

# B ard Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **OCTOBER 14, 2021** SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Board Agenda for the October 14, 2021 Board of Education Meeting can be found here:

<https://www.powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2021/10-14-2021-Board-Agenda.pdf>

## ► **Moment of Silence**

President Couvrette began the meeting with a moment of silence for Christine Cloutier, English Learner Coordinator. She touched many lives across PUSD through her work over the years, and she will be dearly missed. She passed away on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. She was surrounded by family at the end, and she is now at peace. She will always be remembered as a champion for our English learner students, and we are so grateful for her many years of dedicated service, care, and compassion as a member of Team PUSD. Our thoughts are with her family as they grieve their loss.

President Couvrette also acknowledged the loss of a student at Rancho Bernardo High School. We are not mentioning their name because the family has asked for privacy during this extremely difficult time. A moment of silence was also held for the student.

## ► **Superintendent and Board Recognition**

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

- 49 Poway Unified students who were named Semi-Finalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program! Finalists will be announced in the Spring. Please review the Board packet for all of their names listed in 12.2.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Juana Molina who was named Project Lead the Way Outstanding Teacher. She is one of only 74 teachers across the country to earn this award. She was selected for her ability to inspire, engage, and transform students' learning experiences through hands-on computer science, engineering, and biomedical science activities and projects.

## ► **Excellence in Education series:**

For their first Excellence in Education episode for the 2021-22 school year, the Studio 701 interns highlighted the new ethnic studies and ethnic literature classes being offered at PUSD high schools. They spoke to students and teachers about their experiences so far:

**WATCH =>** <https://youtu.be/Y7YbpOrsNk0>

## ► **Student Board Reports**

- **Abraxas High School** – Andrew Mendoza spoke about how the Abraxas garden has donated over 10,000 pounds of produce since its inception. There is an upcoming fundraiser on November 13 from 9am to 12pm for the garden program. Abraxas received the Exemplary Program award from the California Continuation Education Association in September. Abraxas students have an active SAVE Promise club, which continues to grow, representing Abraxas at National Night Out and hosting on-campus events such as new student welcome luncheon. Two new clubs started LGBTQ and Latinx club.

- **Westview High School** – Kody Mongold shared how ASB has faced challenges head-on, putting adaptability to the test, including a brand new ASB advisor and half of the ASB students having never been on campus. Westview celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with free commemorative T-shirt. They hosted incredible freshman and sophomore orientations, bonding events for junior and seniors, club rush with over 100 clubs, successful Start with Hello week, custodian appreciation events, and unity day with junior class with Keith Hawkins to address mental health and he will return to conduct with sophomores. Through the Decades homecoming theme this month with record-setting attendance at dance, Westview Gold band working hard, Ambassadors program building character with elementary students, Robotics also connecting with younger students,
- **Black Mountain Middle School** – Elsie Skelly spoke about how BMMS is a No Place for Hate school and California Distinguished School; students try to make everyone feel welcome. ASB hosted BMMS Beginnings event for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders to make it easier for students coming back to school; hosted ice cream social and spirit days; sports day fun games at lunch; upcoming Red Ribbon Week; find the Raider game; movie in the quad outside on a big screen; hoping for a dance in the Spring
- **Rolling Hills Elementary School** – Amanda Kung loves all of the fun, extra activities at RHES, including music, band, book fair, and “pumpkin-palooza”. Pumas also had a mad scientist assembly, their first Friday Flag of the year was a huge success, turned Principal Davis into a human hotdog; fundraising goes into enriching activities for students including music, new STEM resource room for hands-on experiments. They are encouraging positive behavior through PBIS, Positive Puma awards every month, RHES was designated as No Place for Hate school, excited about Halloween parade

► **Trustee Areas Update:**

Cooperative Strategies reviewed the 2020 Census data and presented their analysis to the Board tonight. The data shows noticeable changes in population growth and changes in demographic composition, most notably increases in Asian and Hispanic/Latino populations. Here is the timeline for next steps in this process:

- November 18, 2021: First Review of Revised Boundary Maps / Public Comment
- January 13, 2022: Second Review of Revised Boundary Maps / Public Comment
- February 10, 2022: Board Approves Revised Boundary Maps

► **Community Facilities Districts (CFDs) Special Tax Reduction Plan:**

In 2020 PUSD developed a plan to repay the CFDs and IAs in advance of their respective final terminations. Surplus special taxes may now be used to retire CFD and Improvement Area debt more quickly than originally planned. Full implementation of the special tax reduction plan would save Poway Unified taxpayers a projected \$1.2 billion over the life of the bonds.

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

- Approval to purchase 20 electric school buses through the CA Air Resources Board voucher project
- The Board approved the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Abraxas High School
- October is Dyslexia Awareness Month
- October 23-31, 2021 is Character Counts! And Red Ribbon Week
- November 8-12, 2021 is School Psychology Awareness Week

► **Ratification of the MOU with PSEA Unit I and II regarding health and welfare benefits for 2022**

Given the proposed out of pocket rates, the non-contractual additional premium supplement needed for PSEA members is approximately \$1.6 million for Plan Year 2022. Based on the estimate, the parties agree to the following sharing of the \$1.6 million premium supplement costs:

- The District will allocate \$750,000 of the “opt-out savings” generated by Unit I and II for the 2022 Plan Year to the District’s OPEB Irrevocable Trust, for the benefit of PSEA retirees
- The balance of the opt-out-savings will be utilized as follows: \$1,400,000 for premium supplement and the remaining balance will go to the District’s general fund
- The participating cash to warrant cap for participating employees shall be \$250/month effective with the 2022 Plan Year (over 10 months)
- Employees hired or re-hired on or after September 20, 2021, will not be eligible for participating cash to warrant
- The opt-out cash to warrant will be \$325/month effective with the 2022 Plan Year (over 10 months)
- The Plan Year 2021 out-of-pocket costs for Unit I and Unit II will increase for the 2022 Plan Year
- All remaining PSEA designated funds in Fund 67 will be transferred to the Irrevocable OPEB Trust Fund

► **Approval of salary reallocations for classifications (identified as part of year two of review cycle)**

The Board approved the classification reallocations in the Lifeguard, Human Resources, School Community Interface, and Student Support series as identified in cycle year 2 of the Classification Review Plan. The classifications recommended for allocation/reallocation can be found in [the agenda](#) on page 100. They include registrars, attendance accounting assistants, data technicians, guidance technicians, human resources and benefits positions, and more.

► **Approval of Revised 2021-22 General Fund Budget**

Given the complexities of COVID funds, respective deadlines and expenditure requirements, and after having closed the books on 2020-21, staff provided a revised budget for 2021-22, which included detailed changes to revenue and expenditure accounts. You can review the revised budget in [the agenda](#), starting on page 161.

► **Public Comments**

The Board heard comments regarding:

- Concerns over ethnic studies/ethnic lit curriculum and PUSD anti-racism efforts
- Moving back to in-person meetings
- Trustee Redistricting
- Concerns over vaccine mandate
- Learning loss during pandemic

► **Net Metering Changes and Impacts to Solar Projects**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is now considering a proposal made by the major public utility providers that would drastically decrease the financial viability of future solar projects. If the District submits project applications before January or February 2022, PUSD could be grandfathered into the current, more favorable billing structure. The Board directed staff to create a letter of intent as well as create a letter to lobby state lawmakers against this proposal.

► **Approval of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Expenditure Plan**

School districts that receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds under the American Rescue Plan Act, referred to as ESSER III funds, are required to develop a plan for how they will use their ESSER III funds.

### ► California School Dashboard Local Indicators

School districts are required to show that they have met five local performance indicators and report their progress their the California School Dashboard. PUSD has met standards for: basic services and conditions at schools, implementation of state academic standards, parent engagement, school climate, and access to broad course of study.

### ► Update on Vaccination Requirements and Volunteers on Campus

On October 1, 2021 Governor Newsom announced the COVID-19 vaccination would be added to the list of required vaccines for school. There is no immediate impact to staff or students: the mandate does not take effect until either January 1 or July 1, 2022 depending on full FDA approval for children ages 12 and over. All staff and 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be phased in first, then K-6 later, pending full FDA approval. PUSD will need time to assess and determine how to proceed with the requirement and how take into account any exemptions.

All volunteers must be vaccinated or provide negative PCR COVID test. PUSD is slowly expanding volunteers on campus – effective October 18, 2021, during the school day 1-2 volunteers per classroom, indoors/outdoors, per day will be allowed. Outdoor celebrations will have designated visitor areas (i.e. Friday Flag, Jog-a-thons)

### ► Approval of 2021-22 Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members

Heather Plotzke, Chairperson	Sam Trink, Parent
Heather Marshall, Co-Chairperson	Rosebel Agbayani, Parent
Tristie Graetz, Secretary/PUSD Staff	Deborah Williford, Parent/PUSD Staff
Anna Reyes, Parent	Kate Whelan, Parent
Nita Jha, Parent	Alexandra Sparks, Parent/PUSD Staff
David Choi, Parent	Jill Cooley, Parent
Jodi Payne, PUSD Special Education Director	Jeanette Anderson, PUSD Special Education Director

### ► Supporting Students with Dyslexia

Staff provided the Board of Education an update related to progress made improving instruction to more effectively support students struggling to read, including universal screening for all 1<sup>st</sup> graders, professional learning to improve reading instruction, and access to evidence-based curriculum.

### Future meetings:

Thursday, November 18 at 6pm

Thursday, December 16 at 6pm

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