

A **Regular** meeting of the Buellton Union School District Board of Trustees was held on **Wednesday, October 7, 2020** via video conference.

Trustees Present: Elaine Alvarado, Marcilo Sarquilla, Andrew Morgan, Elysia Lewis and Jessie Skidmore

Administration Present: Dr. Randal Haggard, Beverly Sherman, Rebecca Holmes and Lisa Melby

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items**

**II. Closed Session**

- A. Personnel Matters - (Pursuant to Government Code § 54957)
- B. Public Employee: Superintendent Evaluation (Pursuant to Government Code § 54947)
- C. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6) – Agency designated representatives: Shannon DeNatale Boyd and Superintendent Randal Haggard; Employee organization: The Buellton Education Association, CTA/NEA, Certificated and Classified Unit.

**III. Opening Ceremony –**

- A. Call to Order and Roll Call - *Elaine Alvarado called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and said all members were present.*
- B. Report of Actions Taken During Closed Session - *Mrs. Alvarado continued to say that the Board just came out of closed session and no action was taken.*
- C. Pledge of Allegiance –*Led Elaine Alvarado*

**IV. Continue Opening Ceremony**

- A. Establish Order of the Agenda – *No changes*
- B. Governing Board Comments – *Elaine Alvarado thanked Dr. Haggard, Lisa Melby and the Task Force for their continued work in the re-opening of our schools. Mrs. Alvarado and Jessie Skidmore said they both attended a board forum which was very informative.*

**V. Public Comments/Staff Comments**

*Two public comment were taken from Scott Aiken and Heather McPherson for tonight's meeting which will be read during Item IX.A.*

**VI. Correspondence – No correspondence**

**VII. School/Community Reports**

- A. Superintendent – *Dr. Haggard started his report thanked the staff for the efforts of our staff and how they have responded to the challenges we are facing. Dr. Haggard then reported that the district was faced with a positive COVID-19 but the staff is coming together to cover all areas.*
- B. Principal – *Lisa Melby started her report that what Dr. Haggard reported is true and she has amazing staff who come up to the challenge in helping cover all areas. Thanks to PTSA for us being able to have Explore Ecology work on our Gardens. Parent Teacher Conferences are taking place this week at Oak Valley. We have a tremendous Student Engagement Team at both schools. Marie Chavis reported that she was excited to see the creativity of her students in Science. Jennifer Cline reported that at Oak Valley Parent Teacher Conferences are going on at Oak Valley and she feels they are meeting the needs of the students at this time.*
- C. Special Education – *Beverly Sherman started her report by thanking Dr. Haggard and Lisa Melby for their continued support to the special education staff.*
- D. B.E.A. – *Debbie Goldsmith started her report by saying that she and her staff will be wearing masks and shields when she starts to go back to her classroom. She spoke on the prudent move to not reopen our schools until at least after winter break.*
- E. P.T.S.A – *PTSA President Maria Hernandez started her report by reported that there is not much at update right now. Axxess Cards sales have been extended to this coming Friday. They will be selling fresh wreaths during the Christmas holidays. The next board meeting will be on Tuesday October 13\* at 6:30pm via Zoom.*

**VIII. Information Items**

(Information) A. Enrollment/Staffing for 2020-2021 school year-projections will be presented based on current enrollment.

*Dr. Haggard brought forth an Enrollment report for Board review. As of October 1<sup>st</sup> the student enrollment is down 91 students which is a significant loss of revenue for the district of approximately 12% of our revenue. **No Action was taken on this item. Information Only.***

(Information) B. Budget Update/Monthly Financial – Dr. Haggard and Director of Fiscal Services Rebecca Holmes will provide a summary of the key features in the state budget and update the Board on the monthly financials for the District.

*Rebecca Holmes reviewed the Budget Update/Monthly Financial Report for the Board. Revenue and Expenditures are as expected and the District is still able to meet its 4% reserve. **No Action was taken on this item. Information Only.***

(Information) C. Status of Joint Use Agreement with the City of Buellton—Dr. Haggard will update the Board on the status of the agreement with the City of Buellton and discussions around revisions to the agreement.

*A Public Comment from City Manager Scott Wolfe was received for this agenda item:*

President Alvarado and District Trustees:

I am Scott Wolfe, Buellton City Manager. My apologies for not introducing myself sooner, as doing so may have ensured a more positive “first impression” between us.

For the past year, Superintendent Haggard and I have enjoyed a cooperative relationship, addressing matters of concern to the City and the District with the clear intent of advancing the public interest. In light of this relationship, I regret needing address you this evening to request a more collaborative starting point for discussions on possible updates to the Joint Use Agreement.

For nearly twenty years, the City and District have enjoyed a truly uncommon relationship working together for the benefit of Buellton’s residents. Perhaps the most uncommon aspect of this relationship has been the Joint Use of Facilities, which goes beyond the typical sharing of sports fields, and encompasses the transfer of property to the District, the joint construction of the Thompson/Cypert Gymnasium, the housing of the City’s Recreation program on District property, and the support of District activities (with both human and financial resources) by the City. This relationship is, for me, a source of pride in the government I serve and in the community I now call home.

The Agenda language used to describe the Joint Use Agreement is the impetus for my comments. The implication of this language to the Board of Trustees (and the public) is that the District has been improperly subsidizing the City’s Recreation programs through utility and maintenance expenditures. Intentional or not, this language disregards the decades-long history of cooperation and mischaracterizes the Joint Use Agreement and the nature of the relationship it codifies.

Contrary to the assertion that it is “quite old,” the current agreement was adopted in 2015. It combined separate agreements into a single document meeting the needs of both parties. It wisely established a Joint Use Committee to administer the Agreement, consider changes, and resolve conflicts. It is unlikely that either party felt that the terms of the Agreement were inequitable five years ago.

Nevertheless, when I met Dr. Haggard for the first time in mid-2019, I agreed to review agreement terms that may need rebalancing, recognizing that circumstances change over time and that support of the District was clearly of community benefit. When briefed, Mayor Sierra agreed with this approach. We have been waiting for the District to bring concerns to the table for discussion, which was done for the first time last Thursday.

My goal is not to challenge the District leadership, but to convey the desire of the City to continue our exceptional partnership. I hope that the Board of Trustees will approach the discussion of the Joint Use Agreement from the perspective of a partner wishing to rebalance workloads rather than from that of a landlord dissatisfied with a tenant’s actions. This may be the first step in a consequential process: I hope that we can start off on the right foot for the benefit of all involved.

Thank you!

Scott Wolfe, AICP  
City Manager  
City of Buellton

*Dr. Haggard brought forth the status of the Joint Use Agreement with the City of Buellton. He reported that the partnership we have with the City of Buellton is a great source of pride but he feels that there*



*are some items of concern. Utility costs like water keep going up and is a great source of cost to our district. Our goal is for a continued healthy partnership and he feels that reviewing the current agreement maybe something that needs to be reviewed. Revisiting the water meters and how the cost of water is something that needs to be updated regularly that way things can be looked at a timely manner. No Action was taken on this item. Information Only.*

## IX. General Items

- (Action) A. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Haggard will update the Board on district issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and options for school re-opening.

Two public comments were taken for this item from Scott Aiken and Heather McPherson:

Hello,

We need to reopen the schools as soon as possible. Teachers and students who don't want to return in person can continue to follow the distance model. But the kids' welfare depends on returning to the REAL normal as soon as possible.

Thanks,  
Scott Aiken

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Good Evening School Board Members,

Tonight, you will be making some very important decisions regarding the options for re-opening our BUSD school campuses for in person instruction. As a teacher who has been with the district for 20 years and is currently involved in the process of trying to organize reopening procedures, I would like to share my thoughts and concerns.

While there are obviously glaring differences of opinion about opening schools, and the Covid- 19 pandemic itself. I am confident that most people would agree working and learning in a distance learning situation is not ideal for anyone involved. I would also hope that people in general would agree that the safety of students and teachers and staff should be at the forefront of this kind of decision making. The teachers of BUSD are working very hard to provide a valuable and engaging distance learning program.

It is no secret that teachers and students would like to be back in classrooms together and parents would prefer to have their children learning at school instead of in their living rooms. That being said there is so much to consider aside from this desire for things to be back to normal. Opening schools does not negate what is happening with this pandemic. It may feel like a solution, but it has the potential to have catastrophic and/ long lasting health effects for our school community.

When one looks at what in person school will actually look like when we reopen, it will not be business as usual. There will be so many procedures and guidelines in place, school will vaguely resemble what we are used to. We will most likely be in a hybrid model which means students will still be distance learning 2-3 days during the week. Potentially no partner or group work, no sharing of materials, no singing, and possibly no playing on the playground equipment, and may other restrictions. While all of these things can be dealt with, it is important people realize the reality of the situation.

Logistically there are several issues as well. When we have teachers, who need to be out due to Covid-like symptoms, or symptoms from someone in his or her family, there is a major sub shortage. It is very likely that we will not have substitute coverage for teacher absences. This is a very real issue because in the current environment, students could not be combined to help with coverage. I can't imagine families will have an easy time finding childcare if class is canceled at the last minute. There will be so many extenuating circumstances with quarantines and contact tracing and related issues, it is almost certain these issues will create a lack of continuity for everyone.

All of the previously stated issues pale greatly in comparison to the safety risk involved in opening up in general, but specifically, opening up too soon. I often hear the argument that other people have been working through the entire pandemic or have gone back to work and things are "fine: for them. Very few jobs that have gone back requiring groups of people to be indoors and in close proximity, for hours at a time. Not to mention teachers will be monitoring children's adherence to the safety protocols and requirements. Since there are schools wanting and pushing to open early, it would behoove us to see what happens with those districts and their Covid numbers before making our final decisions. Our phased-in approach should be implemented slowly and with extreme caution. If we begin with the high needs small cohorts, those students will get the services that they need to be successful and we can take our time with the rest of the student body. Believe me when I say, teachers want to return to classrooms, but only if it is as safe as possible.

One issue that I find extremely concerning and, quite frankly, backwards thinking, is the idea we should hurry up an open while we can, to ensure we can stay open even if the County's numbers return to a level that is considered unsafe. If we were to return to the purple tier, we should look back and be thankful that we were able to keep teachers, staff, , and families safe, rather than being thankful we were able to find a loophole to stay open when the situation became even more

dangerous. It is risky and irresponsible to open up just to make sure we can. We should go back when we are relatively confident we can ensure everyone's safety.

Another concerning argument is the worry that if other schools in our area decide to open, we will lose students to those schools. The bottom line is our district does NOT have to grant any inner district transfers, and I would argue for the financial health of the district, none should be granted at this time. I would prefer to be the district who valued science and safety, over peer pressure and popularity to deal with these extremely unusual circumstances.

I do believe that one day, hopefully soon, we can return to the full, busy, and productive classrooms that BUSD has always taken pride in creating. This is a serious and scary situation for all of us. **Now is not the time to open.** I am asking that you do not rush the opening of BUSD campuses, perhaps start now with the high needs groups and then reevaluate any other physical return to school after the new year.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Heather McPherson  
Kindergarten Teacher

*Dr. Haggard and Lisa Melby brought forth different options for the reopening of the schools safely for both students and staff. One of the Task Force Member and a parent, Matt Pennon spoke to the Board on his thoughts on the reopening of our schools. He believes it's real important to see what the future will look like, how can we be reassured that all are safe. He is fearful that may be some disconnection of students. Jennifer Cline said that whatever path we go with it has to be made very clear to parents that things can change very quickly. The safety of students and teachers should be a number one priority. Marie Chavis said that her answer would be so different from the answer she would have had back in March. Health of staff and kids is paramount. Lisa Melby said this is not an easy issue. She agrees with the comments of the Task Force but on a daily basis she is very concerned with students who cannot access the zoom classes. Her desire is to have the 20% who are not successful to be on campus at some point to get the support they need. Jessie Skidmore **MOTIONED** to continue Distance Learning, with the understanding that staff will complete surveillance testing protocols. Identified Small Groups of students to start on campus learning on October 19<sup>th</sup> and a phased hybrid model to start after the December break. Board will review again during the November board meeting. Andrew Morgan Seconded the motion. **Roll call was then made. The Ayes have it with a vote of 5-0.***

(First Reads) B. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Board Policies - The board will conduct a first reading of the following board policies:

AR 4030 "Nondiscrimination in Employment"  
BP 4119.11/4219/11/4319.11 "Sexual Harassment"  
AR 4119.11/4219/11/4319.11 "Sexual Harassment"  
AR 4119.12/4219/12/4319.12 "Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures"  
BP 5141.22 "Infectious Diseases"  
AR 5141.22 "Infectious Diseases"  
AR 5145.3 "Nondiscrimination/Harassment"

*Dr. Haggard brought forth AR 4030 "Nondiscrimination in Employment", BP 4119.11/4219/11/4319.11 "Sexual Harassment", AR 4119.11/4219/11/4319.11 "Sexual Harassment", AR 4119.12/4219/12/4319.12 "Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures", BP 5141.22 "Infectious Diseases", AR 5141.22 "Infectious Diseases" and AR 5145.3 "Nondiscrimination/Harassment" for board discussion and review. **No Action was Taken on this item. First Reads only.***

(Action) C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Board Policies- The board will conduct final reading of the following board policies:

BP & E 3555 "Nutrition Program Compliance"

*A second and final reading of BP & E3555 "Nutrition Program Compliance" was made. Andrew Morgan **MOTIONED** to approve BP & E 3555 "Nutrition Program Compliance" as presented. Jessie Skidmore Seconded the motion. **Roll call was then made. The Ayes have it with a vote of 5-0.***

X. **Approval of Minutes/Action Consent Agenda**

## Consent Agenda Summary

- (consent) 1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 23, 2020
- (consent) 2. Approve for payment - General Fund Warrant Report
- (consent) 3. Personnel Action Form - See Attached
- (consent) 4. Approval of 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
- (consent) 5. Approval of an Agreement between BUSD/SYVSEC and Student Transportation of America
- (consent) 6. Approval of an Agreement between BUSD and Zoom Video Communications
- (consent) 7. Approval of an Agreement between BUSD/SYVSEC and Lori Henning for Reading Coach Services

### XI. Closing

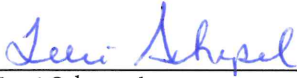
#### A. Future Meeting Dates

- Regular Meeting, November 18, 2020
- Regular Meeting, December 9, 2020
- Regular Meeting, December 16, 2020

#### B. Adjournment

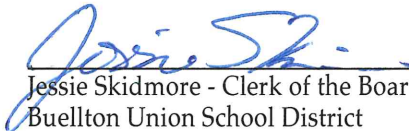
*Elaine Alvarado MOTIONED to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Andrew Morgan Seconded the motion. **The Ayes have it with a vote of 5-0.** Elaine Alvarado read the Consent Agenda. There being no further business the open session of the meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,



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Terri Schrepel  
Buellton Union School District



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Jessie Skidmore - Clerk of the Board  
Buellton Union School District