

B ard Briefs

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

The Board Agenda for the December 17, 2020 Board of Education Meeting can be found here:
<https://www.powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2021/03-11-2021-Board-Agenda.pdf>

► Moment of Silence

On Friday, February 12th, the Bernardo Heights community lost a father and son, Steve and Stephen Pirolli. Stephen was an 8th grade student at Bernardo Heights. Stephen was a kind and caring young man who loved his family and was an outstanding and passionate baseball player. The Board of Education held a moment of silence for Stephen and his father Steve.

► March is Women's History Month

Our schools and student groups continue to celebrate the significance of women's achievements in culture, politics, and socioeconomics around the world. Follow @powayunified on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the month-long celebration.



► **National Charity League (NCL) Poway Chapter** donated a generous gift to PUSD's Youth in Transition program, which serves PUSD students experiencing homelessness. As part of the NCL's "20 Years of Giving Back" campaign, Poway NCL launched an online giving campaign and selected Youth in Transition as one of the recipients. Board President Ginger Couvrette and Student Board Member Emily Bylsma presented the check to Dr. Phelps, Director Hubschmitt, and Youth in Transition Coordinator Laura Upson.

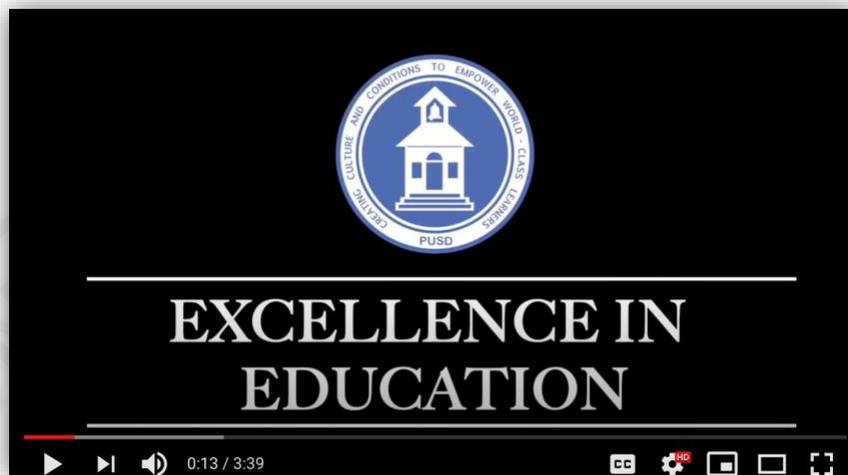
► Superintendent and Board Recognition

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

- **District Administration Magazine** recognized PUSD as a District of Distinction winner for 2021 in the Professional Development category. The award, which was presented at the Future of Education Conference in February, highlights PUSD's blended learning Voyager initiative.
- Westview High School Student **Ekene Okolo** and her sister **Nene Okolo** (Westview alumnus) are being awarded the Local Peacemaker Award by the National Conflict Resolution Center. They are receiving the award for their work with Poway Unified to address racism throughout the District.
- **Dawn Hester**, CTE Engineering Teacher at Westview High School, was named the winner of the prestigious San Diego County Engineering Council (SDCEC) Outstanding Engineering K-12 Educator award.

► Studio 701 Digital Internship “Excellence in Education” Series

In this installment of the “Excellence in Education” video series for the 2020-21 school year, our Studio 701 student interns followed the District-wide efforts for racial equity and inclusion over the past year. Studio 701 interns produced this segment while working remotely. **WATCH:** <https://youtu.be/Ro2PcDN92jw>



► Student Board Representatives

The Board heard reports from student representatives at Highland Ranch Elementary, Mesa Verde Middle, and Del Norte High Schools.

- **Nava Taghavi** (Highland Ranch ES) Neva spoke about how Highland Ranch is a No Place for Hate school since February 2020, and have grown the student team from 6 to 35 students, they are earning their designation and are also excited to start a No Place for Hate book club with many of the books donated by Black in PUSD.

- **Cayden Pasion** (Mesa Verde MS) Cayden highlighted virtual spirit days, student and teacher of the month recognition, and weekly shout outs to boost spirits. ASB us now using a new social media platform for students, guest speakers have included community leaders such as Mayor Todd Gloria, and they continue finding ways to bring students together, Mesa Verde Eagles will continue to soar!
- **Jose Torres** (Del Norte HS) Jose talked about how college application season is now behind them and acceptances and decisions are now underway! Student leaders are working on mental health awareness, sexual violence awareness, music video to celebrate seniors, culture week takeovers by different clubs, educating students on micro-aggressions and slurs, working with Monterey Ridge and Del Sur to mentor and tutor, and many creative ways to stay connected, including video game competitions and podcasts

► Public Comments

The Board heard comments regarding:

- Advanced classes in middle school
- Ethnic literature
- Concerns and support for school reopening

► **School Reopening Update**

Tonight, staff reported to the Board on the status of reopening secondary schools, and other related items. Including:

- The Board approved the updated Poway Unified COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Middle and high schools will reopen following the A/B concurrent model once San Diego County is in the Red Tier
- The Board approved the phased-in expansion of small on-campus student cohorts to begin Monday, March 15, 2021 with a temporary model based on grade levels and A/B cohorts. This plan was approved this evening by the CDPH Safe Schools for All team.
- The Board approved the temporary waiver of minimum GPA requirements and minimum progress toward meeting high school graduation requirements for participation in all 2021 Spring sports and extra/co-curricular activities
 - Spectators: Observers are limited to immediate household members. Poway will allow up to 4 immediate household members at outdoor events and 2 for indoor events
- The Board approved the development and expansion of Poway’s new Virtual Learning Options for Fall 2021

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Expanding On
Campus Cohorts



Effective Monday, March 15, 2021

Expand our on-campus cohorts at middle and high schools

Middle School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6th Grade Cohort A	7-8 Grade Cohort A	6th Grade Cohort B	7-8 Grade Cohort B

High School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9th-10th Cohort A	9th-10th Cohort B	11th-12th Cohort A	11th-12th Cohort B

Friday will be asynchronous for all students

► **Adoption of the Year-Round Student Calendar: Valley Elementary, Abraxas High School**

The Board approved and adopted the student attendance calendar for the 2021-2022 school year at Valley Elementary and Abraxas High Schools. The calendars can be found on the PUSD website [here](#).

► **Certificated Layoff in the Preschool Program**

The Preschool Program is operating at a deficit. As of December 31, 2020, the department had a loss of \$2,069,570 and an ending balance of \$567,193.21. Over time, there has been a pattern of declining enrollment with COVID-19, which has deepened the operating deficit. The District will need to reduce a total number of eight (8) positions. Tonight staff presented a tentative timeline to the Board for approval.

► **Approval, Certification of Second Interim Financial Report**

The Second Interim Report, which can be found starting on page 64 of the [agenda](#), reflects the current budget and actual revenues and expenditures as of January 31, 2021.

- The revised budget reflects a 1.7 percent increase in reserve level for 2020-21, up from 7.0 percent in the first interim report (October 2020) to 8.7%. This equates to an additional \$17 million in ending fund balance, for a total of \$49.4 million.
- Projected budget for the 2021-22 year is \$42.7 million, and \$34.3 million for 2022-23.
- Associate Superintendent Ron Little and Director of Finance Joy Ramiro also outlined the use of one-time COVID-relief funds for learning loss mitigation and COVID response:
 - temporarily lower class sizes for reopening schools
 - extended school year (summer)
 - extended school day
 - enhanced mental health support (counselors, psychologists, social workers, student support specialists)
 - Enhanced campus supervision and student support
 - Virtual school
 - enhanced programs
 - additional custodians and support staff
 - indoor air quality in classrooms
 - improved technology infrastructure and security
 - increased access to student devices
 - extended access to adaptive learning programs
 - supplemental curricula
 - instructional materials/textbooks
 - intervention teachers
 - professional learning and collaboration time

► **Special Education Inclusive Practices Update**

Tonight staff presented to the Board an update related to progress made improving equity and access to students with disabilities attending schools in PUSD. Updates include:

ELEMENTARY

- “SAI” or Specialized Academic Instruction will be called “Inclusive Practices” moving forward
- All elementary Non-severely handicapped (NSH) special day class programs will be closed as of the 2021-22 school year
- Formerly NSH student in TK through 5th grade will enroll at schools of residence
- March – June 2021 IEP meetings will be held for each student to support this transition
- Former NSH teachers will be Education Specialists on SPED teams at elementary sites
- Former NSH instructional assistants will be Inclusive Practices Special Education IAs
- All elementary schools have been receiving training in inclusive instructional practices and Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

MIDDLE & HIGH

Secondary Inclusive Practices Model:

- General education
- IA supported
- Co-taught
- Learned supported

Components of a Successful Transition:

- Establish a framework by building the plan, establishing a master schedule, and a schedule of IA supports. Ongoing communication and training
- Set a Foundation by working with Inclusive Practices site teams to provide training and support related to co-teaching strategies
- Monitor and Implement during the 2021-22 school year, guide and support implementation of Inclusive Practices, and prepare remaining sites for 2022-23 implementation
- Build Capacity for remaining sites, implement increased collaborative classes and cohesive planning between programs in the 2021-22 school year

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

Approval of “PUSD Robotics Day” and “PUSD Women in STEM Day” April 8, 2021

PUSD Robotics Day: In recognition of the growth of Robotics Teams throughout Poway Unified and the achievements they have garnered, it was recommended that April 8, 2021 be designated as Poway Unified School District Robotics Day 2021 to continue to inspire students throughout the District.



PUSD Women in STEM Day:

The Poway Unified School District recognizes the many contributions throughout history that women have made in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The District further acknowledges the importance of piquing the academic interests of girls in the areas of STEM. It was recommended to the Board that April 8, 2021 be designated as PUSD Women in STEM Day 2021, to affirm and support the important work our Women in STEM clubs do to close the gender gap in these areas.

Future meetings:

Regular Meetings: **Thursday, April 8, 2021** at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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For more information about PUSD, visit our website www.powayusd.com*



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