

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

February 9, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District was held virtually on February 9, 2021 with a closed session at 5:00 p.m. and an open session immediately following.

Members present: Garvin, Karamitsos, Perez, Palera

Members absent: Lopez

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Garvin at 5:00 p.m. There were no public comments. The meeting was immediately adjourned to closed session.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION/ANNOUNCE CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

The Board reconvened at 6:42 p.m. Mr. Garcia led the Flag Salute and announced the closed session actions.

- The Board unanimously approved certificated and classified personnel actions.

REPORTS

Student Reports

Janeyri Antonio/SMHS: Student Council is continuing to hold virtual meetings every Monday. Currently planning spirit week and virtual homecoming event. This past Saturday 62 ASB students attended a California Youth Leadership summit on world peace, racial and gender equity, climate change, and coping with the pandemic. She spoke about the Close Up Washington program that will be held virtually this year. BSU participated in a winter coat drive and adopt a grandparent and wrote letters to those in nursing homes. FBLA had 14 members compete in a virtual competition. Awards will be announced next week.

Karlee Cullen/ERHS: Student leaders met with the WASC committee to share their experiences. She had a WASC member attend one of her classes. It was a very well-organized and comfortable visit. ASB is anticipating hosting a safe homecoming king/queen nomination and election event. They are planning another Club Day event, Renaissance Award, and more. Administration is beginning the planning for this year's graduation. Students are becoming more used to this online way of learning but it is not ideal for all students. Many students are longing to go back to school as soon as possible.

Carlos Rivas/PVHS: The majority of students have become used to distance learning model. Persisting issue is connection and technological issues. Students are wondering when we can return to school. ASB is holding Kindness and Speech Week and are preparing for National Women's Day with a week celebration in March.

Superintendent's Report

The District hosted Cross Country meets last week. Mr. Garcia commended the coaches and athletic directors for making this happen. Mr. Davis will speak more about athletics during the distance learning presentation.

He thanked the Righetti leadership and the writing teams for all their work on the WASC report and visit. Students, staff, and parents were involved as well. It was a thoughtful report.

At Santa Maria High School the plans are underway for the 50 classroom building. He thanked the residents in the community for passing the bond that is making it possible. He is looking forward to the evolution of the work that is being done at SMHS.

February is Black History Month – a tribute to African American men and women that have made significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world. Dr. Pete Flores is organizing a virtual panel presentation event on February 19. It will include two panelists: Terrance Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine students (who in 1957 was one of the first black students to attend a desegregated school); and Tommie Smith, who raised a black gloved fist with his teammate during the medal ceremony at the 1968 Olympics. More information will be forthcoming.

We are well on our way with second semester. He thanked the faculty, staff, and administration for their work. He also thanked the students and families for their perseverance during this time of uncertainty.

Board Member Reports

Mr. Palera: It was good to see that some athletics are back. It's good to have the kids outside and staying conditioned.

Ms. Perez: She thanked the coaches. She dropped her daughter off on campus for some activities and it was nice to see students on campus. She appreciates the photographs in the board agenda and see the progress that is going on at all the campuses. There is a lot of work going on.

Dr. Karamitsos: Thanked the students for their reports. She hopes we can give them some in-person senior events. Several years ago, she was at the CSBA conference and one of the keynote speakers was Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American Female Astronaut. She shared a quote from her, "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations." We are entering into this second term of this new year and we have had lots of conversations making sure that students don't miss out on what we can offer. We need to be expansive in our imagination and make sure we provide opportunities to our students. Allowing them opportunities for their futures. The decisions we make over the next few months will affect not just this year but for years to come. We need to be mindful of that. We can create some positive change by making sure we keep academic careers in tack for our students to the best of our ability. She is looking forward to visiting the CTE center and all the sites. It is

exciting that sports have started and she hopes we bring opportunities for those students that aren't interested in sports but have other interests (art and music). Righetti always hosted the Film Festival and she was thinking they could still do that this year. There is a lot of imagination out there and some great ideas. We need to be supportive of everyone working in the district.

Dr. Garvin: Glad to see the sports back. Congratulated PVHS FFA for their state awards and SMHS for having such a high percentage of students applying for financial aid. He thanked the students for their comments concerning the distance learning. We are getting through this. Hopefully by the summer we will reach some form of herd immunity and can see each other face to face in the classroom.

PRESENTATIONS

Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)

Mr. Davis introduced Britt Ortiz, the UCSB EAOP Director. Mr. Ortiz introduced his staff, Ms. Rosa Martinez, Associate Director; and had the College Site Coordinators introduced themselves: Crystal Buchan/RHS, Laura Rojas/PVHS, and Nancy Pacheco/SMHS.

The program uses the "Dual Service Model" which includes students that are enrolled in EAOP as well as students that are not. The program helps every student regardless of what program they are in by utilizing:

- School-wide college going initiatives (CGI) by grade level
- Intensive cohort services for EAOP students (A-G eligible)
- Sustained daily, weekly, month, and year-round by EAOP College Site Coordinators

The program enhances and supplements school site efforts in college and career readiness, promotes a college going culture for all stakeholders and focuses on college eligibility, application, and admittance rates.

They spoke about the services to EAOP enrolled students as well as services to the whole school. They never turn away any student. They gave the number of student contacts by school and provide one on one services by: email messages, Instagram, reminders, and Zoom meetings. Zoom workshops include college applications and financial aid.

Discussion topics included:

- Are AVID students enrolled in EAOP?
 - There are some duplicates but EAOP won't exclude any student regardless of whether a member of EAOP or not (or if in duplicate programs).
- Families are concerned about the cost of college.
 - UCSB is trying to offer more scholarships and financial packets to help with student debt (especially for first generation students)
- The number of students reached at each site.

- Following students that attend college and who graduates college.
 - Working with UCSB on that information.

Distance Learning and Reopening Plan Update

Mr. Garcia, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Platt presented the Distance Learning and Reopening Plan Update.

The following items were discussed: Student Learning, Student Wellness, Staff Support, Health & Safety and Next Steps. Items included:

- Small group services continuing on all campuses.
- Targeted focus on 12th grade support graduation.
- Extended Day options for make-up courses.
- OTCR options during and after school.
- 24/7 tutoring program
- Wellness Weeks scheduled for Spring
- Use of Inc (Incomplete)
- Dedicated LMFT to Delta HS; second LMFT scheduled to begin next week and two additional applicants interview next week.
- Counseling Program
- Athletics Update – some sports are beginning competitive seasons (Cross Country, Golf, Swimming/Diving, Tennis, and Track and Field).
 - Our district is currently conducting local (SM Valley) dual meets only with no transportation and “home-only” spectators.
- Staff Support Update – Several online trainings were conducted in January on/after Teacher Professional Development Day; Team TOSA conducting open Office Hours; Sessions and availability throughout Spring.
- COVID-19 data was shared. We will continue COVID-19 surveillance testing every two months and our current prevention plan remains active.
- COVID-19 vaccinations for Phase 1B is now proposed to happen in late February.
- Next steps include to continue to support student learning and well-being; reopen when it is safe to do so; and continue to anchor decisions to our guiding principles (student and staff safety, student learning and well-being, and equitable access to a quality program).

Board discussion included:

- Even though the data shows the COVID-19 numbers are going down they are still high and we need to continue with safe practices.
- Encouraging people to get the vaccine. There is a lot of misinformation and it may behoove the district to put out accurate information.
- People at the sites may be becoming less safe and it needs to be monitored.
 - It is being monitored by site AP's and Mr. Platt. Mr. Platt is in contact with County Health.

- Bringing seniors back to campus. Need to get seniors back to give them equitable access to a quality program. Would like to see a plan submitted.
 - We will add it as a discussion item to the March agenda.

There was a five minute break from 8:00 p.m. to 8:05 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Distance Learning Grading/Evaluation of Student Achievement

The Board received information and discussed development of a policy for grading during distance learning that prioritizes student well-being and academic success as well as recognized that individual student needs require flexibility and sensitivity to factors which are beyond the student's control. The District strives to have a grading policy where grades communicate student learning and growth as well as the ability to validate mastery of established standards/competencies.

The COVID-19 considerations are:

1. Competency Based Grading for Spring Semester 2021
 - Policy would allow students to demonstrate competency by earning a higher grade in the Spring semester and having that higher grade applied to the Fall Semester
 - Similar to UC/CSU systems 'validation' policy but in concept only
 - Applied to all year-long classes
 - For ALL students enrolled in 2020-21
 - May require MOU or further negotiation
2. NM and INC
 - NM = No Mark
 - NM is not included in GPA calculation
 - Could assist some students' overall GPA for collegiate admissions in non-required courses
 - INC = Incomplete
 - No grade assigned
 - Student/Teacher determine level of additional work needed to earn higher grade after grading period
3. Graduation Credits – FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2021
 - Modify graduation credit requirements
 - Reflect state graduation requirements
 - COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOLS
 - From 220 credits to 180
 - DELTA HIGH SCHOOL
 - From 205 credits to 165

- ALL HIGH SCHOOLS
 - Case by case analysis
 - Conducted by site Counseling Teams
 - Final approval granted by Principal
 - For current seniors enrolled in 2020-21

Public comments were read at this time. The following people submitted public comments for this issue: Noemy Padron, Marlen Gonzalez, Zulema Aleman, Eva Catalan, Angel Lopez, Layhearn Tep, Daniel Alvarez, Daniel Gonzalez, Maria Reyes, Maria Mendez, Marisol Mendoza, Jessica Rodriguez, Alex Espinoza-Kulick, Mario Espinoza-Kulick, Emma Fay, Jasmin Herrera

Board discussion included:

- Teachers need involved in this discussion.
- There is very limited research on grading.
- Grading is an arbitrary process.
- It has to be disheartening for the teachers. They have worked hard to make this process work for their students.
- The teacher needs to be the one to drive the grade and it is the Board's job to set the policy.
- This would be a temporary change in grading policy to address the current needs due to COVID-19.
- Students can retake courses in summer.
- There is Ed Code that speaks to a role in teacher's grading – teachers have the final say on the grades they give to students.
- District has had conversations with Department Chairs and principals. There are some nuances we need to flush out.
- Motivation is an intricate piece. If people feel successful from the outset, then they will be successful.
- Need to meet with the faculty association and will add it to the March 9 agenda (or sooner if possible).

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

GENERAL

Reduction in Force for Classified Staff – Resolution Number 14-2020-2021

The district must reduce certain classified positions due to lack of work. Resolution Number 14-2020-2021 authorizes the administration to proceed with the recommended reduction in force.

A motion was made by Mr. Palera and seconded by Ms. Perez. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 4-0 to approve Resolution Number 14-2020-2021 which authorizes the administration to proceed with the recommended reduction in classified staff.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes
Ms. Lopez	Absent

BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Audit Report and Plan of Corrective Actions

As required by Education Code §41010, the District retained the services of the auditing firm, Christy White Accountancy Corporation, to audit the books and accounts of the District. In accordance with Education Code §41020, the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2020 is hereby submitted to the Board of Education for review at this public meeting. The full audit report can be found on the District's website.

A motion was made by Dr. Karamitsos and seconded by Ms. Perez. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0 to accept the submission of the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2020 and approve filing it with the County Superintendent of Schools as required by Education Code §41020.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes
Ms. Lopez	Absent

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Dr. Karamitsos and seconded by Ms. Perez to approve all consent items as presented. There was a brief discussion on a contract approval (tutor.com) and the Righetti field turf replacement. Ms. Ortiz will provide Dr. Karamitsos with information on the bid. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Garvin	Yes
Dr. Karamitsos	Yes
Ms. Perez	Yes
Mr. Palera	Yes
Ms. Lopez	Absent

A. Approval of Minutes

Special Board Meeting – January 11, 2021
 Regular Board Meeting – January 12, 2021

B. Approval of Warrants for the Month of January 2021

Payroll	\$8,046,477.96
Warrants	2,868,665.26
Total	<u>\$10,915,143.22</u>

C. Approval of Contracts

COMPANY/ VENDOR	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	AMOUNT/ FUNDING	RESOURCE PERSON
Tutor.com	Online Academic Tutoring	\$100,500/ CARES Act/ LLMF	John Davis
Comcast Cable Communications Management	Internet Service for Students	\$9.95/per month per student/ CARES Act/ LLMF	John Davis
IBH Solutions	Customer Service and Account Management for Employee Assistance Services for November 2020 – June 2021.	\$8,342.40/ General Fund	Kevin Platt

D. Facility Report – **Appendix B**

E. Denial of Claim

The District is in receipt of a claim on behalf of Harrison Moore by The May Firm with regards to an accident that occurred on September 20, 2019. It is recommended that the Board of Education deny the claim and refer the matter to the District's insurance carrier.

G. Notice of Completion

The following project was substantially completed on December 18, 2020 and in order to file the necessary Notice of Completion forms with the County of Santa Barbara, the Acceptance of Substantial Completion needs to be formally accepted by the Board of Education.

- 1) ERHS -Gym Bleacher Replacement Project #20-352 with American Eagle Enterprises, Inc. (Contractor)

H. Purchase Orders

PO #	Vendor	Amount	Description/Funding
PO21-00802	Santa Barbara County SELPA	\$ 128,595.00	Non-Public School costs SY 20-21 / General Fund Special Ed Mental Health TLC
PO21-00839	FieldTurf USA, Inc.	\$ 451,645.87	RHS field turf replacement / Fund 25 Developer Fees
PO21-00849	Santa Barbara County SELPA	\$ 112,440.56	BCBA services contract FY 20-21 / General Fund Special Ed Mental Health

I. Acceptance of Gifts

Righetti High School		
<u>Donor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>
California Future Business Leaders of America	FBLA	\$721.95
Total Righetti High School		<u>\$721.95</u>
Santa Maria High School		
<u>Donor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Index Fresh	FFA – In Memory of Bill Adam Jr.	\$150.00
Kaye M Raul	FFA – In Memory of Bill Adam Jr.	\$100.00
EHP Solutions	Auto Club	\$5,000.00
California Future Business Leaders of America	FBLA	\$721.95
Total Santa Maria High School		<u>\$5,971.95</u>

REPORTS FROM EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

Matt Provost: Some of the statements made were spot on but a lot of the statements were ridiculous. Quit blaming teachers. Teachers don't give out grades willy-nilly; students earn those grades.

Tami Contreras: Thanked the Superintendent and the Board for the presentations. She gave an update on labor negotiations. They are waiting on the labor rep for the MOU. Hopefully, it will be on the March agenda. She spoke about the Family First Coronavirus Act and hopes the district will voluntarily bring it back.

OPEN SESSION PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were comments submitted that referenced item VII-A. Please see that item for the names of people that submitted public comments.

FUTURE ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

- Hybrid Plan to bring back seniors on campus.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Unless otherwise announced, the next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held March 9, 2021. Closed session begins at 5:30 p.m. Open session begins at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the District Support Services Center.

FUTURE REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2021

April 13, 2021	June 15, 2021	September 14, 2021
May 11, 2021	July 13, 2021	October 12, 2021
June 8, 2021	August 3, 2021	November 9, 2021
		December 14, 2021

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.