

Bard Briefs



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **FEBRUARY 11, 2021** BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Board Agenda for the January 14, 2021 Board of Education Meeting can be found here: <https://powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2021/02-11-2021-Board-Agenda.pdf>

► Moment of Silence

The Board held a moment of silence for Deer Canyon 2nd grader Aria Chetterjee, who passed away on Friday, January 15, 2021. The Board held an additional moment of silence for Meadowbrook Middle School Instructional Assistant Sara Jones, who passed away on January 27, 2021. Both Aria and Sara were beloved members of the PUSD community, and we send our deepest condolences to their families.

► February is Black History Month

Our schools and student groups continue to share the significance of Black and African American achievements in our nation's history. Follow @PowayUnified on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram for the month-long celebration.



► Superintendent and Board Recognition

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

- **Carol Osborne**, Associate Superintendent of Learning Support Services, was named the “2021 Turnaround School Leader” by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) for her leadership efforts in creating and implementing a districtwide Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan for PUSD. SDCOE’s annual Lighthouse Awards are presented to people and organizations who are beacons in the educational community that lead others in diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- February 1-5, 2021 was **National School Counselors**

Week. Superintendent Phelps recognized the support our counselors provide students in the academic, social/emotional, and college/career arenas.

► Studio701 Excellence in Education Series

In this next installment of the “Excellence in Education” video series for the 2020-21 school year, our Studio701 student interns highlighted the behind-the-scenes staff who provide essential services to our school community, including meals, childcare, cleaning and sanitizing. **WATCH:** <https://youtu.be/bxyWJ0EN4XM>

► Student Board Representatives

The Board heard reports from student representatives at Garden Road Elementary School, Twin Peaks Middle School, and Poway High School.

- **Sophia Rodgers** (Garden Road ES) Sophia reported how two-thirds of the GRES student body are very happy to be back on campus; students are encouraging positive change and equity on campus; GRES expanded their library book collection to celebrate diversity, and are enjoying them for Black History

Month; they continue to beautify the school with murals; students are enjoying the outdoor learning garden donated by Balfour Beatty; band, book club, student council continue to meet

- **Ellie Russo** (Twin Peaks MS) Ellie highlighted that Twin Peaks is an AVID school site of distinction for the 5th year; 75% of staff are AVID trained, and are hoping to host a virtual AVID showcase for visitors from other school sites; they have added new clubs such as drama, game development, and Star Wars club, WEB (where everybody belongs) created a campus tour video for 6th graders, ASB hosted movie in the quad which was a huge success, they are using Google Classroom to improve connections among students, including Tuesday lunchtime Zoom activities, TPMS is hosting a Drive-Thru celebration for students who earned all “O”s
- **Jake ‘Peter’ Murray** (Poway HS) This is Jake’s final board meeting as President. PHS is hosting a blood drive - hoping to get 100 donors through Feb. 28; collaboration to create the Titan Tonic, a fundraiser drink with Project Nourish; held in-home homecoming spirit week such as “Game of Homes” (seniors won!); sports such as swim & dive and cross country have been able to restart with safety protocols (first cross country meet coming up), groups such as robotics competing virtually; Music Man earned four awards at the 15th annual youth arts awards

► **Public Comments**

Tonight the Board heard live comments regarding:

- Urging PUSD to reopen middle and high schools for in-person learning

► **School Reopening Update**

Tonight LSS staff reported to the Board on the PUSD schools and programs that have reopened campus for in-person learning. ESS, Preschool, all PUSD Elementary Schools, special education classes, and small groups at middle and high schools have returned. Staff also highlighted new updates:

- Last night, CDPH issued a notification of a process change for secondary school reopening. School Districts can now submit a Safety Review Request to the CDPH as an appeal to reopen. School districts, such as PUSD, who believed they were “open” based on prior guidance issued by the state, but who did not meet the criteria for being open in the new January 14 guidance, may seek permission to reopen if they were actively in the process of bringing back additional students for in-person instruction as a part of a phased reopening plan. The Board was supportive of staff submitting this appeal as soon it becomes available. The appeals process includes 10 business days for Districts to prepare the form with necessary documentation; the CDPH will reply within 7 business days.
- Today, San Diego County announced that when the County opens up vaccinations to educators, they will prioritize vaccinations for schools that have already reopened or have been approved to reopen.
- PUSD is in the process of hiring limited term instructional assistants (31 have been hired and assigned, 42 applicants are in the pre-employment process). The District will continue its recruitment efforts.

► **Update: Racial Equity and Inclusion Plan**

At the October 15, 2020 meeting the Board of Education approved PUSD’s Comprehensive Plan for Prioritizing Racial Equity and Inclusion. Tonight staff updated the Board on the actions taken, and progress and efforts made toward implementing the plan. This includes community feedback-11 racial equity community conversations have taken place so far. Additional actions to date include:

- Equity teams at school sites
- Anti-bias training for staff
- Ethnic studies and ethnic literature courses approved for 2021-22 school year
- Restorative Justice Practices Committee

- Expanded libraries and curriculum with diverse authors and texts

► **Chronic Absenteeism**

Daily attendance and engagement of PUSD students is crucial to their development as “world-class learners.” California Education Code defines chronic absenteeism as a child who is absent from school 10% or more of the school year for any reason (excused or unexcused). The 2019 California School Dashboard identifies PUSD as having a 6.7% chronic absenteeism rate. Tonight Special Education and Learning Support Staff shared with the Board an overview of the system-wide intervention plan to address this issue. Next steps include gathering stakeholder input/data, rolling out a chronic absenteeism resource website, and training webinars.

► **Approval of Final Guaranteed Maximum Price for RBHS**

The Board approved the Final Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$4.87 million for the RBHS Building N Modernization Project. The project scope includes the complete interior renovation of the 13 Building N classrooms, drainage and grading improvements, exterior painting throughout campus, repairs to building gutters and damaged fascia, cleaning of roof tiles ADA improvements, and repairs to exterior stairs.

The Consent Calendar was approved in its entirety. Items to note:

► **Approval of Resolution No. 36-2021 “National Nutrition Month” and “National School Breakfast Week”**

“National Nutrition Month” is acknowledged during the month of March, and will focus on the 2021 theme of ‘Personalize Your Plate.’ This theme promotes eating a variety of nutritious foods every day because there is no one-size-fits-all approach to health. Additionally, “National School Breakfast Week (NSBW)” will be celebrated March 8-12, 2021.

► **Fee Increases for PUSD Tuition-based Preschool Programs**

Starting the 2021-2022 school year, PUSD’s tuition-based Preschool programs will be increasing fees to sustain program quality and keep pace with rising costs of salaries, benefits, and other operational expenses. The last Board-approved increase was November 2015. A full disclosure of monthly tuitions and registration expenses can be found on page 75 of the agenda [here](#).

Future meetings:

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, April 8	Thursday, September 9
Thursday, May 13	Thursday, October 14
Thursday, June 3	Thursday, November 18
Thursday, June 24	Thursday, December 16
Thursday, August 12	

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