

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUNE 3, 2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Due to COVID-19 related social distancing measures, the June 3rd Board of Education Meeting was conducted entirely online, via virtual/video conferencing.

► **Moment of Silence**

The Board President held a moment of silence for:

- George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor
- Victims of COVID-19

► **Public Comments**

The Board read comments from the public regarding:

- PUSD-City of Poway negotiations regarding PCPA
- Transparency around real property negotiations
- School gardens contributions to schools and community during the school year and during the COVID-19 school closures

► **Presentation: Promotion & Graduation Committees**

- The Board heard a presentation regarding the processes and plans to celebrate 5th and 8th grade promotion and high school graduation ceremonies amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Committees were formed that included some of our most important stakeholders, our students, parents as well as principals, Board members, and staff. The 5th and 8th Grade Promotion Committee agreed on a “Vroom and Video” model. Their drive-thru parades were scheduled for June 1-2 (Elementary) and June 3-5 (Middle Schools), and each school is creating a celebratory year-end video. High schools have scheduled a drive-thru graduation June 9-11. Their in-person senior commencement ceremonies have been postponed until July 30, 2020.

► **Public Hearing of 2020-21 Proposed Budget (First Reading)**

The Board was presented with the Estimated Actuals for the 2019-2020 budget as of May 31, 2020. The Board was also presented with the proposed 2020-2021 General Fund budget based on the Governor’s May Revise.

- The 2019-20 budget lists total revenues of \$408.3 million and expenditures of \$426.4 million. After other financing sources, a \$16 million deficit.
- The District is projected to face decreased funding for the 2020-21 school year, largely because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor’s May Revise proposes a 10% reduction to LCFF base grant funding and 0% cost of living adjustment (COLA). While we certainly hope for better, and anticipate positive changes resulting from the CA legislature’s budget proposal, at this point we must build next year’s budget on the Governor’s May Revise.
- Revenues for 2020-21 are projected at \$381.2 million and expenditures at \$422.7 million. After other financing sources, a \$40 million deficit
- Staff is recommending \$7.85 million in budget solutions for 2020-21

► **Community Facilities Districts Special Tax Reduction Plan**

PUSD’s Community Facilities Districts (CFD) program is comprised of 38 CFDs and Improvement Areas that have helped fund the construction of 14 school facilities and additional non-school facilities. After decades of robust growth, PUSD’s enrollment has plateaued. Surplus special taxes may now be used to retire CFD and IA debt more quickly than originally planned. Over the past year, staff has been working to create a plan to outline steps to begin the process of retiring CFD special taxes and save taxpayers a potential \$1.1 billion. District staff,

along with the District Financial Advisor and Special Tax Consultant, presented a brief summary of the CFD program, an overview of the assumptions in preparing the reduction plan, and the recommended approach to put the reduction plan into action.

► **Poway Unified School District COVID-19 Operations Written Report (OWR) for 2019-20 (First Reading)**

- Per Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-56-20, PUSD staff presented a first reading of the OWR that details: changes to program offerings due to COVID-19 emergency closures; meeting the needs of English-learners, low-income and foster youth; providing school meals while maintaining social distancing practices; arranging for supervision of students during ordinary school hours. A copy of the report is available for public review upon request.

► **2020-21 Reopening Plan Committee**

- A joint committee consisting of officials from PUSD, the Poway Federation of Teachers (PFT), and Poway School Employees Association (PSEA) met Monday, May 18, 2020, to begin conversations on how to safely and effectively reopen schools when authorized to do so by health officials. In Phase I, the committee will be reviewing pertinent guiding documents and gathering input from all stakeholders through surveys that discuss necessary physical requirements for returning to work as well as distance learning. During Phase II, a draft plan for reopening schools will be developed and reviewed by stakeholders.

► **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2021**

Listed below are the approved Regular Board Meeting dates for the year 2021:

Thursday, January 14, 2021	Thursday, June 24, 2021
Thursday, February 11, 2021	Thursday, August 12, 2021
Thursday, March 11, 2021	Thursday, September 9, 2021
Thursday, April 8, 2021	Thursday, October 14, 2021
Thursday, May 13, 2021	Thursday, November 18, 2021
Thursday, June 3, 2021	Thursday, December 16, 2021

► **Future meetings: Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6pm at the Poway Unified School District Office, 15250 Avenue of Science, San Diego, CA 92128 (while trustees and Cabinet will meet in person, public comments will remain online due to the need for social distancing)**

The following dates are the remaining board meetings for 2020:

Thursday, August 13, 2020
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Thursday, October 15, 2020
Thursday, November 12, 2020
Thursday, December 17, 2020

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