

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **OCTOBER 15, 2020** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Board Agenda for the October 15, 2020 Board of Education Meeting can be found here:
<https://www.powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2020/10-15-2020-Board-Agenda.pdf>

► Superintendent and Board Recognition

Superintendent Phelps and the Board recognized student and staff accomplishments at school sites and the District. The entire list can be found beginning on page 87 in the agenda packet [here](#).

- Superintendent Phelps recognized Westview High School student Edmund Sumpena, who was recently awarded the “Imagine Cup of the Americas” by Microsoft for his artificial intelligence machine ‘WanderGuardian.’ Edmund’s project was focused on assisting people with dementia.
- Superintendent Phelps also recognized the 41 National Merit Semi-Finalists from PUSD
- Superintendent Phelps and the Board congratulated all 26 PUSD elementary schools, Special Education, and Abraxas High School in successfully reopening to in-person instruction.
- Superintendent Phelps thanked the City of Poway, Mayor Vaus and councilmembers for providing 200 mobile hotspots for virtual learning to PUSD students in need.

► Student Board Representatives

The Board heard student representative reports from students at Canyon View Elementary School and Bernardo Heights Middle School.

- **Sophia McRae** (Canyon View Elementary School): Start with Hello and No Place for Hate weeks to encourage safe and healthy school culture; Coyote Pledge to ensure kindness and respect toward one another; looking forward to getting student leadership teams such as Safety Patrol back, hosted virtual movie night through Netflix, 65% students returned on campus, 35% virtual learning or alternative, continue to have mindful moment
- **Kashifa Vellore** (Bernardo Heights Middle School): ASB created a virtual “BOOST” program for incoming 6th graders which included virtual tours and care packages; virtual birthdays; student campus center to post spirit days and information about clubs and weekly events; will hold upcoming “mock” election to mirror upcoming presidential election; clubs are meeting, committed to students staying connected

► Public Comments

The Board heard comments regarding:

- Concern over future of Black Mountain Ranch Southern Site Surplus Property
- Canceled SAT/ACT tests
- Request to return to virtual board meetings
- Support for Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan
- Request to open elementary schools fully beyond AM/PM
- Request to open middle and high schools to in-person learning
- Concern over Dyslexia reading instruction

► Approval of Governing Board Appointee to the Personnel Commission

Ms. Margaret Wyatt is the current appointee of the Board. Her name was recommended and presented to the public during the September 24, 2020, Board Meeting. She has been approved for an additional three-year term commencing December 1, 2020.

► **Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PSEA Unit I and II**

The Board ratified the MOU with PSEA Unit I and II regarding health and welfare benefits for plan year 2021.

- Rather than contributing the entire balance of opt-out savings to retiree benefits, the agreement allocates \$750,000 (approximately 1% of Unit employees' salaries for 2020-21) to the District's OPEB Irrevocable Trust.
- The agreement lowers the cash to warrant temporarily from \$275 to \$250 and to lower the opt-out cash payment from \$350 to \$325 for the 2021 Plan Year, generating approximately \$200,000 in savings
- The parties also agreed in principle to negotiate incremental reductions to cash to warrant and opt-out payments to employees over a multi-year phase down. A multi-year phase-down approach for reducing the discretionary funds for participating employees will generate savings that can be used toward health and welfare premium supplement in future years.
- \$650,000 from opt-out savings will be utilized to offset the District's structural deficit and overage costs for PSEA members for the 2020 Plan Year.

► **Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan**

- The Board approved the Poway Unified School District's comprehensive Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan, which will be a dynamic document that brings together all efforts to bolster equity improvement within PUSD.
 - The plan is aligned with Resolution 116-2020 entitled "Reaffirming Poway Unified School District's Commitment to Fight Racism and Correct Systemic Inequity," which was approved at the June 25, 2020 Board meeting.
 - The plan includes input from the above resolution, student leaders, staff, as well as other representative diverse parent and community groups working to fight racism and support inclusion for students and staff of color.
 - Categories and goals fall under four categories: fostering relational trust, professional learning for staff, educational improvements, and systems improvements.
 - A copy of the Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan will be posted to the PUSD website on the new Racial Equity and Inclusion web page on Monday.

► **PUSD 2020-21 Reopening Update**

- Tonight, staff updated the Board on the 26 PUSD elementary schools that were approved to reopen for on-campus instruction with an AM/PM schedule, as well as many special education programs and Abraxas High with an A/B schedule.
- Staff also shared the specific classes and programs that returned on campus at middle
- Staff is working with local officials to establish a COVID testing site for employees and students, easily accessible off the I-15 freeway. The site will be a community location, not a school site.
- The Board also approved the following recommendations regarding PUSD secondary schools:
 - Remain in virtual learning for now, but teachers continue returning to campus to teach virtually from their on-campus classrooms for those who are able
 - Sites continue to collaboratively develop plans for on-campus learning, and open based on site models and grading periods
 - Continue to expand different groups/cohorts/clubs coming on campus
 - Encourage more teachers to pilot the concurrent/simultaneous model as seen in [this pilot model](#)
 - Provide supervised support during the school day for highest need learners
 - Secondary principals to hold community forums on reopening during the week of October 26

► **Studio 701 Digital Internship "Excellence in Education" Series**

In the first installment of the “Excellence in Education” video series for the 2020-21 school year, our Studio 701 student interns highlighted the phased reopening of elementary schools, special education programs, and Abraxas High School on October 1, 8, and 12. Studio 701 media interns produced this segment while working remotely. **WATCH:** https://youtu.be/R1NBXvpJ_EY

► **Approval of School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Abraxas High School**

- The School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) is the primary planning document for school improvement. School staff review and analyze a range of data to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs and interventions; the conclusions of which then inform goals, strategies and measurable outcomes to impact student learning. The SPSA plan will be posted on the PUSD website after approval from the Board of Education.

► **Approval of Resolution No. 20-2021 “School Psychology Awareness Week 2020”**

- School Psychology Awareness Week honors the unique contribution of professional school psychologists within the Poway Unified School District the week of November 9-13, 2020. This year’s theme is, “The Power of Possibility.” PUSD recognizes psychologists for their continuous encouragement and support of students.

► **Approval of Resolution No. 19-2021 Proposal for Lease-Leaseback Construction Services for Rancho Bernardo High School Building N Modernization Project”**

- The Board approved the second of a two-part modernization project of Building N at Rancho Bernardo High School. A detailed scope of this project and the Lease-Leaseback (LLB) model can be found on pages 78-79 of the agenda [here](#).
 - On February 13, 2020 the Board approved a design contract for the renovation of Building N.
 - In September 2020, the first of two phases, an HVAC replacement, was completed in September 2020. The second phase includes renovations for the two classrooms in Building N.
 - In alignment with the District’s Facilities Master Plan (FMP) resources from Fund 40 (Special Reserve Fund for Capital Outlay Projects) and Fund 25 (Capital Facilities) were utilized for this project.
 - Rancho Bernardo High School has received no major reconstruction or renovation outside of its initial construction in 1991. Remaining FMP projects at RBHS after completion of this project exceed \$80 million in projected costs, for which there is no identified funding.

► **Approval of 2020-21 Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Members**

- In accordance with the PUSD Special Education Local Plan and California Education Code, the Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is constituted as an advisory group to the school District on the subject of Special Education, and is comprised of parents of District Special Education students. Tonight, the Board approved the appointees to serve on the 2020-21 committee.

Future meetings:

Regular Meetings:

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Thursday, December 17, 2020

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