

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

February 16, 2021
MINUTES

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

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

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

Members present:

Barbara Ryan, President
Elana Levens-Craig, Vice President
Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk
Ken Fox, Member
Dustin Burns, 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 Ryan welcomed those in attendance and recited the District Mission.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Levens-Craig led members, staff, and audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Superintendent's Report

- 1.1. Developer Fees and Collection Report
- 1.2. Enrollment Report

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Ryan explained that given the current circumstances with COVID-19, the public was given the opportunity to submit comments online or by phone prior to the meeting. There were two (2) public comments.

ID	First Name and Last Name	Representing	Public Comment
1	Tracy Fox	Teaching Community	<p>Dear Santee School Board Members,</p> <p>As you consider if and when to bring our schools back to full-time, I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to reevaluate the situation. Last meeting, when Ms. Levins-Craig asked whether there was a date upon which a consideration would be given to deciding to remain in hybrid for the remainder of the year, the question was met with a bit of derision, or at least the unwillingness to truly consider the prospect.</p> <p>While we all yearn for a return to “normal”, as is mentioned in every board meeting, there is nothing normal about this school year. This would still be true even if we return to full-time. I would argue that the closest thing there is to normalcy right now is exactly what we’re doing at this moment: the hybrid model. The hybrid model IS successful! Our students ARE learning. They ARE thriving. I invite you to come speak with them and ask them their thoughts on the smaller pods, the bonding that’s developed between classmates, and their class’s unique personality that makes it so great. And yes, they will also tell you they like the two hours and 45-minute days; after all, they are kids!</p> <p>What would going back full-time look like? Would it look “normal”? Consider: 22 – 30 students in a room at a time, distanced by a minimum of 4 feet, but ideally 6ft., with a plexiglass isthmus on each desk. Masks on . . . for 6 hours each day. All students sitting in ONE room, including Jr. High (Jr. High teachers leave the room and head to their next class while students remain in homeroom), with very little movement. Teacher maneuvering through the maze of desks and plexiglass, doing her best to help students while also trying to maintain proper distancing. Recess? Classes, now doubled in size, trying to find their patch of playground or grass field and not interact with the other classes out on a staggered schedule. Lunch? Masks off and kids maintaining proper distancing while sitting at staggered tables with numerous lunch schedules to reduce the number of students out at one time. Having never done anything like it, are we confident the students will be able to do their part? Bathroom use? Monitoring bathroom use is already a bit tricky under hybrid, but how will it be when we double the number of students on campus at one time? Who will monitor to ensure that there are only two people in a bathroom at any one time? As you can plainly see, none of this is “normal.”</p> <p>Please know that I am not advocating for never going back full-time. On the contrary, if the criteria set forth by Dr. Baranski and approved by the board are met soon, a full-time return is exactly what should occur. The key word is soon.</p> <p>However, if the numbers continue to lag or, heaven forbid, rise, then I believe revisiting Ms. Levins-Craig’s question is imperative. At some point the perception of all the things we have to gain by going full-time would be overshadowed by the lack of time to make it work to the level of success we would all desire.</p> <p>The reality is that if we want the full-time to be as successful as the current hybrid model has been, it will take time. There will be much planning to do to make the full-time model successful. If we accept that there will be some bumps along the way, we know that time will be required to smooth out those bumps.</p> <p>So, it comes down to discerning how much time is needed to make the full-time plan work extremely well. I propose that Spring Break would make a natural deadline. If we meet the criteria and can make it work prior to the break, then let us move forward with returning full-time. If we are unable to return fully by break, then we remain in hybrid through the end of the year. I would think parents would appreciate knowing there is such a deadline so they can plan, once and for all, how the remainder of the school year is going to look.</p> <p>Ultimately, you will decide how our district proceeds. My goals with this communication were to draw at</p>
2	Aaron Kawczk	The Kawczk Family	<p>I respectfully request that the Board contact the appropriate point of contact (POC) responsible for generating the Santee Zip Code (92071) case rate data before deciding to remove it from the Local Criteria for Cohort Integration due to a discovered period of data unavailability. The POC should be advised of the Santee School Board District’s plan to utilize this data for making decisions regarding the full reopening of Santee District Schools and work with them to ensure the data is updated frequently and made available in a timely manner. If the POC is made aware of this, the issues observed with data unavailability may be resolved.</p>

D. CONSENT ITEMS

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

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes
- 2.1. Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Warrants
- 2.3. Approval/Ratification of Purchase Orders
- 2.4. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report
- 2.5. Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Bequests
- 2.6. Approval of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement In Lieu of District Transportation
- 2.7. Acceptance of 2019-20 Measure S Financial and Performance Audit
- 2.8. Approval of On-Site Resident Agreement for Pepper Drive School with Travis Hepner
- 2.9. Approval/Ratification of Amendment No. 1 to San Diego County-Imperial County Regional Communication System Customer Agreement
- 3.1. Approval of Comprehensive School Safety Plans
- 4.1. Personnel, Regular
- 4.2. Approval of New Probationary Teachers
- 4.3. Approval to Renew Services with PowerSchool (TalentEd) Records, Perform, and Sync for the 2021-2022 School Year

President Ryan noted a revision on Item D.4.1., Personnel, Regular. Member Levens-Craig acknowledged Item 4.2. Approval of New Probationary Teachers and expressed her congratulations. The Board shared her sentiment. Member El-Hajj moved approval with noted revision of Item D.4.1., Personnel, Regular.

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

E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

1.1. 2021-21 School Reopening Update/COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Baranski shared the Board approved the criteria for the integration of cohorts at the last meeting but had asked that the Santee Zip Code (92071) case rate criterion be discussed again due to the variability in County data updates. She acknowledged the decrease of cases in the County and City of Santee and shared today's data showed the County case rate at 34.2; and the Santee Zip Code (92071) at 36.6, as of January 30. Superintendent Baranski noted the District's rate had decreased in the last three consecutive weeks, and shared today's rate (February 16) was 5.29, but noted it was only a few days into the week of February 14.

Superintendent Baranski shared that after the last Board meeting, she contacted the County Public Health Department and learned the case rate continued in the 70-range, dropped to 58, then to 36.6, as she had previously mentioned. Superintendent Baranski noted a two-week delay in data updates, even though it states it is seven-days. She also acknowledged the new guidance from the California Department of Public Health requiring a four-foot distance between chairs regardless of the other precautionary measures put in place (i.e., plexiglass barriers, HEPPA filters, cleaning procedures, etc.). Superintendent Baranski acknowledged the new guidance was a logistical issue and noted administration has visited sites to assess the situation. She noted a glimmer of hope that perhaps the County Public Health Department would provide a waiver for this particular guidance and noted the District did not fall into the waiver category that was currently available. Superintendent Baranski shared the waiver was due tomorrow, January 17, and was intended for districts that were intending to open but were unable

too because of the new criteria set on January 14; and explained there could be a couple of things that could happen (i.e., CDPD could change their guidance and/or there could be leniency based on the recent CDC report). She acknowledged this will be an issue for the District, in particular in grades 4-8, even with the current class size reductions. Superintendent Baranski shared she hoped to bring information on the Governor's legislative advice on the reopening funding, but it is still being negotiated.

Member El-Hajj shared visiting schools, along with Member Fox, and acknowledged viewing some of the challenges; and noted possible "work arounds" on some, but acknowledged some still persist. Member El-Hajj expressed her apologies to Member Levens-Craig if she perceived her remarks from the last meeting as disparaging, when discussing a cut-off date for cohort integration; as noted in the public comments. She noted spring break being March 22 and the possibility of there still being ways of achieving the criteria; since there was a "wave" across the State to return students back to school. Member El-Hajj shared not foreseeing the ability for the District to return before spring break and the need to wait on more information to be released. She noted that even if there were exceptions, it would still be challenging, and some classrooms would require major modifications. Member El-Hajj suggested the District has time to monitor and consider the inclusion of the Santee Zip Code (92071) case rate and how it corresponds with the County case rate.

President Ryan noted it did not make sense the District was unable to request a safety review through the current waiver and suggested it be challenged. Member Burns shared the need to review criteria per school on how many classrooms do not meet the four-foot (4') criteria. Mr. Christensen shared the "round" schools are the most challenging to be able to accommodate 28 desks in the classrooms; and based on a mathematical analysis there is a significance challenge at those four (4) schools.

Member Levens-Craig shared not having the current data for the Santee Zip Code (92071) criteria is challenging. She noted a public comment discussed the need to include the Santee Zip Code (92071) criteria. Member Levens-Craig clarified the District does not have control of the data and an attempt has been made to obtain the data. She noted the challenge of considering the Santee Zip Code (92071) criteria with a two-week lag, with real-time criteria from the County and District.

Superintendent Baranski shared the idea of not tying the Santee Zip Code (92071) data for three weeks, as an option.

Member El-Hajj inquired on submitting the waiver. Superintendent Baranski suggested submitting a separate waiver and noted trying to get support at the local level but had not heard back prior to tonight's meeting. She shared anticipating being asked to work with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Superintendent Baranski explained she did not have a problem with going to CDPH and explaining the District does not fit the current waiver criteria but having a record of being open for in-person learning and not experiencing any shutdowns; and how the 4-foot criteria was impeding moving forward. It was the Board's consensus to move forward with the Superintendent's suggestion and request a safety review.

President Ryan shared the importance of noting the District cases had significantly reduced and noted this is the data they should be more concerned with. Superintendent Baranski shared the Santee Zip Code (92071) criteria would be revisited again at the next meeting.

Business Services

2.1. Measure S Independent Citizens Oversight Committee Annual Report

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, explained the Board had approved and convened the new Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC)

to oversee expenditures of the Measure S Bond Funds, in October 2019. He welcomed Mrs. Linda Vail, chair of the ICOC, to present the 2020 Annual board report and a draft of the Community Report for the Board's consideration.

Mrs. Vail shared she would be presenting the annual report and recommendations of the Measure S Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC). Measure S was approved by voters in November 2018 and authorized the sale of \$15.37 Million of previously approved but unissued Proposition R (2006) bonds.

She noted that as required by state law (Proposition 39), an Independent Citizens oversight Committee (ICOC) is established to monitor and review the expenditure of these bond funds and to ensure that these funds are spent as set forth in the voter-approved ballot measure. The members of this committee represent a broad cross-section of our community and do not have any connection to the District as either an employee, elected official, or vendor.

Mrs. Vail noted the ICOC is required to provide the School Board with an annual report of findings and recommendations; and as Measure S ICOC Committee Chair, she would be presenting the report on behalf of the committee. She acknowledged and expressed her gratitude towards committee members, Erin Garcia, Terri Knight, Joe Perricone, Beth Rackliffe, Kai Ramer, and Corrine Reed; and Member El-Hajj for serving as the Board's representative. Mrs. Vail shared the Committee is comprised of a group of citizens with varied knowledge and experience.

She noted the ICOC began meeting on October 30, 2019 to review the scope and limitations of their responsibilities, organize their work, and review the bond language and projects planned for the funds. The Committee held four (4) subsequent meetings where it reviewed the bond fund expenditures and change orders; and were provided an overview of property taxes, assessed valuation, and some key points on planning and structuring bond sales by Dale Scott, the District's financial advisor.

Mrs. Vail shared that on January 27th, the Committee reviewed and accepted the Measure S Financial and Performance Audits conducted by EideBaily, LLP; and through their expenditure review and the performance audit report, as of January 27, 2021, the Committee found the bond funds have been spent in compliance with the bond language.

On behalf of the committee, Mrs. Vail commended and expressed her gratitude towards Mr. Christensen, and the business and accounting staff, for a great audit report providing detailed accounting of expenditures needed and in an easily examinable format.

Mrs. Vail shared the ICOC is impressed with the minimal number of change orders and at the commitment of the entire modernization staff in seeking the greatest cost benefits during construction and their dedication to value engineering opportunities.

The Committee noted an area for improvement was the accessibility of information about the ICOC on the District website. Mrs. Vail shared this has been updated to include a link on the District homepage for easier access to the information by the public.

Mrs. Vail explained another requirement of the ICOC is to develop and distribute a report to the community. She noted that in the past, the community received the same report provided to the Board and shared the ICOC would like to recommend and ask the School Board to consider developing and distributing a more comprehensive report to the Community in the summer, upon completion of the modernization projects. Mrs. Vail explained the report would provide all taxpayers and voters within our school community with a fuller understanding of the projects that were funded by Measure S and the future value for students.

Mrs. Vail acknowledged the Boards' receipt of the Report to the Community, developed with the assistance of Dale Scott & Company, and a list of distribution options considered by the committee and projected costs. She noted that if the Board approved the development of a Report to the Community, the ICOC recommendation is to provide the Report by email to the parents of Santee School District students and also to include the brochure as an insert or as the center section of the June 2021 edition of the *Santee Magazine*, which is distributed by the Chamber of Commerce to every home in Santee.

ICOC Community Report Distribution Methods		
#	Method	Estimated Cost
	Obtain voter registration file	\$300+
1	US Mail to all voter households	\$20,000+, incl voter reg file
2	US Mail to selected voter households	\$10,000 - \$15,000, incl voter reg file
3	Create center-fold or insert for publishing in Santee Magazine which is mailed to all households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spring – due 3/8, in mail 3-22 ● *Summer – due 6-1, in mail 6-21 ● Fall – due 8-31, in mail 9-20 ● Holiday – due 11-1, in mail 11-22 	\$4,000 - \$5,000 (may be double for more content) ICOC ok for up to \$9,500
4	Email to School District Parents	Minimal
5	Email to Registered Voters with Email Addresses in Registration File (approx. 50% of registered voters)	\$500 - \$800, + \$300 voter reg file
6	Obtain voter registration file and record message to be Robo-Called to most voter households pointing them to District website for Community Report	\$400 - \$500, + voter reg file if #5 not done

Member El-Hajj commended Mrs. Vail for her leadership in her role as the committee chair. Member Burns commended Mrs. Vail and the committee for their diligence and recommendations; and suggested that the ICOC include additional context, instead of using the District's centerfold, to share the report. Member Levens-Craig shared being part of a similar committee and being familiar with the commitment; and expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Vail, and the committee, for their commitment and service. Member El-Hajj shared she thought the committee's idea to use Santee Magazine was great and inquired on the timeline for expending construction funds. She explained this would be helpful to anticipate which magazine edition to use (summer and/or fall). Mr. Christensen explained it is anticipated all bond funds would be expended by June 30, 2021. Member Levens-Craig suggested adding a QR code to the article that would lead back to the ICOC page for follow-up by the community; and suggested working with the city of Santee to include a link on their community website. Mr. Christensen expressed his gratitude towards the Board for the discussion.

The 2020 Annual Report of the Measure S Independent Citizens Oversight Committee was accepted by the Board.

2.2. Scope of Work and Cost for Improvements to Chet F. Harritt Front Entrance

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, explained the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Chet F. Harritt Learning Resource Center and Classroom building addition included a \$300,000 allowance for improvements to the front entrance of the main campus in order to improve security and visibility of entrants, as well as make it more prominent and noticeable from the parking lot. Mr. Christensen shared drawings of the front entrance. President Ryan noted this was an informational item only, but suggested the Board take action on their decision to support the additional cost of the improvements. Member Burns moved approval.

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

2.3. Furniture for New Buildings at Chet F. Harritt, PRIDE Academy, and Sycamore Canyon

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services shared Bryce Storm, Director Facilities, Maintenance & Operations, has been working with the Principals at Chet F. Harritt, PRIDE Academy, and Sycamore Canyon to select the furnishings to be installed in the new buildings currently under construction. He provided an overview of the furnishings selected by Site Administration in consultation with site staff, for review and approval. Member El-Hajj moved approval.

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

F. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS

President Ryan explained item F.1.1. were second readings of Board Bylaws BB 9223 (Filling Vacancies); and BB 9230 (Orientation of Candidates and New Board Members); and item F.1.2. were first readings. Member Burns moved approval of Item F.1.1. Second Readings of Board Bylaws 9223 and 9230.

1.1. Second Readings of Board Bylaws (BB):

- **BB 9223 – Filling Vacancies**
- **BB 9230 – Orientation of Candidates and New Board Members**

1.2. First Readings of Board Bylaws (BB):

- **BB 9250 – Remuneration and Reimbursement, Other Benefits**
- **BB 9310 – Board Policies**
- **BB 9320 – Meeting and Notices**

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

G. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association President, expressed appreciation to Members El-Hajj and Fox for their school visits; and the teachers' appreciation for visiting classrooms. Mrs. Hirahara shared staff is looking forward to the availability of vaccinations.

President Ryan shared that when the tier for educators is available, priority will be given to educators that have students on campus; and noted Superintendent Baranski was instrumental in making this possible. Mrs. Hirahara noted she was not aware of the priority and would await additional information.

H. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Superintendent Baranski shared Steve Baratte, the District's communication consultant, was continuing to work on the communication audit and was scheduled to meet with the site secretaries, vice principal, and individually with principals; and shared working with Mr. Baratte on the community survey.

Superintendent Baranski provided the Board with a copy of the Local Control Accountability Plan 2021 Executive Summary for their review. She shared there were upcoming stakeholder feedback sessions, including community input. Superintendent Baranski thanked Member Levens-Craig for her assistance in reviewing the executive summary and Assistant Superintendents Karl Christensen and Dr. Stephanie Pierce, and their staff, for their work on the document.

President Ryan noted the upcoming virtual events.

Member Burns inquired on holding a conversation on learning loss. President Ryan shared she would work with Superintendent Baranski to place on an upcoming agenda. Member Burns reiterated the importance of holding the discussion as soon as possible.

Member Fox reminded everyone to follow public health protocols: wear a mask; social distance; wash your hands; and avoid gatherings.

Member El-Hajj expressed her gratitude to site administration, and teachers, for welcoming them onto their sites during their visits. She shared her and Member Fox were continuing site visits on Thursday. Member El-Hajj noted seeing great teaching and learning in the in the classrooms.

I. CLOSED SESSION

President Ryan 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 8:01 p.m.

J. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:15 p.m. and reported no action had been taken.

K. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the regular meeting of February 16, 2021 was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.


Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk


Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary