

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUGUST 13, 2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► Moment of Silence

- The Board held a moment of silence for: Twin Peaks Middle School Health Technician Jerry Wilson, who passed away August 3rd. Jerry was a beloved Twin Peaks employee for 19 years.

► Superintendent and Board Recognition

The Superintendent and Board recognized student accomplishments. The entire list can be found beginning on page 127 in the agenda packet here: <https://powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2020/08-13-2020-Board-Agenda.pdf>

► District Leadership Appointments

- Congratulations to the following administrators approved by the Board:
 - Jeanette Anderson (Director II, Special Education)
 - Heather Schauder (Director II, Special Education)
 - Brenda Gachuz-Miller (Director, Purchasing)

► Public Comments

The Board heard comments from the public regarding:

- Urging PUSD to reconsider staying virtual through December
- Questions about teacher training being provided ahead of Sept. 2nd virtual start
- Comments both for and against applying for elementary waiver to physically reopen sites while San Diego County is still on the state monitoring list for COVID-19 cases

► Approval of Updated 2020-21 Reopening Plan for Poway Unified School District

- Staff presented an updated version of Poway Unified School District's 2020-21 Reopening Plan (which was originally adopted at the June 25, 2020 meeting).
The updated plan included:
 - September 2nd fully virtual start
 - the adjusted student calendar
 - new grading periods
 - sample virtual learning schedules
 - technology support
 - professional developmentThe presentation can be found [here](#).
- Since June, new State and County guidelines, mandates, metrics, and public health conditions have resulted in many revisions to PUSD's reopening plan. For example, on August 4, San Diego County's timeline for schools to reopen was 14 days of good metrics to get off the state monitoring list, plus an additional 14 days of good metrics. As of August 7, San Diego County's revised timeline for schools to reopen is 3 days of good metrics to get off the state monitoring list, plus an additional 14 days of good metrics.
- Given these new metrics, the Board approved the updated reopening plan – opening fully virtual on September 2 – with the option of reassessing when and how to physically reopen schools if San Diego County allows schools to safely reopen before December (after the 3 days to get off the monitoring list + 14 days of good metrics). This may require a special board meeting.

- Once schools are allowed to reopen, the Board also expressed interest in reopening elementary schools sooner than secondary schools. In order to maintain continuity and avoid disruption for secondary students in the middle of a grading period, the Board would like to wait to reopen middle and high schools until after the end of a grading period. Elementary schools, however, could possibly reopen sooner as feasible.

► **Proposed Elementary School Waiver**

- On July 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom ordered that school districts located in counties on the County Monitoring List must not physically open for in-person instruction, and must conduct distance learning only until the county has been off the List for at least 14 days. In counties on the List, CDPH guidance allows a district superintendent, private school principal/head of school, or executive director of a charter school to apply for a waiver from the local health officer to open an elementary school for in-person instruction.
- Due to uncertainty over the County requirements for the waiver, and whether PUSD schools would meet the requirements, the Board directed staff to seek clarity from the County and agreed to postpone a decision on whether to apply until the September 10, 2020 meeting.

► **Anti-Racism and Equity Plan Update**

- At the June 25, 2020 meeting, the Board approved a resolution in an effort to reaffirm Poway Unified School District's ongoing commitment to fighting racism and correcting systemic inequity. Over the past few months, District and site leaders have met with students, various parent groups, and other stakeholders to develop a plan that provides for better alignment of PUSD resources to meet the diverse and dynamic needs of all students, staff, and community.
- The Board was presented with updates to this plan, which include:
 - Strengthening discipline procedures to ensure any use of racial slurs are addressed directly with consequence and intervention
 - Ensure all sites engage in anti-bias training
 - Partnering with SDCOE's Equity Department Equity Coaches to create site-based equity teams
 - Amplify engagement with underrepresented communities of color through stakeholder meetings based on feeder patterns
 - Bring forward two new high school courses: ethnic studies and ethnic literature
 - Engage teachers in review of core literature and curriculum resources/lessons to ensure diverse cultural perspectives are included

► **Adoption of the Revised 2020-21 Student Attendance Calendar**

- Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the reopening of schools, the Board approved revisions for final adoption of the 2020-21 Student Attendance Calendar, including:
 - Postponing the first day of classes from Wednesday, August 19, 2020 to Wednesday, September 2, 2020.
 - Modifying September 21, 2020 from a non-student/professional growth day to a student day.
 - Shortening the February break by making February 16, 17, and 18 as student days, while still observing the two holidays.
 - The last day of classes to be held on Friday, June 18, 2021.
- The revised 2020-21 student calendar can be found [here](#).

► **Approval of the 2020-21 Revised Budget**

- The Board approved the 2020-21 budget at the June 25, 2020 meeting. However, due to delays in the State passing its own State Budget Act on June 29, 2020, revisions have since been made and presented to the Board for approval. These revisions include:
 - Revised funding for Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)
 - Learning Loss Mitigation (CARES Act) funds based on the following:

- LCFE
- Supplemental Grant
- Student With Disabilities (SWDs)
- The revised 2020-21 adopted budget includes an \$18.9 million deficit, with a reserve level of 6.8%, or ending fund balance of \$33.8 million.

► **Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between PUSD and Pure Edge, Inc.**

Poway Unified will partner with Pure Edge, Inc., a non-profit foundation to provide customized, virtual professional learning for staff to use to ensure the social emotional well being of our students.

► **Future meetings:**

Regular Meetings:

Thursday, September 10, 2020

The following dates are the remaining board meetings for 2020:

Thursday, September 24, 2020 (**Approved by the Board on Thursday, August 13, 2020**)

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Thursday, December 17, 2020

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