

B ard Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **NOVEMBER 12, 2020** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Board Agenda for the November 12, 2020 Board of Education Meeting can be found here:
<https://www.powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2020/11-12-2020-Board-Agenda.pdf>

► All agenda items were approved

► Superintendent and Board Recognition

Superintendent Phelps and the Board recognized student and staff accomplishments at school sites and the District:

- In addition to receiving a Golden Bell Award for School Culture and Safety by the California School Board Association (CSBA), the District was presented with an additional CSBA award of a one thousand dollar sponsorship.
- PUSD's National Blue Ribbon Schools – Adobe Bluffs, Monterey Ridge, and Park Village Elementary Schools – will be recognized by the US Department of Education in a virtual ceremony on Friday, November 13 at 11 a.m. PST. Superintendent Phelps invites families and staff to tune in.

► Studio 701 Digital Internship “Excellence in Education” Series

In the second installment of the “Excellence in Education” video series for the 2020-21 school year, our Studio 701 student interns highlighted how the CTE department has been able to make hands-on learning more meaningful for students in a virtual setting. Studio 701 interns produced this segment while working remotely.

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/L7QythPHzfl>

► Student Board Representatives

The Board heard reports from student representatives at Adobe Bluffs Elementary School, Black Mountain Middle School, and Poway and Westview High Schools.

- **Taylor Hyunh** (Adobe Bluffs Elementary School): Taylor is a 5th grader at Adobe Bluffs; many students are excited that school has recently reopened for in person learning; on Thursdays they focus on character; this year ABES will be a No Place for Hate school; they are proud that ABES is a 2020 National Blue Ribbon school; some of the unique events at ABES include Ability Awareness Day; as well as their Mandarin culture celebrations and foreign language programs (both FLES and dual immersion)
- **Nia Thompson** (Black Mountain Middle School): BMMS created a Canvas page for ASB to increase access and communication to students who do not have social media; they've been hosting spirit days including Red Ribbon Week, lunchtime activity socials; students are creating individual recordings for morning announcements; BMMS hosted an AVID induction drive-thru ceremony; as students return to campus, trying to figure out ways to connect on campus and virtual; also planning for a drive-in movie
- **Jake Murray** (Poway High School): the start of the year has been an adjustment; virtual learning is a challenge, especially to keep Titans engaged; spirit wear distributions and drive through food drive; the music department hosted drive-in musical performances; a second drive-in concert is schedule Fri. November 20 and tickets can be found phsmb.com; true Titan recognition; No Place for Hate virtual activities including student panel regarding racial slurs and how they impact students on campus; held virtual Fall spirit week in lieu of homecoming; LINK crew will host on campus tours for freshman; students are anxious to get back on campus

- **Audrey Tu** (Westview High School): Audrey is finishing up her term as ASB President at Westview; their back-to-school Wall-E themed virtual welcome rally included performances and clips in homeroom; drive-thru club rush with more than 300 cars that came through; sold Boo buckets and Boo grams to bring the Halloween spirit safely; No Place for Hate theme is “Listen”; applications for ASB will be accepted and need to adjust the process for virtual

► Public Comments

The Board heard comments regarding:

- Poway FFA students expressed gratitude for being able to continue with their program during COVID
- Parent requested that PUSD reopen indoor facilities for community use and rental
- Palomar PTA update, including their upcoming JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) committee on December 9 at 6:30pm
- Opposition to the District pursuing a land lease with Costco for the Black Mountain Ranch Surplus Site
- Comments both for and against continuing with phased reopening of elementary and secondary sites

► Update: Poway Unified School District 2020-2021 Reopening Plan

- Staff provided an update to the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan. Based on rising case rates, San Diego County moving to the purple tier, stakeholder input, and staffing challenges, the Board approved the following revisions to PUSD’s secondary reopening planning:
 - Secondary will continue with the current model of fully virtual learning while:
 - Purposefully increasing the numbers of students on campus through expanding small groups
 - Increasing pilot groups utilizing concurrent model
 - Refining virtual learning with input from students
 - All secondary teachers will be trained on the simultaneous/concurrent model
 - All secondary schools will open **by January 19**, utilizing concurrent/simultaneous model with the following schedule for students who chose the on-campus option:
 - Students attend on-campus 2 days/week
 - Students receive 2 days/week virtual instruction
 - Fridays will be asynchronous learning
 - All middle and high school teachers and staff return to work on campus; teaching virtually from campus **beginning November 30**

► Personnel Commission Annual Report

The Personnel Commission is required to report annually to the Board regarding the activities of the Personnel Commission for the preceding fiscal year. Some highlights for 2019-20 include:

- Classified Employees: 2496
- Confidential Employees: 13
- Classified Supervisors: 75
- Classified Managers: 19
- Recruitment Activities: 4715 applications received
- Transfers: 214
- Promotions: 92
- New Hires: 362

► Public Hearing and Approval of the Initial Proposal for Contract Negotiations with PSEA Units I and II

The Board held a public hearing and adopted the District’s initial proposal to reopen negotiations for the 2021-22 school year as part of a multi-year contract to PSEA Units I and II; the Board also received the initial proposal for contract negotiations from PSEA Units I and II.

A multi-year (2019-2022) Collective Bargaining Agreement with PSEA was approved by the Board at the February 13 meeting. The new contract stipulates that health and welfare benefits may be reopened and negotiated for the 2021-22 school year, well in advance of the 2022 benefit plan year.

► **Initial Proposal for Contract Negotiations with PFT**

The Board made its initial public proposal to PFT to reopen negotiations for the 2020-21 school year as part of a multi-year contract to the Poway Federation of Teachers. There will be a public hearing and adoption of the District's initial proposal at a subsequent meeting.

► **Review and Acceptance of the 2019-20 Financial Compliance and Program Audit**

- The one audit finding referenced was attendance reporting, with the recommendation to establish monitoring procedures to ensure that all teachers at all schools are taking attendance daily
- Other areas recommended for improvement included ways to improve controls over independent study and reducing the number of P-card holders where possible

► **Approval of Revised 2020-2021 General Fund Budget; Proposed Budget Solutions Needed in 2021-2022**

- The Board was presented with a revised budget report for the PUSD General Fund, which included changes to both revenue and expenditure accounts. The District is facing deficits in the coming years, caused in part by a lack of state funding and COVID-19 impacts.
 - The revised 2020-21 budget shows a deficit of \$21.6 million, and reserve level of 7 percent (\$32.1 million).
 - The projected 2021-2022 budget shows a 4.3 percent reduction in reserve level from the previous year, or a total loss of \$20.7 million.
 - By 2022-2023, the budget projection shows PUSD facing a deficit of \$32.7 million. This reduces the District's reserve levels to -4.8 percent, or a negative reserve of \$21.3 million.
- To maintain fiscal stability, the following budget solutions are recommended over a multi-year period to save the District \$10 million:
 - Supplemental Early Retirement Program (negotiable), class size increases (negotiable), new Health & Welfare model (negotiable), Programmatic & Personnel Reductions, and Health & Welfare re-marketing.

► **First Reading: Adoption of New High School Courses**

- The following courses are being adopted as part of the District's Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan. A full description of each course can be found on page 113 in the agenda packet [here](#).
 - **Ethnic Studies:** Develops an understanding of how race, ethnicity, nationality, and culture have shaped, and continue to shape, individuals and society in the United States; Rooted in the four foundational disciplines of ethnic studies: African American, Asian, Chicano Latino, and Native American and Indigenous Studies; Will be offered to 9-12th grade students as an elective.
 - **Ethnic Literature:** Focuses on the foundational disciplines of ethnic studies including African American, Asian American, Chicano Latino, Middle Eastern, and Native American and Indigenous Studies; Promotes cultural understanding and empathy through a deep analysis and examination of how systems of power in the United States have affected these groups; Will earn PUSD English credit for 12th grade students.

► **Approval of Amended PUSD Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP) 2020-2021**

- The LCP was submitted to the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) for review on September 25, 2020. The San Diego County Superintendent of Schools recommended the addition of

one sentence reflecting evolving guidance from the California Department of Education regarding the LCP. A copy of the Amended LCP for 2020-2021 can be viewed [here](#).

► **Future meetings of the PUSD Board of Education:**

- **Special Meeting: Friday, December 10, 2020** (9:00am)
- **Regular Meeting: Thursday, December 17, 2020** (6:00 p.m.)

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