



**SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

**David Marr Theater
2200 Eureka Way
Redding, CA 96001**

**August 10, 2021
ADOPTED MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Shasta Union High School District was called to order at 5:31 pm by Trustee Pepple in the Shasta Union High School District David Marr Theater.

ROLL CALL: Trustees Constance Pepple, Ron Zufall, Gregory Hartt, Jamie Vericker, and Joseph Ayer were present. Also present: Superintendent Jim Cloney, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Jason Rubin, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services Leo Perez, and Chief Business Official David Flores.

There were no requests from the audience to speak to any items on the closed session agenda. The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:30 to discuss the following: 1) Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint (G.C. 54957); 2) Conference with Labor Negotiator (G.C. 54957.6) Agency designated representatives: Jim Cloney – Superintendent, David Flores – Chief Business Official, Jason Rubin – Associate Superintendent/H.R. and Leo Perez - Associate Superintendent/Instructional Services. Employee Organizations: Shasta Secondary Education Association (SSEA), Educational Support Professionals Association (ESP), California School Employees Association (CSEA) and Management/Supervisory/Confidential; and 3) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (G.C. 54956.9) One Case.

The Board reconvened into an open session at 6:30 pm. Trustee Pepple announced the Board took no action in closed session. Trustee Pepple led the pledge of allegiance and Trustee Ayer recited the mission and vision statements.

- RES. 21-140 That the Board approve the agenda, as presented. (Motion Hartt, second Zufall, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-141 That the Board approve the consent agenda, as presented. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-142 That the Board approve the SUHSD Board Recognized Athletics and Organizational Clubs for 2021-22. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-143 That the Board approve the minutes for the July 13, 2021 special Board meeting. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-144 That the Board approve the minutes for the July 13, 2021 regular Board meeting. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-145 That the Board approve the Shasta Tehama Trinity Adult Education Consortium District Designee. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-146 That the Board ratify commercial warrants in the amount of \$2,738,688.76 and payroll distributions in the amount of \$883,146.59 for the period of 7/01/2021 - 7/31/2021. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-147 That the Board approve the Quarterly Report of Investments. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-148 That the Board approve the request to declare a property as surplus (Transportation – 99 GMC Truck). (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).

- RES. 21-149 That the Board approve the updated registry of International Student Exchange Placement Organizations. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-150 That the Board approve the Human Resources Action Report, as follows: *Certificated – (Returning from unpaid LOA): Anne Baxter*, 5/5 Math (SHS), effective August 12, 2021. (*Resignation*): Breanna Ketel, 5/5 PE (SHS), effective July 24, 2021. (*New Hire*): Kurt Kuehl, 5/5 Alt Ed (PHS), effective August 12, 2021. *Classified – (Hours Increase)*: Rebecca Capener, Food Nutrition Specialist 5.5-hours/10-months (EHS), effective August 12, 2021, and Hung Vu, Food Nutrition Specialist, 5-hours/10-months (D.W.), effective August 12, 2021. (*New Hire*): Linda Perotti, At-Risk Paraprofessional 6-hours/10-months (PHS), effective August 12, 2021 and Trystan Thomas, Transportation Supervisor 8-hours/225-days (Trans), effective July 26, 2021. (*Promotion*): Brianna Lucatorta, Payroll Tech 8-hours/12-months (D.O.), effective July 20, 2021. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-151 That the Board approve the letter endorsing local control for COVID-19 mitigation in non-urban K-12 school districts. (Motion Zufall, second Ayer, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-052 That the Board waive the second reading and approve the draft mandated and draft optional Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, as provided by CSBA. (Motion Zufall, second Ayer, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-053 That the Board approve Change Orders Numbers 2 and 3 for Shasta High School Tennis Courts Reconstruction, to be ratified for a net increase to the contract KYA Services, LLC, in the amount of \$13,083.64. (Motion Ayer, second Vericker, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-154 That the meeting adjourn. (Motion Ayer, second Zufall, carried 5-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Enterprise High School (EHS) Teacher Martin Reid advocated for mask choice stating that masks cause instructional, physical, and psychological barriers.

Teacher and mother Amy Robles advocated for mask choice stating that corporate-owned media is the virus.

Teacher and mother Christa Reid urged the Board for mask choice in order to build and maintain teacher-student relationships. She emphasized the importance of these relationships in order to maintain student safety as a mandated reporter.

Shasta High School (SHS) Teacher Brandon Good advocated for mask choice stating that it is a major obstacle to effective teaching. He expressed concerns regarding litigation and inquired if he will personally be held liable if he does not enforce students to wear a mask.

Parent Ken Baker stated that masks are good in some occasions but not for our students. He stated that his son was unable to play the trumpet last year due to the pandemic and urged the Board to give parents and students a choice regarding masks.

Veterinarian Kristen Campbell Largent applauded the Board for drafting a letter to the state urging local control on COVID-19 mitigation. She asked what the Board would do next if this does not work. She inquired what we as a community and parents can do to protect our kids and help the Board. Dr. Campbell noted that her son is a cancer survivor, and N-95 masks were used.

Kathy Goodson urged the Board to make a statement like Oroville School District and not enforce the mask mandate. She expressed concerns regarding the effectiveness of the different types of masks. Ms. Goodson stated that masks cause depression, facial deformities, delayed social skills, protruding ears, pressure ulcers, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued):

Foothill High School (FHS) Teacher Matt Fowler asked the Board to eliminate the mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year and to implement a District-wide initiative on hygiene. He stated that masks do far more damage than protection to students.

Mother Shannon Eckelbarger stated that she felt something is wrong and that something is not right regarding COVID-19. She expressed concerns regarding COVID-19 testing and misinformation on the internet.

Local business owner Brent Taylor applauded the teachers who spoke in opposition to the mask mandate tonight. He stated that our kids should not be masked, noting that local law enforcement has not enforced masking in the community.

Cheryl Taylor stated that she attended a patriot convention where speaker Michael Flynn urged the attendees to stand up for what is right and take action when they get home. She asked the Board to stand up for what is right, regardless of the state.

Mother Dian Brown stated that students' masks are left everywhere except on faces. She said that she appreciates what the Board is doing regarding the letter and stated that we need to stand as a community and do what we need for our kids.

Father Robert Lorge stated that his son was excited not to have to wear a mask at football practice. He advocated against masks, mandatory vaccines, and critical race theory. He inquired if his son was going to be taught critical race theory at SHS.

Mother Jackie LaBarbera urged the Board to find the truth, stop masking students and fight for our children.

Michele Dugar thanked the Board for the letter to the state and relayed recognition to Trustee Pepple for reading the supplemental book request *There There* by Tommy Orange. She stated that the book has been approved by department chairs and wrote a letter to the Board urging them not to adopt it. Ms. Dugar stated the book is horrible and contains historical misinformation regarding Thanksgiving.

Paige Meyer thanked the Board for their efforts on the proposed letter to the state but stated that the action is too little too late. She stated that forced masks and vaccines are not what is best for students. She raised concerns regarding the latest quarantine guidelines stating that they are discriminatory. Ms. Meyer requested the Board provides every student in an extra-curricular activity be six feet away from others to protect their medical privacy.

Melissa Magoneya stated that she submitted a petition with more than 200 signatures requesting masks and PCR testing be a choice. She urged the Board to write to the County Board of Supervisors to end the local state of emergency and endorse the healthy community resolution.

Whitney Hathaway stated that she attended the last Board meeting where she learned vaccine clinics would be offered to student-athletes. She stated that she does not want or need vaccine clinics on school grounds. Ms. Hathaway asked for student's immune systems to do what they should do without masks or vaccines.

Mother Beth Watt stated that masks are inefficient, and students K-12 are at the least risk of getting COVID-19. She inquired what the District will do if her student shows up without a mask on Monday.

Grandfather Bob K. spoke in opposition of the mask mandate and requested the Board make masks optional, not mandatory. He stated that teaching critical race theory is a disservice to students and noted that Board Members are in an elected position.

MFT Lori Bridgeford raised concerns regarding the chemicals in vaccines and masks and the negative impact of distance learning. She provided the Board with informational materials, including a hotline to report adverse reactions to vaccines.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued):

Gina (no last name provided) stated that she agrees with what the other speakers have said and appreciates the public for coming to speak. She raised concerns regarding the new quarantine guidelines stating that her child may miss class if quarantined since they are not vaccinated. Gina stated that the District has expressed liability concerns, and she provided reasons why masks are a liability for students.

RECESS: 7:46pm - 7:52pm

West Cottonwood Jr. High School student Mariska Watson stated that she was against wearing masks because they are too thick to breathe in and weaken the immune system.

Mother Wendy Edwards advocated for mask choice. She stated that her daughter wore a mask last year after receiving a medical exemption because she did not want to be made fun of and received a rash from it.

Jeff Lowe stated that a mask is a medical device and forcing kids to wear a mask is child abuse.

Mother Tara Hartman advocated for mask choice stating that masks are a distraction for students and teachers.

Richard Gallardo inquired which Board member is a doctor and if they are advocating for an experimental vaccine. He stated that the mask mandate is not law, and masks are optional.

Parent Colt Roberts expressed his right to individual freedoms and stated that the people have the power and the rights. He urged the Board not to comply with the mask mandate.

Grandmother Debbie Burkett stated that the Governor, public health, and CDC do not make the law. She stated that Shasta County is not in a state of local emergency and advocated for the Board to give students a choice when it comes to wearing a mask.

Trustee Pepple thanked the members of the public for taking the time to share their views.

REPORTS FROM SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS:

SSEA President Layne McLean stated that the staff is very excited to be back with students. He said that despite the fires, COVID-19, air quality, and heat, staff will be able to spend more time with students than last year, and he is very thankful for that. Mr. McLean stated that his message to his colleagues is to focus on the positives. SSEA held their annual new teacher luncheon today, and he thanked Trustee Ayer for attending. He stated that though the administration team and his colleagues do not always see eye-to-eye, they do what is best for the kids. He thanked all staff for their hard work stating that this is the best District in California.

ESP President Rhonda Minch was not present.

CSEA President David Martin was not present.

REPORTS FROM PRINCIPALS:

Alternative Education: Tim Calkins stated that staff is busy answering phones, registering students and that they are all looking forward to a great school year.

Enterprise High School: Ryan Johnson reported that EHS held orientation yesterday, and it was great to see families and students back on campus with a lot of energy and positivity. The staff is busy balancing class sizes. Trustee Zufall asked Mr. Johnson to provide a brief update on the bond projects. Mr. Johnson stated that they are very thankful for all of the projects, including new classrooms, facility/classroom upgrades, and paving upgrades.

REPORTS FROM PRINCIPALS (continued):

Foothill High School: Steve Abbott stated that they are excited for students to come back and will try and be outside as much as possible to see their beautiful faces. Freshman orientation is scheduled for tomorrow, and they are focused on getting them acclimated to a larger campus since a majority of their feeder schools are in very small communities.

Shasta High School: Shane Kikut stated that they have ten new teachers joining his staff this year. Current construction projects include the new tennis courts, sidewalks, and the refurbishment of the manufacturing shop. Mr. Kikut stated that they held nineteen orientation presentations this week for incoming students. SBAC test results show that 77% of students met or exceeded the English requirement, and 52% of students met or exceeded the math requirement. Both of these numbers are an increase in comparison to the previous year.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

Jim Cloney stated that schools are busy getting ready for the new school year. He reported that he met with new certificated staff today at their orientation. He thanked Mr. McLean for hosting the new employee luncheon and thanked Trustee Ayer for attending. Mr. Cloney reported that the District held a very successful summer school program where 87% of the 611 students passed their classes. Traditionally students could only take two classes. Due to the learning loss from COVID-19, the District increased this, and students could take three classes to help them get back on track.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Trustee Zufall stated that he received a letter from Chloe Fowler highlighting the success of the FFA program.

Trustee Hartt stated that he appreciated the public for showing up and letting the Board hear their voice. He reported that the Board toured the bond projects and stated that it was amazing to see all of the bond funds funneled back into the schools. Trustee Hartt stated that he and his family have received the vaccine. He noted that he is not speaking for the Board and that he generally does not like oversight/over control. Trustee Hartt stated that he is a scientist, and the information changes daily. District administration and the Board has done the best they can to keep information flowing and that it is not always what you want to hear. He stated that the disease is not fake if we are taking care of people who are sick, including children, which he sees at work every day. Trustee Hartt stated that he is not here as a public health officer and that he hears the public comment loud and clear. He will continue to stand up for the truth.

Trustee Ayer thanked the public for sending their concerns via email to the Board and for coming to share their comments tonight. He thanked SSEA President Layne McLean for inviting him to the new employee luncheon. Trustee Ayer stated that the District appreciates our new hires and that it is exciting to see their careers flourish. He reported that he is proud of what the District has accomplished this past school year and is proud to be on the Board and proud of our staff.

DISCUSSION:

COVID-19: Jim Cloney stated that last school year ended with most schools conducting in-person instruction five days per week with minimal social distancing and all students and staff in masks. He noted that a majority of instruction from last year was in a hybrid model, whereas most schools across the state did full distance learning. On July 12, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that all students and staff should wear a mask indoors regardless if they are vaccinated or not. They also stated that they would not be enforcing social distancing. Following this announcement, they tweeted that further guidance would be clarified regarding masking enforcement, noting local control. Mr. Cloney stated that at the July 13 Board meeting, the Board requested he gather information on what options the District has regarding masking.

Mr. Cloney stated that he has partnered with the Association of California School Administrators, legal counsel, Shasta County Public Health, and the Shasta County Office of Education. He clarified CDPH's tweet stating that districts are obligated to follow the mask mandate and have local control on how they enforce the requirement. Mr. Cloney stated that his recommendation during the current state of emergency

DISCUSSION:

COVID-19 (continued): is that the District follow the mandates set forth by CDPH. The District is obligated to offer independent study for students who do not follow the mask mandate.

Trustee Zufall noted that our legal counsel advocates for the District. Mr. Cloney stated that infectious diseases are not covered under our liability insurance. If the District does not follow state mandates, we could face legal fees in the event of a lawsuit.

Trustee Hartt inquired if the legal counsel reviewed the proposed letter advocating for local control. Mr. Cloney stated that it is a draft letter, and other districts are submitting a similar letter at the state level. The letter does not state we will be taking legal action.

Mr. Cloney stated that there has not been new guidance on athletics or extra-curricular activities. Football games start in two weeks, and as it stands now, the spectators will not be required to wear a mask since it is outdoors. He stated that the District would do everything they can to give people freedom and choice within the guidelines. Mr. Cloney stated that the mask mandate is not an item the Board will need to vote on, and he will continue to work at the discretion of the Board.

Trustee Pepple stated that she agreed with a majority of the public comment. She stated that the decision on masks is not within the Boards' purview as it is set forth by the state. Trustee Pepple stated that she will not guide students by breaking the law and that it is up to the state legislature and the government to change the mandates in place.

Trustee Zufall stated that he is excited students are returning to school full time and that he personally thinks the mask mandate will not fix the problem. His decision as a Board member on masks is based on many different factors, including government control, liability concerns, legal advice, and union representation.

Trustee Vericker thanked Mr. Cloney for gathering the information.

Trustee Hartt stated that masks absolutely help, and wearing appropriate masks has kept people in his workplace from getting COVID-19. He is happy to see that masks will not be mandated outside because the science supports this.

COVID-19 Letter: Jim Cloney stated that included in the packet is a letter to various state officials from the Board asking for legislative support to allow rural and suburban Northern California school districts, and particularly those in Shasta County, to continue to serve families by enabling local control of our safety guidance implementation.

Fall Study Session: The Board agreed to tentatively meet on Monday, October 25 at 5:00 pm. The Board will notify the Superintendent's Office if there is a potential scheduling conflict.

Trustee Pepple announced the Board would recess due to disruptions from the audience.

RECESS: 8:59pm – 9:12pm

CSBA Policies: Jim Cloney stated that the policies presented are part of a special batch in response to Assembly Bill 130 that requires the District to adopt new policies on independent study. As the CSBA Policy Liaison, Trustee Zufall reviewed the CSBA policies and recommended the Board waive the second reading and approve them.

State Budget: David Flores stated that there had not been many changes to the adopted state budget. COLA has been confirmed at 5.07%, and the state will pay down deferrals, which is good for the District's cash flow. Mr. Flores noted that special education is typically underfunded at the local and state level and was pleased to report that the state will apply additional funding to special education.

DISCUSSION (continued):

Bond Program Update: David Flores stated that FHS is constructing a greenhouse from grant money near their brand new ag facility. Construction crews continue work on the FHS two-story building HVAC ventilation project. The remodel of the SHS shop building will be finished in approximately four weeks. The shop will consist of a classroom, woodshop, and metal shop. They have finished setting up the classroom in time for school to start. The new tennis courts at SHS will be done in early September. The city's Safe Routes to Schools project has and will continue to cause a lot of road construction through January around SHS and the District Office as they redo the sidewalks. The EHS culinary classroom remodel is complete, and the kitchen should be done by the time students are in school. Mr. Flores stated that there are multiple floors around the District being stripped down to concrete at the request of the administrators.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials for 2021-22: At 9:21 pm, Trustee Pepple declared the meeting open to Public Hearing to provide interested parties an opportunity to speak regarding the adequacy of textbooks and instructional materials for the 2021-22 school year. There were no comments, and the public hearing was declared closed.

ADVANCE PLANNING:

Next Meeting Date: September 14, 2021

Suggested Future Agenda Items: The Board will vote on the proposed supplemental book adoption *There There* at the September 14 Board meeting. Trustee Zufall stated that he was not in favor of the proposed supplemental book adoption.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Greg Hartt, Clerk
Board of Trustees

Jim Cloney, Executive Secretary
Board of Trustees