that we only bring them back one week before schools starts.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked what would be the potential start date if delayed?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that it could possibly be August 10th or August 17th.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked if we could bring in teachers earlier to begin training? If we did this we wouldn't have to push the start date.

Q. Mr. Sunn asked if there are a lot of things that are brand new or that need to be relearned for teachers?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that they will have to learn the entry and exit plans, set up their rooms differently, new math curriculum, and if we offer online teaching they will need better training to provide quality teaching. Mrs. Susan O'Rielly responded that she isn't 100% sure that all the devices will be received and available by the start, and if they all arrive on time what the turnaround for the tech team is to have them ready and available. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that we are not asking for a decision, we wanted to see if there were models you wanted us to explore. Going forward we will be putting out a staff survey, having community and staff focus groups, continue to work with our teams, and provide a board update for either action at the July meeting or if necessary another study session later in July. I want to make sure I'm preparing you all and you can provide guidance on what to bring forward, so that you can make a decision when we open we all will know what direction we will be going. We will keep all options on the table at this time. We will keep planning and monitor as we go.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris addressed the governing board asking if there is anything else you want from the team for next steps?

Q. Mrs. Briceno wanted clarity on the classroom sizes as the image that was shown didn't look 3 feet apart. Mrs. Briceno asked if it is 3 feet apart?

A. Ms. Melanie Block responded that she believes they are 3 feet apart not 6. Mrs. Carrie Brandon added that they are 3 feet.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked if that is enough space?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded guidelines say 6 feet apart if feasible, if not, it is sufficient to face everyone forward wearing masks, having their own supplies and staying in their cohort. Those are the protocols we would be putting into place.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked what about students that can't wear masks? They need 6 feet of space.

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded if they can't wear masks, they may be high risk and maybe we talk to them during certain windows offering the online option to see if that is a better option for them. Mrs. Briceno responded that she wants to send her children to school but doesn't feel 3 feet would be enough space. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that the CDC's recommendation is that they wear masks, face forward, and stay with their same groups.

Q. Mrs. Briceno commented that the front row seems very close in the picture. Would a student be able to see?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that the board could give us guidance that we want to cap it at 25 students and there would be no more than 25 or no more than 20. You could give direction that you do not want classes to be bigger than x, y, or z and then we will need to staff accordingly. If you want us to model those, we can bring those back to you. We will come with some projections and recommendations that the team has put together. Mrs. Briceno responded that some classrooms are similar, and some are not and that is my concern. Mrs. Susan O'Rielly responded in order to get desks 6 feet apart it allows for 14-16 students. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that we did model that.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked Mr. Michael Welsh how many he was able to get at 6 feet apart?

A. Mr. Michael Welsh responded 15.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked Dr. Randy Watkins how many he was able to get at 6 feet apart?

A. Dr. Randy Watkins responded 15.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked Mrs. Renee Estrella-Chavez how many she was able to get at 6 feet apart?

A. Mrs. Renee- Estrella Chavez responded 16. Ms. Kristine Morris responded 15-16 if we adhere to 6 feet apart.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked how close are you to the instructional boards at the front?

A. Mr. Michael Welsh responded that he could show them the room at Union to get a better gauge of what the classroom looks like. Mrs. Briceno responded she would like to see that as it would be easier for her to see physically than trying to picture it.

Q. Mrs. Briceno mentioned if she is sitting down, trying to learn and is too close will I be able to see everything that is going on?

A. Dr. Randy Watkins responded that the seats are roughly 3 feet apart and they are 6 feet from the front for the teacher to move across that area. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that this would be the worst case scenario which you're seeing by following the minimal CDC guidelines with 30 kids, masked, facing forward. Mrs. Susan O'Rielly responded that if you go to 15 that is half and we are looking at staffing of teachers and splitting students AM/PM or A/B day.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked if we could remove the front row if possible?

A. Ms. Morris responded yes. Another thing we are doing is taking out horseshoe tables, and things that could occupy space where we could put student desks.

Q. Ms. Kristine Morris asked if this picture had items removed?

A. Dr. Randy Watkins responded that there is only a teacher desk and student desks.

Q. Mrs. Briceno asked if there is enough room for the students who need to refocus?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded now we would only have 29 desks. We can create a scenario where we model 25 and what that looks like.

Q. Mrs. Doucet asked if teachers would rotate and be expected to teach all subjects since students will not be rotating?

A. Ms. Kristine Morris responded that the teachers could rotate, or they could stream. We are wanting to get some input from our middle school teachers. We want to give them some flexibility with how they implement that. Right now, we believe the teachers will rotate and students will stay.

VI. MOTION TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03, concerning the discussion of Superintendent Performance Pay Modification).

Motion by Mr. Sunn, seconded by Mrs. Briceno to enter into Executive Session at 5:59 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mr. Sunn, Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Mr. Sunn, seconded by Mrs. Briceno to adjourn the Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mr. Sunn, Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

VIII. ACTION ITEMS


- A. Motion to table the item by Mr. Sunn, seconded by Mrs. Doucet regarding the Superintendent 2019-2020 Performance Pay Plan Modification two recommendations. The Governing Board directed President Sunn to speak with the Superintendent with regards to a third recommendation. A governing board meeting will be scheduled to take action on the item. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Aye: Mr. Sunn, Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Sunn, seconded by Mrs. Doucet, to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Vote was unanimous.
Motion carried. Aye: Mr. Sunn, Mrs. Briceno, Mrs. Doucet



Mr. Delson Sunn, President of the Board



Date