



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

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

**September 14, 2021  
ADOPTED MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Shasta Union High School District was called to order at 5:37pm by Trustee Peple in the Shasta Union High School District David Marr Theater.

**ROLL CALL:** Trustees Constance Peple, 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 5:37pm 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 6:39pm. Trustee Peple announced the Board took no action in closed session. Trustee Peple led the pledge of allegiance and Trustee Zufall recited the mission and vision statements.

- RES. 21-155 That the Board appoint Ava Gebhart as a Student Board Member. (Motion Ayer, second Zufall, carried 5-0).
- RES. 21-156 That the Board approve the agenda, as presented. (Motion Ayer, second Hartt, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-157 That the Board approve the consent agenda, as presented. (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-158 That the Board approve the Shasta Charter Academy Memorandum of Understanding for July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2026. (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-159 That the Board approve the minutes for the August 10, 2021 regular Board meeting. (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-160 That the Board ratify commercial warrants in the amount of \$3,194,228.17 and payroll distributions in the amount of \$3,253,746.81 for the period of 8/01/2021 - 8/31/2021. (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-161 That the Board approve the the Requests to Declare Property as Surplus (M&O - Walk behind blower, Transportation - 99 GMC Truck, SHS - Power sled, row machine and hammer strength machine). (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

- RES. 21-162 That the Board adopt the resolution certifying that the District has adequate textbooks and instructional materials for the 2021-22 school year. (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-163 That the Board accept donations to Enterprise High School and Shasta High School from Maxim Physical Therapy. (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-164 That the Board approve the Human Resources Action Report, as follows: *Certificated – (Unpaid LOA):* Jill Borba, 5/5 SPED (SHS), effective August 12, 2021. (*New Hire effective August 12, 2021*): Janea Perry, 5/5 PE (SHS); Jacob Sabanovich, 5/5 Alt Ed (PHS); and Chase Dillon, 5/5 Social Science (EHS). (*Provisional Internship 2021-22*): Anthony Williams, 5/5 SPED SDCI (EHS), effective August 12, 2021; Lynessa Springer, District Nurse (DO), effective August 4, 2021; and Kory Kammersgard, 5/5 SPED SDCI (FHS), effective August 12, 2021. *Classified – (Hours Increase)*: Tom Kirschman, Bus Driver 8 hours/10 months (Trans), effective August 12, 2021 and Rachel Nohrden, Food Nutrition Specialist 5.5 hours/10 months (SHS), effective August 12, 2021. (*New Hire/Re-Hire*): Bonnie Byers, Bus Driver 6.5 hours/10 months (Trans), effective August 12, 2021; Erik Cook, At-Risk Para 5.75 hours/10 months (PHS), effective August 12, 2021; Michaela Duarte, Instructional Para-Sp Ed 5.75 hours/10 month (EHS), effective August 12, 2021; Jessica Dunlap, Instructional Para-SH 5.75 hours/10 months (SHS), effective August 12, 2021; Kristofer Fisher, Instructional Para-SH 5.75 hours/10 months (EHS), effective August 12, 2021; Kelly Freeman, SOA II 7 hours/10 months (SHS), effective August 9, 2021; Christina Giumarra, Instructional Para-Sp Ed 5.75 hours/10 months (FHS), effective September 1, 2021; Cody Goddard, Library Media Tech 8 hours/238 days (FHS), effective August 3, 2021; Monica Hernandez, Instructional Para-Sp Ed 5.75 hours/10 months (EHS), effective August 16, 2021; Isabella Jones, Instructional Para-Sp Ed 5.75 hours/10 months (FHS), effective September 9, 2021; Madeline Kreger, Health Clerk-Floater 6 hours/201 days, effective August 16, 2021; Isak Larsen, Bus Driver/Utility Worker 8 hours/10 months (Trans), effective August 12, 2021; Robert Moreno, Custodian 8 hours/12 months (SLC), effective August 2, 2021; Feyorn “Chloe” Saelee, Receptionist 8 hours/10 months (DO), effective August 12, 2021; and Nancy Saeteurn, Health Clerk 6 hours/201 days (SLC), effective August 12, 2021. (*Position Change/Promotion*): Alexander Aunchman, Pizza Production Leader 8 hours/10 months (SHS), effective August 12, 2021; Casey Peterson, At Risk Para-SH 6 hours/10 months (EHS), effective August 23, 2021; and Deanna Reville, Attendance Tech 8 hours/11 months (FHS), effective August 2, 2021. (*Resigned/Retired*): David Brichacek, Library Media Tech 8 hours/238 days (EHS), effective September 30, 2021; Denise Churchill, Food Nutrition Specialist 2 hours/10 months (FHS), effective August 11, 2021; Christy Nahai, At Risk Para 6.17 hour/10 months (PHS), effective August 31, 2021; Gary Ritter, Athletic Field Tech 8-hours/12-months (SHS), effective August 19, 2021; and Evelyn Wetmore, Food Nutrition Specialist (EHS), effective August 2, 2021. (*Unpaid LOA*): Erin Braden, Instructional Para-Sp Ed 5.75 hours/10 months (FHS), effective August 12, 2021; Morgan LaMonte, Instructional Para-SDCI 5.75 hours/10 months (FHS), effective August 12, 2021; and Louise Zak, Instructional Para-Sp Ed 5.17 hours/10 months (FHS), effective August 27, 2021. (Motion Hartt, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-165 That the Board approve the 2020-2021 State of the District Report as presented, with the exception of amending the Academics section to include additional language on Career Technical Education. (Motion Zufall, second Ayer, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-066 That the Board approve the 2020-21 Unaudited Financial Report. (Motion Vericker, second Ayer, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-067 That the Board approve the Annual Developer Fee Report. (Motion Ayer, second Hartt, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

- RES. 21-068 That the Board approve the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Gann Limit calculation. (Motion Zufall, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-069 That the Board approve the recommendation for Supplemental Book Adoption as follows: *There There* by Tommy Orange. (Motion Ayer, second Vericker, carried 4-1. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-070 That the Board approve the annual certification of Administration to evaluate staff. (Motion Zufall, second Hartt, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-071 That the Board approve the certificated staff teaching outside of their credential area. (Motion Zufall, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-072 That the Board approve the revised Certificated Substitute Salary Schedule. (Motion Zufall, second Vericker, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).
- RES. 21-173 That the meeting adjourn. (Motion Vericker, second Hartt, carried 5-0. Student Board Member Gebhart: Aye).

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBER:**

Jim Cloney administered the Oath of Office to Foothill High School (FHS) Junior Ava Gebhart to serve as a student member of the Governing Board of the Shasta Union High School District, to hold office until June 30, 2022. Mr. Cloney welcomed her to the Board and thanked her for serving the students of the Shasta Union High School District.

**RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND/OR STUDENTS:**

The Board of Trustees and Administration recognized FHS Senior Emileigh Petty, Enterprise High School (EHS) Teacher Amy Ramirez, Director of Transportation Tyson Stenlund and Shasta High School (SHS) Health Clerk Whitney Lowry.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Introduction of New Certificated and Classified Staff: The District hired fifty-five certificated and classified staff members. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, Jim Cloney stated that the District asked the new hires to not attend the meeting. Administration introduced new staff, and the Board welcomed them to the District.

District Department Chair Updates: English Department Chair Robbin Jack, Foreign Language Department Chair Lisa Ferguson, Career Technical Education Department Chair James Leedy and Science Department Chair Katie Shoff provided the Board with a brief update on their departments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

EHS Teacher Amy Garrett asked the Board to approve the supplemental book adoption for *There There* by Tommy Orange. She stated that as an English Teacher, her job is to put ideas in front of students and not to choose for them what they should believe.

Transportation Bus Driver Aleta Bussard urged the Board to think about the impact the COVID-19 testing mandate will have on employees. She stated that it would isolate those who are not vaccinated, comparing it to what happened to the Jews.

Richard G. challenged the Board on the Brown Act specifically regarding requests for public comment and Board Member responses to the public. He asked Mr. Cloney for an update on the shot clinics for student athletes. Mr. Cloney stated that he was happy to meet with Richard separately to discuss this.

Gina (no last name provided) asked the Board to stand up to medical tyranny and public health. She stated that it is unfair for students to be contact traced out of a classroom from a COVID-19 exposure and that mask wearing is dehumanizing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (continued):**

EHS Teacher Bernard Villavicencio shared his personal experience from reading the book *There There* stating that it taught him that his cultural identity isn't tethered to the past, it's what is happening right now. He stated that students will be able to relate to the book and find out about themselves.

Michele Dugar spoke in opposition of the book *There There* stating that it revises history recognizing Thanksgiving as the first feast because of a land deal.

Kristin Campbell Largent stated that she informed the County Board of Supervisors of the letter to the state the Board approved at the August 10 Board meeting regarding local control on COVID-19 mitigation. She provided the Board with information from the Let Them Breathe organization and urged the Board to research a lawsuit from a San Joaquin school against the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Ms. Largent stated that episode six of the Red White and Blueprint series would cover the lawsuit.

Trustee Pepple thanked the public for their comments and encouraged them to email their thoughts and concerns.

**REPORTS FROM SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS:**

SSEA President Layne McLean welcomed Ava Gebhart to the Board of Trustees. He reported that the Superintendent moved the January in service day to September 13 to allow teachers time to fully understand short term independent study since so many students have been placed on quarantine. Mr. McLean stated that the feedback from staff has been very positive. SSEA and the District meet next week to discuss additional one-time money as part of an agreement of a three-year negotiations deal based on COLA. Mr. McLean stated that the District in partnership with SSEA increased the rate of pay for substitute teachers and counselors in order to remain competitive. He commended FHS Assistant Principals Lauren Stroud and Shawn Anstine for leading the charge in Principal Steve Abbott's absence.

Trustee Zufall inquired if local members are supporting the vaccine/test mandate. Mr. McLean stated that their members have different opinions on the matter. He stated that the health and safety of students and staff is what is most important.

ESP President Rhonda Minch was not present.

CSEA President David Martin was not present.

**REPORTS FROM PRINCIPALS:**

Alternative Education: Tim Calkins welcomed Ava Gebhart to the Board of Trustees. He stated that the Shasta Collegiate Academy (SCA) science lab is up and running thanks to teacher David Peek. Enrollment continues to rise at SCA. Mr. Calkins reported that Pioneer Continuation High School (PHS) students can obtain a "go card" and leave campus ten minutes early for lunch if they have a 3.0 GPA, zero unexcused absences and a clean discipline record. PHS's first session ends next week.

Enterprise High School: Ryan Johnson stated that though teaching during a pandemic may be difficult, the silver lining is seeing the increased collaboration amongst staff. He commended staff for their hard work and for facing challenges together.

Shasta High School: Shane Kikut stated that students celebrated homecoming week last week and the blood drive is this week. He stated that the manufacturing shop received new machines, and the weight room received new equipment.

**REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT:**

Jim Cloney stated that he is working with FHS closely to support them in Mr. Abbott's absence. He commended staff for a smooth opening to the start of the school year. Mr. Cloney was pleased to report that enrollment was projected around 4200 and we are currently just under 4300 students. He reported that all schools are running their regular activities with some modifications.

**RECESS: 7:56pm-8:02pm**

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

Trustee Gebhart stated that FHS hosted their first blood drive of the school year a few weeks ago. The Associated Student Body (ASB) has implemented a different weekly activity on Friday's at lunch to involve all students in order to better engage students and teachers. ASB has also changed Club Day to Club Rush Week in order to better promote school clubs on campus.

Trustee Ayer welcomed Trustee Gebhart to the Board and thanked the schools for hosting blood drives.

Trustee Vericker stated that he was glad to hear Trustee Gebhart is supporting school clubs because extracurricular activities are important on college applications.

Trustee Hartt thanked the public for their respectful communication and input. He offered to engage with any individuals in a respectful dialogue regarding COVID-19 after the meeting.

Trustee Zufall reported that the District received additional one-time federal COVID-19 relief dollars and challenged each comprehensive site to budget how they would spend \$200,000 towards programs. He noted that half of the money should also go to savings.

Trustee Pepple thanked the community and staff for their comments noting that we can disagree and still be respectful and civil.

**DISCUSSION:**

COVID-19: Jim Cloney reported that the state guidance changed over summer requiring students and staff to wear masks indoors. The state no longer requires social distancing or masks outside. Mr. Cloney stated that his focus has and will continue to be maintaining five days a week of in-person instruction. He reported that there has been a spike in COVID-19 cases and as of the twentieth day of school, there were 189 positive or presumed positive cases (students and staff). Approximately 1,600 students and staff members have been quarantined as a result. He commended staff, specifically nurses and health clerks, for handling the increased workload to the best of their abilities. Due to the number of students at home on quarantine, the District moved the January 10 in service day to September 13 to allow teachers time to better serve students on short term independent study.

Mr. Cloney reported that the state will require all staff to be fully vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing starting October 15. The District is working on a contract with Lab24 to administer onsite PCR tests to staff. If insurance or the Cares Act does not cover the test, the District will be billed \$50.00 per test. The District has and will continue to collect COVID-19 vaccine records. Mr. Cloney stated that the District will meet with the labor groups next week to discuss working conditions amid testing.

Trustee Ayer inquired what the latest guidelines were on contact tracing. Mr. Cloney stated that a close contact is someone who was within six feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. If the close contact is unvaccinated, standard quarantine is ten days. A student may go on a modified quarantine if they following testing requirements, remain asymptomatic, wear a mask and not participate in extracurricular activities. Staff does not have the option to do a modified quarantine. Vaccinated staff and students are not subject to contact tracing as long as they remain asymptomatic. Staff and students are not subject to contact tracing for ninety days following a positive COVID-19 test.

Trustee Hartt inquired how the ninety-day window applies to the state testing mandate. Mr. Cloney stated that they are waiting for clarification from public health.

Trustee Pepple encouraged people to get their information from reliable sources and stated that the internet is great, but also has a lot of misinformation.

State of the District Report: Jim Cloney stated the annual report contains data compiled from various departments and programs for the prior school year. Trustee Pepple requested the report include information on Career Technical Education on page six under Activities. The District will add the proposed changes, and the final document will be posted on the District website and shared with various local organizations.

**DISCUSSION (continued):**

Bond Program Update: David Flores stated that the new tennis courts at SHS and the remodel of EHS's culinary classroom will be completed by the end of the week. The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee met yesterday and approved the bond audit. Mr. Flores stated that the Chair of the committee will present their annual report at the October Board meeting. The District will bring forward for discussion a list of projects with estimated costs at the fall study session in order to best spend the remaining dollars of the bond.

Supplemental Book Adoption: District English Department Chair Robbin Jack, SHS English Department Chair Jim Jordan, EHS English Teacher Matt Garrett, and SUHSD Indian Education Specialist April Carmelo urged the Board to adopt the fictional novel *There There* by Tommy Orange. The English Department representatives asked the Board to trust their expertise on how to best present the novel to their students. The teachers emphasized the importance of letting students establish their own opinions as teachers help them navigate the subject matter of the novel. SUHSD Indian Education Specialist April Carmelo stated that the District does not have a Native American author represented on the supplemental textbook list. She provided the Board with a handout that included Native American statistics and statement letters from former students and universities endorsing the novel.

Trustee Hartt thanked staff for a very well laid out presentation and stated he was happy to defer to their expertise. Trustee Zufall encouraged staff to email them their questions and concerns. Trustee Vericker stated that the District did their due diligence on reviewing the novel and commended Trustee Pepple for this. The novel was originally up for adoption at the June 8, 2021 Board meeting, and the Board chose to table it after hearing a comment from a concerned member of the public. Trustee Pepple requested the Board read the novel and asked the English Department to present their rationale for adopting the book. Trustee Pepple stated that she was not in favor of the vulgarity in the novel and the negative stereotype it portrays towards Native Americans. Trustee Pepple stated that she has a background in the civil rights movement, and she personally cannot approve the novel. Trustee Gebhart stated that juniors are fairly used to hearing curse words. Trustee Ayer stated that the Board typically does not read the novels, and they trust the recommendation from staff. He stated that that this novel has gone through a thorough vetting process, and staff is asking for a tool to use to educate our students.

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Scores: Leo Perez stated that Trustee Ayer had requested additional data on AP test scores for local and charter schools since the agenda was posted. Mr. Perez provided the Board and public with an updated chart that included University Preparatory School. He stated it is important to look at how many students took the test in comparison to how many students could have taken the test. Trustee Zufall requested Mr. Perez present the AP test scores instead of pass/fail. Discussion continued on equity and the possibility of assisting students with the cost of the test based on socioeconomic factors.

Certificated Substitute Salary Schedule: Jason Rubin stated that with the increase in minimum wage and the shortage of substitute teachers, the District would like to increase our sub pay rates to stay competitive.

**ADVANCE PLANNING:**

Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2021

Suggested Future Agenda Items: Budget towards A-G courses, specifically foreign language.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.

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Greg Hartt, Clerk  
Board of Trustees

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Jim Cloney, Executive Secretary  
Board of Trustees