



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

**Board Room
2200 Eureka Way
Redding, CA 96001**

**November 9, 2021
ADOPTED MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Shasta Union High School District was called to order at 5:30pm by Trustee Pepple in the Shasta Union High School District Board Room.

ROLL CALL: Trustees Constance Pepple, Ron Zufall, Gregory Hartt, 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 5:30pm 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 open session at 6:30pm. The Board took no action in closed session. Student Board Member Ava Gebhart was present for the open session portion of the meeting. Trustee Pepple led the pledge of allegiance and Trustee Ayer recited the mission and vision statements. This month's student artwork display is from Shasta High School.

RES. 21-193 That the Board approve the agenda as presented, with the exception of tabling agenda item 10.3A Field Trip Requests. (Motion Ayer, second Zufall, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

RES. 21-194 That the Board approve the consent agenda, as amended. (Motion Hartt, Second Zufall, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

RES. 21-195 That the Board ratify commercial warrants in the amount of \$2,895,437.50 and payroll distributions in the amount of \$4,270,593.93 for the period of 10/01/2021 - 10/31/2021. (Motion Hartt, Second Zufall, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

RES. 21-196 That the Board approve the Human Resources Action Report, as follows: *Classified – (Hours Decrease/Increase):* Hannah Brown, Title I-Para 6.5 hour/10 month (SHS), effective October 4, 2021; Deborah Engel, Title I-Para 6.5 hour/10 month (EHS), effective October 1, 2021; Pamela Hoover-Willats, Food Nutrition Specialist 4 hour/10 month, effective November 1, 2021; Loretta Klinker, Bus Driver 7.5 hour/10 month (Trans), effective October 1, 2021; Joyce Martin, Title I-Para 6.5 hour/10 month (FHS), effective October 1, 2021; Muang Saechao, Title I-Para 6.5 hour/10 month (EHS), effective October 1, 2021; and Bonnie Stockton, Food Nutrition Specialist 4 hour/10 month (FHS), effective November 1, 2021. (*New Hire*): Eric Meeks, At-Risk Para 5.75 hour/10 month (EHS), effective October 25, 2021; Garrett Muncrief, Instructional Para-Sp Ed 5.75 hour/10 month (FHS), effective October 1, 2021; Saige Ostrom, Library Media Tech 8 hour/238 day (EHS), effective October 20, 2021; Mohana Pescatore, At Risk Para, 6.17 hour/10 month (PHS), effective October 11, 2021; Daniel Valles, Athletic Field Tech 8 hour/12 month, (SHS)

effective October 26, 2021. (*Position Change*): Ruth Reyna, Bilingual Para/At-Risk Para 5.75/0.75 hour/10 month (EHS) effective October 1, 2021. (*Termination-Probationary Release*): Nancy Saeteurn, Health Clerk 6 hour/201 days (SLC), effective October 29, 2021. (*Resigned/Retired*): Kami Ankeny, Transportation Secretary 6 hour/10 month (Trans), effective December 22, 2021; Loren Brown, Custodian 8 hour/12 month (FHS), effective October 26, 2021; Evelyn Hinkle-Blank, Transportation Secretary 8 hour/10 month (Trans), effective December 22, 2021; Loretta Klinker, Bus Driver 7.5 hour/10 month (Trans), effective October 29, 2021; Rachel Nohrden, Food Nutrition Specialist 5.5 hour/10 month (SHS), effective October 19, 2021; and Starlee Wagner, School Office Assistant 3 hour/10 month (SLC), effective November 30, 2021. (Motion Hartt, Second Zufall, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

- RES. 21-197 That the Board approve to set the regular Board Meeting of December 21, 2021 as the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of Trustees. (Motion Hartt, Second Ayer, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-198 That the Board approve the minutes for the October 12, 2021 regular Board meeting. (Motion Zufall, Second Ayer, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-199 That the Board approve the minutes for the October 25, 2021 special Board meeting. (Motion Hartt, Second Zufall, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-200 That the Board excuse Trustee Pepple's absence from the October 12, 2021 regular Board meeting. (Motion Hartt, Second Ayer, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-201 That the Board excuse Trustee Hartt's absence from the October 25, 2021 special Board meeting. (Motion Zufall, Second Ayer, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-202 That the Board approve Change Order 2 for the Shasta High School Shop Building Modernization to be ratified for a net increase to True North Constructors, Inc., in the amount of \$69,261.35. (Motion Ayer, Second Hartt, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-203 That the Board approve the revised 2020-21 Unaudited Financial Report. (Motion Ayer, Second Hartt, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-204 That the meeting adjourn. (Motion Ayer, Second Hartt, carried 4-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND/OR STUDENTS:

The Board of Trustees and Administration recognized Shasta High School (SHS) Teacher Kristy Miralles, Enterprise High School (EHS) Senior Brennan Ramirez, Pioneer Continuation High School (PHS) Senior Annabella Sutton, and Foothill High School (FHS) Attendance Technician Deanna Reville.

PRESENTATIONS:

District Department Chair Updates: Counseling Department Chair Brian Beasley, Physical Education Department Chair Annette Wilson, Social Science Department Chair John Waters, and Special Education Department Chair Heather Godfrey provided the Board with a brief update on their departments.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michele Dugar spoke in opposition of critical race theory stating that it is state sponsored racism. She requested the Board adopt a measure stating they will oppose critical race theory.

Christa Reid spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate and stated that the letter included in tonight's agenda is not enough. She urged the Board to stop asking for permission from the government and to take a stand now.

Craig Bunas spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate and stated that it is medical fascism and tyranny. He urged the Board to stand up now otherwise your kids will curse you if you do not fight.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued):

Tyler Paloutzian spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate and stated that many parents feel the same way after seeing the number of students who participated in the walkout on October 18th. He stated that he will remove his daughter from school if the Board allows the mandate to be enforced.

Amy Endraske spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate. She shared stories of adverse reactions to the vaccine from the medical community.

FHS teacher Kerry Moretti spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate. He cited the employee contract and stated that the mandate is a violation of the policy. He stated that he will be fired next July and the vaccinated will not.

Trustee Pepple stated that the Board addresses the audience with respect and asked them to do the same.

Paul Mast spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate stating that Bill Gates is planning to depopulate the planet with abortion, Planned Parenthood and vaccines. He claimed that the vaccine is deadlier than COVID-19. He compared the government's oversight to Hitler and urged the Board to oppose the mandate.

Local School Board Member James Luna spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandates. He stated that the Board is elected by the public to serve the public. He urged the Board to be strong, do the right thing and do what the public is asking.

Yvonne (no last name provided) spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate. She stated that the vaccine causes adverse reactions. She stated that Hitler imposed mandates through fear and asked the Board to wake up and do what is right.

Jayne Millsap-Unger stated that she lost her husband to a heart condition from the Pfizer vaccine. She stated that the issue is not about if you are pro or anti the vaccine but rather it is about choice. She urged the Board to vote to not follow the mandate like other districts have.

Suzie Sebastian spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate and stated that she has lost two friends from the COVID-19 vaccine.

Reuben Smith urged the Board to take a vigilant stand against the mandates. He stated that we the people will drag the carpet out from underneath your feet if the Board does not oppose the mandates.

Casey Miceli spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate and stated that the Board is elected to serve at the pleasure and direction of the public. She stated that the letter in the agenda does not go far enough.

Irma Gonzalez spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate. She stated that it is already difficult to find substitute teachers and the mandate will negatively impact staffing which in turn will hurt the students. She formally requested the Board oppose the mandate.

EHS teacher Martin Reid stated that a video of doctors discussing COVID-19 he had emailed to the Board has since been removed from YouTube. He played an audio clip of the video. He asked the Board if they were brave enough to question the science from the CDC and other academic institutions.

Kelley Martin spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate. She stated that masks are unnecessary and healthy students should not be quarantined for ten days. She urged the Board to take a stand stating that it is us against them and not you against me.

Local School Board Member Walter Albert spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate and stated that his District did the right thing and won't put the venom in their District.

Stephanie Wilson spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate and stated that she is irritated that there is not an action item on the mandate. She stated that the community is upset and angry and the Board will have to answer for what they've done.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued):

Jennifer Doolittle stated that she is an employee in another District and has been placed on administrative leave for refusing to take a COVID-19 test. She stated parents will take their kids out of school if the mandate is imposed.

Denise Meek stated that her oldest son does not want to be homeschooled and would rather risk dying than to not be with his friends. She spoke in opposition of the vaccine mandate.

Tina West inquired where the Board receives their information and encouraged them to conduct proper research outside of the media. She stated that she feels like her family is killing themselves for every booster shot they receive.

RECESS: 8:17pm – 8:28pm

REPORTS FROM SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS:

SSEA President Layne McLean stated that the community and campuses are beginning to see a drop in COVID-19 infection rates which has resulted in less of our students missing school. He commended the athletic and performing arts programs. Mr. McLean stated that he is proud of staff as a whole despite the divisiveness of COVID-19. He stated that he represents both sides and would like to acknowledge the staff that remains silent on COVID-19. He encouraged everyone to understand opposing viewpoints because it is important staff moves forward together. Mr. McLean acknowledged Veterans Day and encouraged everyone to enjoy the break and the reasons why we celebrate our veterans.

ESP President Rhonda Minch recognized the health clerks, COVID monitors and nurses due to the overwhelming amount of work they have endured from COVID-19. She acknowledged Jim Cloney and Jason Rubin for their support.

Trustee Pepple asked Mr. McLean and Ms. Minch to share with staff how appreciative the Board is of their work over these past few years.

CSEA President David Martin was not present.

REPORTS FROM PRINCIPALS:

Alternative Education: Tim Calkins reported that Shasta Collegiate Academy (SCA) held a financial aid meeting in conjunction with Shasta College for parents which was well attended. PHS had a teen driver awareness presentation on Monday where students were actively engaged.

Enterprise High School: Ryan Johnson stated that football is finishing up. Staff has been collaborating in order to help students who have struggled from COVID-19. Mr. Johnson state that they have expanded their English Language Learner program and added a bilingual paraprofessional.

Shasta High School: Shane Kikut provided a document on their restorative justice program. He stated that it is important for students to understand how their behavior affects others and the school.

Trustee Zufall asked the Principals to keep the Board informed on how they will use specific funds that have been set aside to use towards programs.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT:

Jim Cloney reported that SHS held a regional robotics competition. He was pleased to announce that the Harlan Carter tournament will return following Thanksgiving break. Mr. Cloney stated that football and volleyball season are ending and there are twenty-five days left in the semester.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Trustee Gebhart reported that FHS hosted a drive week in which they encouraged students to donate items such as books, toys and food. FHS won the District football cup and the trophy is proudly sitting in the front office. Ms. Gebhart stated that she attended a California Association of Student Councils conference where they submitted a policy proposal to the State Board of Education.

Trustee Hartt stated that the Board hears the public's comments and that he reads every email. He stated that he has a background in molecular biology, is an emergency room physician, and has worked with mRNA. When he forms opinions, it is based on understanding and reading literature and legitimate studies. Trustee Hartt reiterated that he hears what the public is saying and takes it to heart.

DISCUSSION:

COVID-19 State Mandates: Jim Cloney stated that at the last Board meeting, many members of the public requested the Board take action on the mandates during public comment. He informed the public during the break how to submit a request for an agenda item. A request must be in writing to the Superintendent and shall be submitted at least one week prior to the meeting. Mr. Cloney stated that he received six requests that varied slightly but had the same theme surrounding the opposition of the vaccine mandate for students. Per Board policy, he met with Trustee Pepple to review the requests and placed the topic of state mandates on the agenda as a discussion item. Mr. Cloney stated that he works at the Board's direction and presented them with options of which included a letter that came from the Shasta County Office of Education asking California leaders to not move forward with legislation around the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Mr. Cloney stated that the Board can agree to support the letter, modify the letter, or put forth a different letter or resolution.

Mr. Cloney stated that there is a lot of passion and urgency from the public on the COVID mandate. The mandate takes effect July 1, 2022. He stated that his current understanding of the way the mandate has been put in place by the Governor is that the legislation that applies to the current ten mandated vaccines does not apply to the COVID vaccine, therefore, exemptions will be allowed. He stated that he does not want the mandate to go through the legislature and would like parents to have the option of exempting their child from the vaccine.

Mr. Cloney stated that since October 15, staff should either show proof of vaccination or submit to weekly testing. There are medical exemptions to certain testing. Legal counsel informed the District that religious or personal exemptions to testing do not apply. The July 1, 2022 vaccine mandate will apply to staff. Mr. Cloney noted that he is not sure if the mandate will go through the legislature but if it were to, it would most likely be in the spring. Mr. Cloney clarified that staff members are ineligible to work if they do not submit to weekly testing or show proof of vaccination.

Trustees Hartt and Pepple reminded the public that this meeting is not a town forum and that it is a meeting of the Board in front of the public.

Mr. Cloney stated that if a student is granted an exemption, then they can attend person instruction.

Trustee Zufall inquired what the unions are in support of. Mr. Cloney stated that SSEA and ESP fall under the California Teachers Association (CTA). CTA and CSEA support the mandate at the state level. Mr. Cloney stated that local membership is divided.

Trustee Zufall stated that he has read the public's emails and stated that he is anti-government. He has seen emails from parents on both sides of the argument. He does not believe in our Governor but noted that we live in a state where he has been elected twice. Trustee Zufall stated that we cannot ignore different points of view and must be mindful.

Trustee Pepple stated that she feels as an elected official, the public has the right to know how she feels so they are informed when they vote. She stated that she is vaccinated. Trustee Pepple stated that she feels our students should not be required to be vaccinated in order to protect the high-risk unvaccinated people. She stated that if she were "king" she would remove all of the mandates. As a Board Member, she

DISCUSSION:

COVID-19 State Mandates (continued): stated that she does not know what the repercussions would be if the District did not follow the mandates and would not want to implicate the District legally by being the first to defy the mandates. If the District is defunded, they cannot educate students. She recognized her fellow Board Members and their individual opinions.

Discussion continued on the potential ramifications a district could face by passing a resolution to not comply with the mandate.

Trustee Hartt stated that he supports the vaccine and that his children are vaccinated. Statistics show you are less likely to be hospitalized if you are vaccinated. He stated that with a communicable disease, the risk to the community is high for the vulnerable. Trustee Hartt stated that ideologically he does not like government overreach or mandates but he does like good information in order to make good decisions. He stated that if he were "king" he would have let the science roll out without the politicization and let people make informed decisions.

Mr. Cloney inquired how the Board would like to proceed. General consensus was to draft a document urging the legislature to allow exemptions as a viable option for families.

My. Cloney stated that currently outdoor sports do not require masking. Wrestling and competitive cheer are not required to mask if they test weekly. Volleyball was not mentioned in the guidelines, and the league decided to have them mask. Due to conflicting messaging surrounding basketball from CDPH, Mr. Cloney will follow up to get clarification on testing versus masking. Mr. Cloney stated that he is happy to meet and talk to anyone regarding the COVID mandates in order to have a more in depth dialogue outside of the Board meeting.

2022-2023 Bell Schedules: Jim Cloney stated a bill was passed that requires all California high schools to begin no earlier than 8:30 am by July 1, 2022. He reported that he has met with Director of Transportation Tyson Stenlund to configure a bus schedule that would comply with the mandate. Mr. Cloney stated that SHS and FHS share the same busses for the routes that are closer to town. The new schedule will have SHS students dropped off early (30-40 minutes before first period) and FHS students picked up late (30-40 minutes after sixth period). The bus routes to rural areas such as Igo and Montgomery Creek will not be impacted. Mr. Cloney met with the administration team today and proposed a District bell schedule where all sites start at 8:30am and finish at 3:20pm. He stated that the state definition of a minimum day of instruction is four periods and this does not include zero period. Discussion continued on food services, Career Technical Education (CTE) bus routes, teachers on split assignments and supervision of students. Mr. Cloney stated that the District will message the new start time to families before the end of the semester.

Monthly Financial Report: David Flores stated that capital expenditures are over budget in the CTE program due to new purchases. Mr. Flores stated that the new purchases will be accounted for in the First Interim, and the District is trending overall where it should be.

Quarterly Report of Investments: David Flores stated that the report requires no action and is presented as an information item quarterly.

Bond Program Update: David Flores stated that they will begin the new paving project along the EHS Manatowa Gym. The District will move forward with the remaining projects that were presented at the fall study session.

Change Order: David Flores stated that the change order up for approval is a combination of multiple change orders. He reported that some of them include projects that need to be completed as they began to tear into the floors and walls. Mr. Flores will sit down with the architect to discuss some of the change orders he believes should not be added. Mr. Flores requested the Board approve them all in order to keep the project moving. Trustee Ayer met with Mr. Flores as the Bond Liaison to discuss the change orders in detail.

DISCUSSION (continued):

Unaudited Financial Report: David Flores stated that salary and benefit expenses were transferred from unrestricted into the Low Performing Student Block Grant Program, a restricted categorical which allowed the District to increase the ending balance in the unrestricted category and utilize a categorical program.

Career Technical Education (CTE): Leo Perez stated that the District is always looking for ways to provide more options for students to obtain technical skills in the CTE program. The District has applied for the Strong Workforce Grant. If awarded, the District will fund a robust veterinary technician program where students will graduate as certified veterinary technicians. The District is also looking into a cosmetology program. Mr. Perez provided the Board with a handout covering the Strong Workforce Grant in detail and a general explanation of the veterinary technician and cosmetology programs. Mr. Perez stated that he would update the Board as more information comes available.

Educator Effectiveness Block Grant: Leo Perez presented the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Expenditure Plan to the Board. The \$1,050,051 one-time fund will be used to provide professional learning for teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and classified staff in order to promote educator equity, quality, and effectiveness. Trustee Pepple inquired if critical race theory is included in the allowable use of funds towards ethnic studies. Mr. Perez clarified that it was not and that critical race theory and ethnic studies are two different things. The Board will be asked to formally adopt the expenditure plan at next month's regular Board meeting.

ADVANCE PLANNING:

Next Meeting Date: December 21, 2021

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:03pm.

Jamie Vericker, Clerk
Board of Trustees

Jim Cloney, Executive Secretary
Board of Trustees