

Bard Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **SEPTEMBER 10, 2020** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► Moment of Silence

- The Board held a moment of silence for: Sundance Elementary School ESS Program Aide Nicole Radam, who passed away last month. Nicole was a beloved ESS Aide at Sundance for 7 years.

► Superintendent and Board Recognition

The Superintendent and Board recognized student and staff accomplishments at school sites and the District. The entire list can be found beginning on page 216 in the agenda packet here:

<https://powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2020/09-10-2020-Board-Agenda.pdf>

Superintendent Phelps recognized:

- PUSD Robotics Team Inspiration, made up of students from Del Norte, Rancho Bernardo and Westview High Schools, as well as Black Mountain middle, who took first place overall worldwide in the 2020 RoboSub Competition against many college teams from across the world.
- Kaavya Raamkuma (Del Norte) and Anika Menon (Mt. Carmel) who were named two of the “Most Remarkable Teens” in the county by the San Diego County Public Defender’s Office.



► Classified Employees of the Year

Congratulations to the 2020 Poway Unified School District Employees of the Year:

- **Anna Noel**, Instructional Assistant II (Rancho Bernardo High School)
- **David Oliva**, Bus Transportation Aide (Transportation Department)
- **Donna Lawrence**, Library Media Technician (Oak Valley Middle School)

► Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to the 2020 PUSD Teachers of the Year:

- **Laura Snow**, Special Education (Pomerado Elementary School)
- **Aaron Smith**, Physical Education (Bernardo Heights Middle School)
- **Amy Hillebrecht**, Science, (Twin Peaks Middle School)

► **Public Comments**

The Board heard comments regarding:

- PTA Palomar Council update and upcoming school board candidates town hall on October 6 at 7pm
- Including more groups in equity and diversity planning
- Asking Board to examine public comment policy
- Comments supporting and opposing reopening schools for in-person
- Comments supporting bringing students with special needs back to campus for in-person services
- Comments supporting and opposing requiring Board Meetings to be held in person
- Comments opposing the leasing of PUSD land to Costco at the Black Mountain Ranch Southern Site

► **Presentation: Updated 2020-21 Poway Unified School District Reopening Plan**

The Board approved revisions to the PUSD 2020-21 Reopening Plan to include a system of phases for reopening of Poway schools.

- The Board approved requiring ALL students Preschool through 12th grade to wear masks on campus
- The Board approved a phased reopening plan for in-person learning for elementary schools:
The first group of elementary schools will open with an AM/PM schedule on October 1
Abraxas High will open with an A/B schedule on October 8
The remaining elementary schools will open with an AM/PM schedule October 12
- The Board reached consensus to allow small groups of secondary students to return on campus for targeted learning support, social emotional groups, special education services, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Additional secondary plans will be presented at the September 24 meeting.

► **Presentation: 2020-21 Poway Unified School District Special Education Reopening Plan**

The Board received an update on the recommended phases for reopening schools to accommodate in-person instruction and services for students in Special Education classes.

- Staff resumed in-person assessments on campus the week of August 23; there is a dedicated space at every school site to support assessment
- IEP meetings are convening to review assessment results
- The Board approved resuming on campus, in person special education services and on campus, in person instruction for small groups of students after September 24

► **Approval for the PUSD Board of Education meetings to continue meeting in person**

The Board of Education will continue in person Community Room meetings for Board and Cabinet members with physical distancing and health and safety measures in place

► **Resolution No. 04-2021 “Observance of National School Lunch Week” October 12-16, 2020**

- The Board approved a resolution recognizing the week of October 12-16, 2020 as National School Lunch Week. This week promotes the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child’s life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. The theme this year is “Now Playing: School Lunch!” which puts a spotlight on hit menu items that kids love while capitalizing on the popularity of movies.

► **Resolution No. 05-2021 “Observance of National Farm to School Month”**

- The Board approved a resolution acknowledging the month of October as National Farm to School Month. This celebrates the growing importance of farm to school programs to improve child nutrition, support local economies, and educate children about the origins of food.

► **Approval to Purchase Eight Electric Buses through Volkswagen Grant Awards**

- The Board adopted Resolution 16-2020 at the October 10, 2019 meeting, authorizing the District to participate in the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust for California School Bus Replacement Program. The VW Mitigation Settlement Trust provides for grant funding to public and private organizations to replace diesel school buses with electric school buses.

- The District was awarded eight (8) grants based upon criteria of the grant.
- PUSD Transportation has selected six (6) smaller electric buses for Special Education and two (2) larger transit-style buses from an approved vendor on the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District vendor list.
- The District will receive full funding for the electric school bus purchase through a grant award of nearly \$3.2 million.

▶ **Approval of Resolution No. 10-2021 “Authorization to Purchase Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Installation and Related Software for Electric School Bus Grant”**

- The Board approved a resolution from District Transportation authorizing the purchase of electric school bus charging stations and installation software. District Transportation collaborated with SDG&E to establish the necessary electrical infrastructure supply at no cost to the District.

▶ **Approval of Resolution No. 13-2021 “National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month September 2020”**

- The Board approved a resolution proclaiming September 2020 as “National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month,” joining the California Department of Education and districts statewide in recognizing the importance of evidence-based research and interventions for student suicide prevention. The District is committed to continuing to research and explore the best practices available to ensure student wellness, and to ensure we attend to and meet students’ social and emotional needs.

▶ **Approval of Resolution No. 07-2021 Authorizing and Providing for the Issuance of Special Tax Refunding Bonds of CFD 6 (4S Ranch)**

The Board approved refunding of bonds, which will save taxpayers \$6.6 million over the life of the bonds.

▶ **Approval of the 2019-2020 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report**

- Each year, the PUSD Finance Department presents the unaudited actual year-end closing financial report to the Board of Education for approval and submission to the San Diego County Office of Education. Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2019-20 are as follows:
 - 2019-20 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Entitlement was \$322.3 million, approximately 79.8 percent of total General Fund revenue.
 - Funded Average Daily Attendance (ADA) was 35,361 and the certified enrollment was 36,586, which equates to an attendance rate of 96.7 percent.
 - General Fund actual expenditures outpaced revenues by \$6,314,521 in 2019-20.
 - Unaudited General Fund ending balance is nearly \$53.8 million in 2019-20.
 - A total of approximately \$10.3 million was unexpended in 2019-20 and will be carried over into 2020-21.
 - General Fund Reserve Level is 10.8 percent at the 2019-20 year-end close.

▶ **Approval of the Most Beneficial Proposal for the Surplus Property Black Mountain Ranch Southern Site**

The District received three proposals from parties interested in the property. The Board identified and approved the proposal from Costco as the most beneficial proposal to the District. The District can negotiate an option agreement and ground lease and present documents to the Board at a future meeting.

▶ **First Reading: Public Hearing of PUSD Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for 2020-21**

- Senate Bill (SB) 98 requires a Learning Continuity Plan to include specified information about the instruction and support a Local Educational Agency (LEA) will provide to pupils in the 2020-21 school year, as a result of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 and potential school closures.
- The Board heard a first reading and presentation on the District’s Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCAP), which was developed using the state defined template that addresses and describes:
 - Stakeholder Engagement

- In-person Instructional Offerings
- Distance Learning Plan
- Pupil Learning Loss
- Mental Health and Social Emotional Well-Being
- School Nutrition
- Increased or Improved Services for Foster Youth, English Learners, and Low-Income Students

A copy is available for public review electronically [here](#) or in person at the District Office. A request for formal approval will be submitted at the September 24, 2020, Board of Education Meeting.

► **Student Awards for Merit-Based Scholarships 2019-20**

Abraxas, Del Norte, Mt. Carmel, Poway, Rancho Bernardo, and Westview High Schools reported a total of \$61.5 million dollars in scholarships offered, with a total of \$14.4 million in scholarships accepted.

► **Technology & Innovation Presentations**

● **Professional Development by the Numbers**

- Spring 2020: Virtual PD - 2,000+ attendees, 35 Topics and 73 Live Trainings
- Summer 2020: PUSD Innovation Camp - 60 session topics, 453 TLC participants, 2,932+ recording views
- August 17-27, 2020: Professional Development – 6,747+ attendees, 40 Live Sessions, 8,405+ recording views
- Zoom Professional Development & Canvas Professional Development

● **1:1 Device Initiative**

- 15,000+ Chromebooks distributed to students with centralized check out tracking in library software
- Over 1,300 laptops distributed for teachers
- Technical Support Hotline – Over 1,000 calls (200+ hours) with 95% resolution, More difficult issues referred to Genius Bar, IT Help Desk 3,397 closed tickets
- Proactive measures included streamlined account self service

● **Technology Software Update**

- MyPlan updated, powered by Class Link
- Zoom for education licenses to authenticate users for safety and security - Over 18 million minutes of learning took place over Zoom in the first three days of school!
- Canvas expanded to younger students
- iReady and Lexia adaptive tools
- Seesaw and Nearpod subscriptions

● **Parent Academy**

- Videos and resources such as guides and tutorials to support parents in virtual learning, with over 22,000 clicks!

Future meetings:

Regular Meetings:

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

The following dates are the remaining board meetings for 2020:

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Thursday, December 17, 2020

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