

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

July 21, 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 6:00 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

B. 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 three (3) comments from the public. Copies of the comments were provided to the Board and Superintendent prior the meeting; and posted on the School Board Meetings website. President Burns acknowledged the receipt of the following comments during the meeting.

Comments from the Public Special Meeting – July 21, 2020				
ID	Name2	Last Name	Representing	Public Comment(s)
1	Jessica	Mascari	AJ Mascari	Hello, I am the parent of AJ Mascari. My son will be starting the 2nd grade this fall. This current crisis has been difficult for so many people, especially our children. Their world's are completely upside down and they have no idea when their life will return to normal. My son, for example, has not done well with school being shut down. He thrives on a routine, loves school, loves his teachers and misses his friends. To expect our children to CONTINUE to be isolated and forced to stay at home is saddening and unbelievable. To expect parents to thoroughly teach their school aged kids at home just isn't manageable. I have other children at home who require constant attention and having to navigate online schooling in a way that my 2nd grader will grasp this new material is ridiculous. Kids NEED school. School and education IS ESSENTIAL. I can't comprehend how this is still happening. Add whatever safety measures you need, tell the government NO! It is time we as a community make a STAND and do what is in the best interest of our kids. If there are parents out there who don;t want to send their kids to school then so be it. I find it hard to believe that there are more parents out there that want to stay home than don't. OPEN OUR SCHOOLS!! OUR KIDS ARE SUFFERING!
2	Shawntae	Smith		Please fight to get our kids back in school!! I will help however I can with obtaining the waiver, petitions, protests....anything! This is hurting our kid's so much. Please.....let's do what is right for our kids not let a political game ruin their future.
3	Eri	Nall	Cajon Park Students	As we revisit the school opening plan, I am frustrated at how a state government can determine what should be a locally controlled decision. Will you be applying for the waiver? If we start the school year online, will the teachers be looping? I do not see how a teacher can truly get to know their students academically, socially, and

				behaviorally over zoom. Thank you for your consideration.
4	Gina	Lerma	Gina lerma	I'm mother of child at Carlton oaks school.This coronavirus is bad numbers are going higher the last few days.Governor doesn't want the school to open due to numbers.I don't think mask and distance isn't going to work.A lot kids get sick at school track to other kids.Im nervous my daughter going back to school.I wish the district will consider online.I understand parents who work need there child to go to school and the learning.But I'm a staying home mom and really concerned for my child.I don't think can clean everything and masks aren't going to fully protect it.Really read this some of us concerned the coronavirus is serious and the numbers getting high.Thank you concerned parent Gina Lerma .
5	Joan	McKeon	My 3rd grade son	I would be love to send my son back to school with his teachers and friends, but that is just not feasible during these times. We can not go back to how things were at the beginning of the year. Even if we find an effective vaccine, I don't think we can ever go back to the carefree days when all we had to worry about was our kids bringing home a cold or lice. The reality is that it is not safe to go back into the classroom at this time. We need a distance learning program that is school based in and taught by the teachers at our children's school. Daily interaction and actual lessons are essential. When the infection rates start to decrease, a hybrid model would be the safest where we have half of the student body on campus at any given time. It will allow for us to move seamlessly back to full distant learning if/when the schools closed again. I know distance learning is not ideal and some kids will fall behind in some areas. But they can be caught up on education. That is not possible if they get seriously ill or (God forbid) were to die. Please don't make me have to choose between my child's safety or their education. His safety will ALWAYS win.
6	Mike	S		<p>Dear Santee School Board,</p> <p>As a citizen of Santee with a young child, I was relieved to hear that the school district was finally offering a distance learning option. For the safety of the students, teachers, staff, and community members, I hope that the board will move to make this the only option through the fall and only reconsider their opening plan for January 2021 if the pandemic has subsided in the county, as the San Diego Unified and many other school districts have done. This will provide safety and consistency until the pandemic can be more contained.</p> <p>I was concerned with the comments from the board on July 7th where the number one priority of the board was having the students return to school 100% in person. The number one priority should always be safety: safety of the students, safety of the teachers and staff, and safety of the community. There is a world-wide pandemic and it would be foolish to reopen schools without considering the current state of the pandemic locally and in surrounding areas. Cases in the county are on the rise and are increasing faster than any other time since the pandemic started. The reason for closing schools back in March has not gone away and in fact it has gotten worse. If restaurants and businesses must close, how can we consider opening schools, where students and teachers will be indoors for extended periods of time and without masks, according to the latest plan? If one student or teacher gets the virus, it will spread like wildfire to other students, staff, families and the community. Even if most of the infected people show little symptoms, many will have severe symptoms, and some would likely die. I do not think that is a risk worth taking.</p> <p>While case numbers in Santee have been low (the HHS for SD county lists 222 cases as of 7/19, which is far from zero), Santee is not isolated from the surrounding areas, which have much higher cases. Many people travel to and from neighboring areas and communities for work, shopping, leisure, or other reasons. With the pandemic out of control in the county and the county being on the state watchlist, how can you say and guarantee that the students, teachers, staff, and community will be safe? There is also very little information about the effect of the coronavirus in children, and when in doubt, we should err on the side of caution and not take on unnecessary risk.</p> <p>Though distance learning is not perfect, and everyone agrees in-person learning is better, distance learning is the only safe option at this time. How can we make the most out of this situation and use the resources available to address the needs of</p>

students? We are all going through this pandemic together and though we are each affected in different ways, the lives and safety of our students, teachers, staff, and community are too precious to risk.

C. CLOSED SESSION

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

1. California State of Emergency and Impact of COVID-19 Virus (Gov't. Code § 54957)

The Board entered closed session at 6:00 p.m.

D. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION


The Board reconvened to public session at 6:52 p.m., and reported no action was taken.

E. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the special meeting of July 21, 2020 was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Elana Levens-Craig, Clerk



Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary