

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

August 18, 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>El-Hajj</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. Claims Against the District

**2. Santee Kiwanis Club Grant for COVID-19 Supplies**

Superintendent Baranski shared the Santee Kiwanis Club had applied for grants to assist school districts with purchasing supplies for reopening schools. They were able to secure a \$500 grant and used it to purchase 15 contactless thermometers. Dan Bickford, President Elect, shared the Santee Kiwanis Club has partnered with the District and PTAs since 1971 to provide volunteers, programs, scholarships, and recognitions to the benefit of Santee children. He noted that when the opportunity to apply for a grant for COVID relief arose, it was the clubs decision to apply to purchase contactless thermometers for the schools; and shared delivering the thermometers to the Superintendent accompanied by Mr. Keith Warner earlier in the day. Mr. Bickford explained it was the hope of the Santee Kiwanis that the thermometers would aide in the safety of the students when they return to in-person instruction. He expressed his gratitude towards Member Fox and Mr.

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, for their assistance. President Burns expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Board, employees, and students for everything the Santee Kiwanis Club has done for the schools and community.

**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 four 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 for public review. President Burns acknowledged the receipt of the following comments during the meeting.

ID	Name2	Representing	Public Comment(s)
1	Deborah Gribble	Community and staff	The district is creating an unnecessary financial hardship by requiring staff to be onsite while children are still at home. Why? Why the added expenses for onsite staff? Why are we not considering the district staff and their current needs? I don't want staff cut in the future due to funding when the district is spending needless money and as well requiring its staff to pay for unscheduled daycare. I am disappointed.
2	Jennie Gray Connard	Self	I'm trying to get into the meeting on Tuesday. How can I sign up to be included in the meeting.
3	Jean Brittain	Gavin Brittain	Good evening, I am wondering how the AM/PM model is going to educate my jr. high student? It is only two and a half hours of education for 4 core classes. It seems that education time in person will be less than it is for distance learning. Also while teachers are on campus now is the community going to be notified if a teacher or other staff become positive with Covid? Last do you have a plan for after AM/PM or are we keeping this model for the rest of the year? Thank you.
4	Erin Kole	My child attending CH.	To: Santee School Board Members From: Erin Kole, parent of a fourth grader at Carlton Hills Please answer the following the questions: Why was there an additional Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on July 7, on the same day as a regular meeting? Why during this Special Meeting, on July 7th, was a closed session held using California Govt. Code 54947? Explain how this closed session meets the criteria for Govt. Code 54947. Explain why there was not a vote taken to meet in closed session FIRST at the Special Meeting on July 7th. How many teachers have tested positive for Covid-19 PRIOR to August 12th? How many since returning August 12th? What are the health protocols for teachers and staff when reporting to campus each day? What remote learning professional development opportunities were offered to teachers PRIOR to August 12th? What opportunities were offered AFTER August 12th? How many hours of remote learning professional development opportunities were offered to teachers prior to August 12th? How many hours were offered AFTER August 12th? What is the rationale for teachers not having the flexibility to remotely teach from their homes? Santee School District seems to be the only school district that is mandating this! What plans does the district have in place if teachers are infected with the Covid-19 virus during remote teaching? (They are now on campus with a large group of people despite being a classroom by themselves.) What plans does the district have in place if a teacher is sick and/or hospitalized with Covid-19? (Are you actively training substitute teachers in remote learning and teaching?) Have a great night! Thank you so much, Erin Kole

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

President Burns invited comments from the public on any item listed under Consent. There were no public comments.

**Superintendent**

- 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/Ratification of General Services Agreements
- 2.7. Authorization to Apply for 2020-21 Mandated Cost Block Grant
- 2.8. Approval of Agreement with Church of God for Use of Parking Lot at PRIDE Academy
- 3.1. Approval of Nonpublic School Master Contract with Springall Academy for Nonpublic School Services
- 3.2. Approval of Student Teaching/Clinical Practice Partnership Agreement with Point Loma Nazarene University
- 3.3. Approval of Fieldwork Placement Agreement with Point Loma Nazarene University
- 4.1. Personnel, Regular
- 4.2. Approval to Create Purchasing Technician Job Description
- 4.3. Approval of Teaching Internship Agreement with Point Loma Nazarene University (PNLU)

Member Ryan moved approval of Consent Items.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Ryan</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>Fox</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>		

**E. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS**

President Burns noted items F.1.1, and F.1.2., were second readings. He asked Board members to contact Administration if there were any questions and/or concerns.

- 1.1. Second Reading: Revised Board Policy 3551, Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
- 1.2. Second Reading: New Board Policy 3552, Summer Meal Program

Member Ryan moved approval of items F.1.1. and F.1.2.

<i>Motion:</i>	<u>Ryan</u>	<i>Burns</i>	<u>Aye</u>	<i>El-Hajj</i>	<u>Aye</u>
<i>Second:</i>	<u>El-Hajj</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>		

**F. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION**

Melanie Hirahara, STA President, shared the Memorandum of Understanding for distance learning had been ratified; and noted being disheartened and frustrated for not being provided the flexibility on their work location. She explained she would be sharing some issues that were brought to her over the last week and a half. Mrs. Hirahara shared the distance learning trainings did not assist teachers in the required areas; and the philosophical ideas shared did not help teachers prepare to use new conferencing platforms or provide applicable methods for delivering instruction. She noted teachers wondered what trainings were offered prior to their return. Mrs. Hirahara shared there was no clear direction provided to teachers; and that teachers are scrambling to figure out how to provide synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Only to find out today, the day prior to the first day of school, that the apps and programs are not on the student iPads and teachers will have to change their plans. Mrs. Hirahara shared teachers have not been given the technology tools they need to be successful; and software is not available. She noted realizing the impact on the technology department and their hard work, but shared teachers do not have the proper equipment that enables them to share a documents with students. Mrs. Hirahara shared this was caused by a lack of planning; and the fact that teachers were not included in preparing for distance learning. She noted some of these issues could have been dealt with prior to the first day of school. Mrs. Hirahara explained some teachers have spent personal time, training themselves and/or creating materials to teach parents and students how to set up or use technology. She noted there was no District provided support/instruction for parents. Mrs. Hirahara explained this had affected time for curriculum planning; and noted teachers spent a lot of time on mandated tasks and did not have their two and a-half days (2½) days to prepare in their classrooms. She shared that due to technology and logistic issues, and the lack of transparency from the District on these issues, teachers are left looking ill-prepared and unprofessional. Mrs. Hirahara noted the delay in the launch of the Seesaw app, lack of login credentials for new teachers, class lists not being populated on Microsoft Teams, apps not being installed,

misdelivered iPads, etc., leaves a burden on teachers. She shared the safety mandates from the reopening logistics plan not being implemented consistently across sites, including mask wearing, social distancing, and gathering in shared spaces. Mrs. Hirahara noted the minimal communication from the District to the teachers; and shared communication was sent only after being sent a list of questions that were continually being asked of STA. She shared crying almost daily because of the frustration and anger; along with other teachers. Mrs. Hirahara noted teachers are looking unprepared when they didn't cause this. Teachers are just trying to manage the chaos created when the District decided to put all eggs in one basket to open for in-person instruction on August 19. She shared the District spent more than one month preparing for full return and not distance learning, and now teachers were picking up the pieces. Mrs. Hirahara shared teachers spent hours in over 100 degree weather distributing iPads and student supplies; and noted the teachers have been working really hard but do not feel appreciated or respected.

Member El-Hajj shared she had written down some of the issues and noted some of these were of concern; not minimizing the others. She noted not being sure if anyone had an answer at the moment to all of the concerns. But, shared being comfortable knowing she would continue to bring their concerns to their attention; and her hope that at the next meeting she would share some of the concerns and/or issues were resolved or continue. Mrs. Hirahara explained some of these issues could have been solved ahead of time, if they had worked together as a team instead of being on opposite ends. She noted teacher morale is the lowest she has ever seen. Member El-Hajj expressed her gratitude for bringing the concerns to their attention and hoped some would be resolved by the next meeting.

Member Burns expressed his gratitude towards Mrs. Hirahara and wished all teachers a great first day of school.

#### **G. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

Superintendent Baranski shared a book published by a former District counselor, Stacy Rawson. She shared Ms. Rawson served as an intern for Ed Gigliotti; but had recently relocated to Washington. Superintendent Baranski congratulated Ms. Rawson for her achievement.

Superintendent Baranski discussed there was community support for the "waiver" to return to in-person learning. She noted the waiver process was recently revised and the need to discuss further, if the County meets the six-metrics and is allowed to return to in-person instruction. Superintendent Baranski shared that the District would know by August 31 if the County reached the six-metrics and allowed to return to in-person instruction; and would allow for discussion at the September 1 meeting. She noted the waiver still only applies for TK-grade 6; with no considerations for K-8 districts. Superintendent Baranski shared waivers, from two public school districts, had been submitted; and surrounding districts are considering the waiver and planning next steps. President Burns explained that due to the timeline, he asked that this item be brought back to the September 1 meeting for discussion. Member Levens-Craig inquired on the transition timeline and the notice parents and staff would be given for the transition from distance learning to in-person instruction. Superintendent Baranski shared proper notice would be provided for the transition; and shared she would be providing a recommended date for the Board's consideration.

Member Ryan expressed her appreciation to the parents and community for communicating their feelings and thoughts to the Board.

Member Levens-Craig shared the backpack giveaway was fun and successful. She noted there were principals, retired teachers, administrators, Board members, and community members volunteering. Member Levens-Craig shared it was great seeing the students' and parents' excitement and it being a positive way to start the school year. She noted that although there were a lot of uncertainties on whether or not students needed school supplies, she shared a backpack, crayons, a notebook, sets the students in the right direction. Member Levens-Craig expressed her appreciation to Santee Mobilehome Owners Action Committee (SMOAC) and all the volunteers that made this event possible. She shared her disappointment in not being able to visit a school and greet students on their first day of school.

Member El-Hajj shared being a teacher for 20 years and the excitement of getting ready for school; and understanding the frustrations expressed by Mrs. Hirahara. She explained that given the current circumstances, everyone is doing what they can not knowing what to expect. Member

El-Hajj shared driving her niece to pick up her iPad at Carlton Oaks; and shared her grandchildren picked up iPads from Lakeside School District. She noted the process was a lot more structured at Carlton Oaks. Member El-Hajj shared being able to experience her niece's excitement when she was greeted by the teachers as they arrived at Carlton Oaks. She noted experiencing the connection between Mrs. Benedetto and her niece as she was welcomed and handed her iPad and other material, and the impact it made on her niece. Member El-Hajj shared her grandchild's excitement to start school, and his excitement to establish a relationship with his teacher and classmates, even though he knew he would be distance learning. She noted that even though times are different, students will get excited for their "first day" of school. Member El-Hajj shared this is the message she hopes we can relay to all staff, that even though there's frustration, we still want all kids to enjoy their "first day" of school. She acknowledged all of staff's hard work and noted the pressure the Board and Executive Council have been under during this time. Member El-Hajj asked that we all take a moment to step back and acknowledge the problems but work together to solve them. She read a statement from her grandchild's teacher, "we know there are a lot of questions and concerns, so please be patient and show grace to all those involved, children and adults, during this time." She asked that we all treat each other with courtesy and grace.

Member Fox shared volunteering during the backpack give away. He noted it was great seeing the students' excitement. Member Fox explained his favorite part of the day was learning Member Levens-Craig had personally delivered backpacks to a parent who at work and unable to go herself.

President Burns shared he echoed everyone's comments; and understanding the teacher's frustrations because they want to provide the best education possible to students. He noted teachers will not only have the students' attention, but also of those at home. President Burns expressed his gratitude towards his son's teacher for her preparation; and shared his son's excitement to start school. He shared his appreciation for everyone's hard work to make this school year a success. Member Burns noted he agreed with Mrs. Hirahara on the time teachers had to prepare; and shared speaking to Superintendent Baranski about providing more support.

Superintendent Baranski shared her children were also preparing to start distance learning and shared her appreciation for their teachers.

President Burns shared the Board had received an inquiry on holding special meetings. He explained that every December, during the organizational meeting, the Board adopts a meeting calendar for the year and sent to the San Diego County Office of Education. Any time the Board meets outside of those dates, constitutes a "special meeting." President Burns shared the Board usually meets in closed session at the end of the regular meeting, but the summer allowed for the Board to meet before the regular meeting; which required a special meeting notice.

## H. CLOSED SESSION

1. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Gov't. Code § 54957.6)  
*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*

## I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the regular meeting of August 18, 2020 was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

  
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Elana Levens-Craig, Clerk

  
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Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary