

B ard Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **DECEMBER 17, 2020** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

► The Board Agenda for the December 17, 2020 Board of Education Meeting can be found here: <https://powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2020/12-17-2020-Board-Agenda.pdf>



► Oath of Office

Superintendent Phelps extended congratulations to Dr. Darshana Patel, who was re-elected by voters on November 3, 2020 to represent Area A (Penasquitos, Torrey Highlands Del Sur, 4S Ranch). PUSD also welcomes Dr. Cindy Sytsma, who was elected by voters on November 3, 2020 to represent Area E (South Poway, Sabre Springs). Both Dr. Patel and Dr. Sytsma were sworn in to office tonight.

► Recognition of Outgoing Board Member

The December 17 meeting is Kimberley Beatty's final Board of Education meeting as a trustee. Superintendent Phelps recognized Ms. Beatty's eight years of service to the students and staff of PUSD. Dr. Cindy Sytsma will replace Kimberley Beatty on the Board of Education.



► Board Organization and Appointments

Every December, the Board conducts election and appointment of officers or representatives to various Board committees. The full list of appointments can be found in the December 17 minutes. The elected officers are as follows:

- President: Ginger Couvrette
- Vice President: TJ Zane
- Clerk: Dr. Darshana Patel

Dr. Phelps presented a plaque of appreciation to Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff for her service as Board President.

► Superintendent and Board Recognition

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

- Westview senior Sophia Righthouse was awarded the Jimmy Trimble III Scholarship from the American Veteran’s Center, and will escort World War II veterans to Guam and Iwo Jima for the Reunion of Honor next spring.
- Garden Road Elementary School Teacher Allison Leedom was awarded the “Tribute to Teachers Award” from San Diego Radio Station KYXY 96.5 for making a difference in her community.
- Superintendent Phelps presented the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award to the Board of Education. The award category was School Culture and Safety.



► Studio 701 Digital Internship “Excellence in Education” Series

In the third installment of the “Excellence in Education” video series for the 2020-21 school year, our Studio 701 student interns highlighted how PUSD students are giving back to the community during this time of need. Studio 701 interns produced this segment while working remotely. **WATCH:** <https://youtu.be/8y6BZLPS6Ws>

► Student Board Representatives

The Board heard reports from student representatives at Deer Canyon Elementary School, Meadowbrook Middle School, Del Norte and Mt. Carmel High Schools.

- **Kaia Thakkar** (Deer Canyon) Kaia is a 5th grader who is a Deer Canyon Leader; DCES is in year three of being a No Place for Hate campus; still trying to plan fun connecting events for both in person and virtual students; held art night over Zoom; readathon which raised almost \$9,000; virtual baking night; “recess rooms” by grade level
- **Asha Jahanian** (Meadowbrook) ASB is trying to unite the student body during online learning, which has been challenging; most of their activities take place during morning advisory periods, including Fun Fridays (Halloween themed jeopardy, Pictionary, meaningful and inspirational videos); they are continuing to work to improve school climate and culture; they are hosting spirit days virtually such as “Frozen Friday”; they will have a virtual club kick off after winter break
- **Jose Torres** (Del Norte) college application season is in full swing, with early decisions and deadlines; students helped with Adopt-A-Family fundraiser; some classes such as ASB are meeting hybrid or in

person; DNHS partnered with Starbucks to create The Nighthawk Drink; they are forming a mental health coalition for future events; peer counselors hosted red ribbon week; anti-racism taskforce working on bringing equity to campus; uplifting each other with fun events like video game competitions

- **Maddie Migliori** (Mt. Carmel): School continues to adapt by finding new ways to connect with students virtually, such as weekly student takeovers on Instagram, mental health check-ins, and weekly newscast broadcasts; LINK crew hosted 400 freshman to check in to discuss the challenges and perks of being virtual; Fight Against Hunger Club drive through food drive; 53 active clubs despite being virtual; eSports team won the San Diego FortNite competition; currently holiday spirit week, including performances from performing arts groups

► **Public Comments**

Effective December 10, PUSD is moving to live public comments (via Zoom) and is no longer accepting written comments to be read aloud at the meeting. The public may still submit written comments, which will be provided to the Board Members at a later time. This change is listed on our website and agenda. The Board heard comments regarding:

- Appreciation for Outgoing Board Member Kimberley Beatty
- Support and concern over temporary closure of on-campus programs following winter break
- Concern over proposed Costco lease agreement for Black Mountain Ranch Surplus Site
- Support for reopening secondary schools

► **Mental Health Days Initiative**

Student Board Member Emily Bylsma presented information to the Board, asking for consideration of mental health as a valid excused absence. Bylsma proposed a Board Resolution and future discussion to foster understanding of the benefits of tracking mental health days, utilizing counseling services across campuses, and engaging in conversations with parents regarding their child(ren)'s well-being.

► **The entire Consent Calendar was approved; some items of note:**

Award of Contracts for Modernization Projects at High Schools

The following contracts were presented to the Board for approval in two modernization projects:

- Rancho Bernardo High School (RBHS) 'Building N': Resolution approved at the October 15, 2020 meeting. The District received seven proposals. Staff recommends award of contract to Erickson-Hall Construction. Staff intends to present the final agreement, including cost and schedule of work, to the Board at the March 11, 2021 meeting.
- Del Norte High School (DNHS) Expansion, Field, and Lighting: Resolution approved at the September 24, 2020 meeting. The District received seven proposals. Staff recommends award of contract to Balfour Beatty Construction. Staff intends to present the final agreement, including cost and schedule of work, to the Board at the August 12, 2021 meeting.

Adoption of Ethnic Studies and Ethnic Literature as New High School Courses

At the November 12, 2020 meeting, the Board heard a presentation with the proposed course descriptions for an Ethnic Studies and an Ethnic Literature course. The courses have been reviewed by representative teachers, parents, and students, and are aligned with California State content standards for Ethnic Studies Curriculum. The Board approved the courses at tonight's meeting. Full descriptions can be found on page 89 in the [agenda](#).

► **The Board approved Resolution No. 31-2021 "Supplementary Retirement Plan for Poway Federation of Teachers (PFT)-Represented Employees"**

This agreement offers a supplementary retirement plan for eligible members of the PFT bargaining unit. It may encourage senior certificated non-management employees to retire early. The goal is to generate savings by

increasing the number of retirements at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Program savings will be determined based on the actual number of enrolled employees who declare intent to retire by February 5, 2021. If a sufficient number of teacher (105) declare their intention by February 5, 2021, it would become effective July 1, 2021. The entire memorandum is included in the agenda.

► **Student Calendars 2021-2022 and 2022-2023: First Reading**

The calendars reflect 180 student attendance days, legal holidays, and District recesses. It includes three non-student days. Staff will request final adoption of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 student calendars at the January Board meeting. Non-traditional calendars for Valley Elementary and Abraxas Continuation High School will be submitted in February. Calendars can be viewed in the [agenda](#) on page 109.

► **The Board Authorized PUSD to Borrow Funds for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, Issue Sale of Tax Revenue Anticipation Note**

The state of California has deferred paying about 35 percent of all K12 district funding, in order to balance the state budget for 2020-2021. Staff are recommending authorization to borrow \$20-25 million through the California Education Note Program (facilitated by Keygent, LLC), to cover the approximately \$51 million in deficits from this state deferral. The funds would reach PUSD in March 2021, to be paid back in full within one year. State reimbursement is expected in July 2021, but PUSD projects full repayment by Fall 2021.

► **School Reopening Update**

Tonight the Board voted to:

- Temporarily suspend on campus learning from January 4 through January 15; all students will transition to fully virtual learning for those 10 days of school following winter break
- Suspend all on campus programs, including ESS and preschools, for 10 days from January 4 through January 15
- Reopen all PUSD campuses, PreK through 12, on January 19, 2021 – keeping elementary schools on an AM/PM schedule five-day-a-week and having middle and high schools return with an A/B concurrent schedule

Future meetings:

The following regular meeting dates for 2021 were approved by the Board of Education:

Thursday, January 14
Thursday, February 11
Thursday, March 11
Thursday, April 8
Thursday, May 13
Thursday, June 3

Thursday, June 24
Thursday, August 12
Thursday, September 9
Thursday, October 14
Thursday, November 18
Thursday, December 16 (Organizational Meeting)

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