

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

November 3, 2020
MINUTES

Douglas E. Giles
Educational Resource Center
9619 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, California

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Dustin Burns, President
Barbara Ryan, Vice President
Elana Levens-Craig, Clerk
Dianne El-Hajj, Member
Ken Fox, Member

Administration present:

Dr. Kristin Baranski, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services
Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

2. District Mission

President Burns welcomed those in attendance and recited the District Mission.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

President Burns led members, staff, and audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

President Burns presented the agenda for approval. Member Fox moved approval.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Fox</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Ryan</u>	<i>Ryan</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>Fox</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Vote:</i>	<u>5-0</u>	<i>Levens-Craig</i>	<u>Aye</u>		

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Superintendent's Report

- 1.1. Developer Fees and Collection Report
- 1.2. Use of Facilities
- 1.3. Enrollment Report

1.4. COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Baranski there were two students currently home because of positive cases. She explained there was an unusual circumstance where one of those students had already been in quarantine when they tested positive and were not on campus during their "infectious" period, and shown with an asterisk (*) on the COVID-19 Dashboard. Superintendent Baranski noted two cases at Carlton Oaks and explained only one cohort was required to be quarantined. She shared recently being asked by the Union Tribune on the number of cases since students were back in session, September 14. Superintendent Baranski noted there have been eight (8) student cases; and one staff case. Fortunately, all the cases were mild, and the transmission was not continued at school.

1.5. School Reopening Update

Superintendent Baranski reported that over the last two weeks, the District procured a company to make specialized barriers for every student desk. She explained this would provide equity through out the District. Superintendent Baranski shared Administration continues to work with Site Administrators on removing non-essential furniture from the classrooms to create as much space as possible between the student desks; and with teachers on the desk layouts in the classrooms. She noted the barriers extend beyond the desks with enough room for use of the desktop. Superintendent Baranski shared lunch schedules were designed and reviewed by Site Administrators, teacher leadership teams, and Child Nutrition; and reiterated lunch time had been reduced by 10 minutes. She shared the importance of creating a safe environment for everyone. Superintendent Baranski shared the mask guidance in grades K-2 had been updated, from “strongly encouraged” to “strongly recommended,” on the District’s SAFE AT SCHOOL Reopening Plan based on input from the site leadership team. She shared Human Resources continues to work with Site Administrators on staffing for lunch coverage and supervision. Superintendent Baranski noted inquires on why the ability to increase cohort sizes. She explained the guidance from the Department of Public Health, for Counties on the monitoring list, allowing them to open in small cohorts; and noted this applied to Counties that were not able to open safely. This provision did not apply to San Diego County and does not require the District to keep cohorts in groups of 14 or less. Superintendent Baranski expressed her confidence in the safety measures set in place to safely combine the cohorts. Member Fox inquired on transportation schedules; and Member El-Hajj inquired on contracting with a neighboring district for services. Mr. Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, shared transportation routes were being developed and it looked like the same number of students were going to be able to be transported; and there was no current need for outside services. He noted a possible challenge with the students going to the Boys & Girls Club. President Burns inquired on the cost for the partitions; Superintendent Baranski shared the cost for the two-piece partitions and fasteners is approximately \$170,000. Member Fox inquired on funding sources and Mr. Christensen noted allocating approximately \$400,000 for reopening expenses.

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Burns explained that given the current circumstances with COVID-19, the public was given the opportunity so submit comments online or by phone prior to the meeting. There were seven (7) comments from the public. President Burns explained copies of the comments were provided to the Board and Superintendent prior the meeting; and posted on the School Board Meetings website for public review. President Burns reminded everyone that for transparency purposes, anonymous comments would not be posted on the website. He explained all public comment form fields were required to be properly completely; and noted personal information, phone number and/or email addresses, is not posted on the website.

ID	Name2	Representing	Public Comment(s)
1	Dennae Lovell		Dear Dr. Baranski and Santee School Board, As a kindergarten teacher at PRIDE Academy, I wanted to take this time to express my concern over a full day return on November 30th and urge you to consider a new date of January 19th at the next board meeting. I feel the November 30th date was picked without having a chance to process all the good things the AM/PM schedule has been able to offer. Thank you to Mr. Dustin Burns for going out to talk to teachers, students, and families and hearing how great this hybrid system has been working and not picking the November 30th date. I have not heard one parent complaint over the AM/PM schedule but have heard many complaints once the November 30th date was determined for the return. I don't see the need to rush a full day reopening at this time for many reasons. • Students are thriving and excited to be at school learning EVERYDAY in the classroom. • Parents have worked out schedules to make this work and now will have to figure it out again. • Potential exposure to COVID 19 during the holiday season while many families will be traveling and meeting with extended family puts students and staff at risk. • The smaller class size makes it so teachers can focus on individual students and the needs they have. This will no longer be the case when we go

			<p>back to having 24-30 students in class. This schedule has allowed staff the opportunity to be able to work with each student on a more personalized, individual level. • We will never have this opportunity again to have such small groupings of kids to work with. Why rush this when it is such a positive thing to happen during such an awful time? • January 19th will be 15 days after the holiday break where students may be exposed to show symptoms, so only an AM or PM cohort would need to quarantine, rather than the whole class. Again, I hope you will take the January date and put it up for a vote at the next board meeting because a delayed full opening is in the best interests of students and staff. Thank you, Denna Lovell Kindergarten Teacher PRIDE Academy</p>
2	Nicole Eacobellis		<p>Hello, I want to thank you for reopening our schools as safely as possible. I can see so much improvement in my sons work. With that said we really like how everything is going now and think opening for a full day is just too soon. People are going to be gathering for Thanksgiving and Holidays and it's all right around flu season. We would feel much safer waiting until January and seeing how our numbers are at that time. I appreciate all your efforts I just hope we can do this when people feel a bit more comfortable. Thank you.</p>
3	Lynn Chapa		<p>I would like to know how the board is addressing serious issues brought up at the last board meeting and the guideline being used to answer these questions from: Ms. Eveland regarding safe classroom space, eating safely, and anxiety. Ganz, the lack of documented cleaning and sanitizing as listed and form provided in the safe reopening plan. Lastly, Ms. Colman brought many concerns. I am not confident that the plan is being followed and the lack of transparency to parents that their child will not have 6ft of distance, unmasked during a 40 minute lunch break, we are not fully staffed and lack substitutes. If you were to go through the safe reopening plan school by school, it is not happening and the public is not aware. With lunch, recess and p.e. as part of the full day curriculum, students are getting about 90 minutes more academic instruction. Hardly seems worth it with the upcoming week off for Thanksgiving and 3 weeks later, two weeks off for Christmas break. Why would you put the community at risk by going full time without proper and consistent procedures.</p>
4	Theresa Dust		<p>I am requesting pausing the return to full day instruction until after the holidays. Families will be traveling and mixing during the holidays which will increase the spread of COVID which is already at high levels in San Diego. The students will not be able to be spaced 6ft apart in the upper grades which will also increase the spread. The lunch plan is inadequate and will be the most dangerous time of the day. It only takes 4 cases per site to close the school for 2 weeks and 3 sites to shut down the entire district. Why would you change the current plan that is already working and risk total shutdown and a return to distance learning? The students are benefiting from the smaller class size which allows for more individualized instruction. Please do not move forward with full day instruction until it is safer to do so, the risks are too high. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
5	Ashley Monroe		<p>I am very concerned about the Santee School District's plan to return to full-time school on November 30th. I feel this is premature, and potentially harmful to children and their families. What has changed that now makes it safe to open fully? Who is the public health expert that is helping facilitate a safe plan? I am concerned about how you plan to social distance in classrooms. I know from speaking with multiple teachers that adequate social distancing is not possible even with half of the class. How do you plan to keep kids and their families safe? The district stated in their email to parents that you intend to social distance to "5 feet." 5 feet is not the standard guideline set forth throughout this pandemic. Where is the accountability for keeping safe standards? Working parents are not able to accommodate school schedules. In most situations this leaves grandparents, the vulnerable population, dropping off and picking up kids. With the current covid numbers and entering the flu season, our vulnerable population is being put more at risk. When going to a full day, k-5 is expected to stay in school for the full day, while 6-8 is sent home at lunch. Expecting younger children with a shorter attention span to remain in school with no PE or outdoor play, while older children are sent home seems very inappropriate and detrimental to their wellbeing. I have always trusted the Santee school district to have my children's best interest and wellbeing in mind. I hope that you reconsider your choice to reopen so quickly, and continue with the plan that is currently working, and wait until it is safer to reopen.</p>
6	Candace	Distance Learning students	<p>Please give serious consideration to allowing distance learning teachers to teach from home. Many of these teachers chose distance learning so their health would not be compromised. To have them on full campuses increases their risk. Please consider these teachers' safety. Their students are at home and able to learn, so why are these teachers not able to teach from a safe environment? If a distance learning teacher's health becomes compromised, who will teach the class? Is the District even able to provide a substitute teacher for distance learning while it is experiencing a shortage of substitutes for children that are in person? As a parent of two distance learning children, I would hope you would consider the fact that we choose this option in part because of the consistency and safety it provided for our children. If we lose a teacher because they are too sick to teach from home, that consistency will be gone. There are currently 974 students depending on distance learning teachers. Plus, if this group of</p>

		teachers is not consistently worried about their health, they will be more productive teachers. I strongly believe that when you have teachers who feel supported and are happy, you will in return have students who feel supported, happy, and in a position to grow both academically and emotionally. These teachers need the freedom and flexibility to choose where they teach from, and our students need these teachers to remain healthy and safe.
7	Joan McKeon	my 3rd grader Please reconsider opening full time on 11/30. Right after Thanksgiving and just 3 weeks before winter break is not the right time to increase exposure in our schools. The children are doing well with the hybrid model and I think we should stick with it until after the holidays. Especially with the current spikes in the positive rates.

D. CONSENT ITEMS

President Burns shared comments from the public were requested in advance and there were no public comments on consent items.

Superintendent

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes
- 1.2. Approval to Cancel the December 1, 2020 Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Education
- 2.1. Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Bequests
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of General Services Agreements
- 2.4. Approval of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement In Lieu of District Transportation
- 2.5. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Transactions Charged to District Issued Purchasing Cards (P-Cards)
- 2.6. Approval to Submit Application for PL 81-874 and Designation of Authorized Representative
- 2.7. Authorization to Purchase Pest Control Services from Aardvark Pest Control
- 2.8. Approval of Purchase of Delivery Truck for Child Nutrition Services
- 2.9. Approval of Agreement with Howard E. Nyhart Company, Inc. for GASB 75 Actuarial Services
- 2.10. Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-14, for Emergency Waiver of Competitive Bidding Requirements for Purchase of Plexiglass Barriers
- 3.1. Personnel, Regular
- 3.2. Approval to Create Speech/Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Job Description
- 3.3. Approval of Amended 2020-2021 District School Calendar
- 3.4. Ratification of Site Letter between Santee School District and California School Employees Association (CSEA) and its Chapter #557

Member Levens-Craig recognized the receipt of the Childcare Provider Grants awarded to support the Out-of-School Time Program and YALE Preschool Programs. Member Levens-Craig moved approval.

President Burns acknowledged the donation of \$104,714. \$56,784 from YMCA of San Diego County Childcare Resource Service for the Out-of-School Time Program; and Child Development Associates for donating \$14,100 for Carlton Hills YALE; \$13,630 for Hill Creek YALE; \$14,100 Sycamore Canyon YALE; and \$6,100 from Sycamore Canyon PTA for playground and supplies.

Motion:	<u>Levens-Craig</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>Ryan</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>		

E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

1.1. Appointment of Coordinator, Human Resources

Superintendent Baranski shared the District had recruited for a Coordinator of Human Resources for the past month. She noted the position replaced the Administrative Secretary position to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; and a \$8,400 difference in salary and benefits. Superintendent Baranski shared her recommendation to appoint Katie Borts as Coordinator, Human Resources.

Ms. Borts has served in a variety of classified roles within the District, (i.e., school site secretary, department secretary, and most currently as benefits and risk management technician). Superintendent Baranski noted current and retired employees are touched by Katie's skills. She noted Ms. Borts has great customer service and is highly qualified for the leadership position; which she will help define and develop with her supervisor, Mr. Larson. Superintendent Baranski shared this is a very pivotal position for the District that impacts a lot of people.

President Burns clarified the \$8,400 was the total compensation difference; Superintendent Baranski confirmed that was the total difference. Member Levens-Craig, commended Ms. Borts, and moved approval. President Burns congratulated Ms. Borts on her new appointment.

Ms. Borts expressed her gratitude towards the Board of Education and Executive Council for the opportunity and shared her excitement to continue to serve the staff and students of Santee School District, in her new capacity. Ms. Borts shared being thankful to work for such a wonderful team, continuing the journey of innovation in Santee, where we truly do provide an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people.

Motion:	<u>Levens-Craig</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>Fox</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>		

Business Services

1.1. Approval of Monthly Financial Report

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported the monthly financial report was for cash and budget revision transactions posted through September 30, 2020; and shared the District ended the month with a cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$17.1 million. He once again noted, not being certain the District will have sufficient funds to pay all of its obligations with internal cash. Mr. Christensen noted the District is considering a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS), and currently working with the San Diego County Office of Education and financial advisors before the final decision is needed in January. Mr. Christensen noted the decline in the Projected Reserve Percentage; and shared the Projected Reserve Percentage in 2022-23 is 10.95%. He clarified this was the budget reserve, not the cash reserve; and noted the cash reserve is less because of deferrals. The Board will receive a multi-year update in December during the First Interim Report. President Burns asked Mr. Christensen to explain the "Assigned Vacation Carryover" noted in the report. Mr. Christensen explained the District calculates employee vacation balances (time available to employees) as these are a liability to the District. He shared this number fluctuates based on incurred time and pay rate. Member Ryan moved approval.

Motion:	<u>Ryan</u>	Burns	<u>Aye</u>	El-Hajj	<u>Aye</u>
Second:	<u>El-Hajj</u>	Ryan	<u>Aye</u>	Fox	<u>Aye</u>
Vote:	<u>5-0</u>	Levens-Craig	<u>Aye</u>		

F. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association President, shared working through the logistics of setting up classrooms, with the uncertainty of the end result. She acknowledged everyone's hard work on the purchase and installation of barriers, but shared there is concern on how they will work. Mrs. Hirahara noted there are concerns about possible sound restrictions with the barriers; as it is already difficult understanding the students with the masks. She shared there are concerns with spacing and the ability for teachers to move around and effectively teach in that environment. Mrs. Hirahara noted they will continue to work through it, as they will not know until things actually happen and they can problem solve from there.

President Burns expressed his gratitude towards Mrs. Hirahara for the communication.

G. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Superintendent Baranski shared there was no organizational business for discussion.

Member Levens-Craig shared there were great pictures on social media on the Red Ribbon Week activities; and commended Ms. Larson's class at PRIDE Academy for using a crane for their giant squid project. Member Levens-Craig congratulated Superintendent Baranski on having a child vote for the first time and another committing to a university.

Member Ryan noted one of the public comments referenced her comment on her employer, Rady Children's Hospital and their success on not having any work-related positive COVID-19 cases amongst their employees. She explained the comment noted that a school district is very different than a hospital setting; as hospital employees have access to a variety of personal protective equipment (PPE). Member Ryan clarified this was not the case. She explained that out of Rady Children's Hospital employees, approximately 5,000 at multiple locations, more than half are not clinical providers. Member Ryan noted that employees, like herself, are required to wear a mask, socially distance, and wash their hands. They are not provided any other PPE equipment.

President Burns explained Ms. Larson's class studied invertebrates and used one of the construction cranes to hang a giant squid. He expressed his gratitude towards the entire District for their work in making sure students enjoyed Halloween. He shared his son's concerns about how it was going to be different this year; and noted this has been a difficult year for a lot of students.

H. CLOSED SESSION

President Burns announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Gov't. Code § 54956.8)
Purpose: Negotiations
Agency Negotiators: Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent
Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA); and
Classified School Employees Association (CSEA)
2. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation** (Gov't. Code § 54957)
Superintendent

The Board entered closed session at 7:32 p.m.

I. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:40 p.m., and reported no action had been taken.

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the regular meeting of November 3, 2020 was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.