

B ard Briefs

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE **NOVEMBER 18, 2021**, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The Board Agenda for the October 14, 2021 Board of Education Meeting can be found here:
<https://powayusd.com/PUSD/media/Board-Images/BoardAgendas/2021/11-18-2021-Board-Agendaw.pdf>

► Superintendent and Board Recognition

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

- **Rohan Bosworth (Poway High), Kara Fan (Westview), and Flora Yuan (Del Norte)** who were named among the Top 25 Remarkable Teens in San Diego
- **Ellen Xu, a junior at Del Norte** who was named a Global Rise Winner for her research on Kawasaki's Disease. She won a lifetime of benefits such as scholarships, mentoring, and career development.
- **Madalyn Nguyen, a senior at Poway High** who was the recipient of the Society of Women Engineers Global Innovator Award and Scholarship

► Excellence in Education series:

For their next Excellence in Education episode for the 2021-22 school year, the Studio 701 interns highlighted the brand-new Japanese language and culture elementary program:

WATCH => <https://youtu.be/4WP915EJx1k>

► Student Board Reports

- **Del Norte High School** – Alvin Li spoke about how Nighthawks are college ready, future focused, and globally aware. Trimester 2 just started Monday and seniors are working diligently on their college applications. Counselors are holding application readiness sessions. Food bank club is conducting a food drive this week. New 9th graders had a Unity Day to help them stay optimistic and excited for high school. 10th graders got help from upperclassmen for finals. Homecoming was record breaking in attendance. Nighthawk ambassadors are visiting area elementary schools to serve as a good example to young students. Red Ribbon Week and National Coming Day are some recent events.
- **Mt. Carmel High School** – Charlie Hicock spoke about memorable moments from Trimester 1. Their back-to-school pep rally took place for first time in the football stadium. They encourage students to wear red every Friday to build school spirit. The LINK crew has been guiding freshmen and sophomores to ensure a smooth on-campus transition. ASB sold a record-breaking number of homecoming dance tickets. Theater performed Our Town, many performing arts concerts, Boys' Water Polo won CIF this past weekend! Tomorrow is the annual club rush.
- **Meadowbrook Middle School** – Isabella Schellhase talked about Start with Hello Week at Meadowbrook to encourage students to meet new people; Red Ribbon Week was a fun spirit way to raise awareness about drugs; November was their first movie night, and they sold out tickets in 3 days. They are currently holding a canned food drive for families in need. Bella appreciates being in person, and she says it feels almost normal.
- **Shoal Creek Elementary School** – Kayla Ricks love playing flute in 5th grade band; she expressed appreciation for her band teacher because she is helpful, kind, and funny; she also loves P.E. at school

which includes running, handball and kickball; at Friday flag, students wear their college shirts and say their college chants; their new principal Mrs. Omoto is the “nicest principal in the world” and does a video Otter Update every week; Otters are excited for a reward system for doing the right thing.

► **Trustee Areas Update:**

Cooperative Strategies was retained by the District to perform a demographic review of 2020 Census data and to determine whether population changes reflected in the data would result in required changes to PUSD Trustee Area boundaries. At the October 14, 2021, Board Meeting, Cooperative Strategies presented their demographic analysis and boundary change process timeline to the Board, which reflected that adjustments to trustee areas would be required. In alignment with the schedule outlined last month, Cooperative Strategies will be presenting the first review of revised boundary maps, which will be posted on the PUSD website. These maps indicate Cooperative Strategies’ recommended boundary and demographic adjustments to each trustee area as required by the California Voting Rights Act.

Here is the timeline for next steps in this process:

- January 6, 2021: Community Meeting on map options
- January 13, 2022: Second Review of Revised Boundary Maps / Public Comment
- February 10, 2022: Board Approves Revised Boundary Maps

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

- Opposition to proposed net energy metering policy changes presented by the CPUC and Approval of Letter of Intent for the development of a potential districtwide solar project
- The Board approved the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Middle and High Schools
- Approval of the updated 2021-22 list of Community Advisory Committee members

► **Approval of additional holiday compensation for Classified employees who worked on June 18, 2021**

On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed legislation known as the “Juneteenth National Independence Day Act,” designating June 19 as a new legal public holiday. While the President signed legislation, this action does not require California schools to close, or constitute a state holiday for California public school classified employees. Unlike certificated employees, as specified under California Education Code 45203, all probationary or permanent classified employees in paid status are entitled to holiday pay. While “Juneteenth National Independence Day Act,” is new federal legislation, and is not included in California Education Code, California could pass legislation in the future that would require school districts to compensate classified staff for this holiday. In anticipation of further clarity from the California Governor and/or State legislature on this issue, for the 2021 year only, PUSD and PSEA mutually agreed to provide additional compensation to those PSEA unit members who worked on June 18, 2021, and who are still employed with the District in January 2022, in their January 2022 paychecks.

► **Approval of new classification – Visual and Performing Arts Specialist**

On March 14, 2019, the Poway Strategic Arts Plan was presented to the Board and unanimously supported by the Board Members. Creating a dedicated position to support VAPA programs, professional learning, and partnerships was specifically identified in the plan but due to lack of funds at that time, we were unable to address the request. The new Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Specialist will report to the Director of Curriculum, Learning Support Services, and provide oversight and support for the implementation of the Poway Unified School District’s Strategic Arts Plan. All five goal areas identified in the VAPA Strategic Arts Plan are included in the responsibilities of the new position. The VAPA Specialist will develop, direct, monitor, and promote PUSD’s Visual and Performing Arts programs and serve as a liaison between the District and community partnerships to maximize participation in the Arts. This position will enhance and develop a robust

and comprehensive District visual and performing arts programs that will broaden student and community engagement.

► **Authorization to execute the first amendment to the final guaranteed maximum price for the Del Norte High School expansion, field, and lighting project**

The total project scope includes a new building that houses six new classrooms, three of which are designed to support science education, a restroom and team room facility at the baseball and softball fields, new lights and new turf sports fields, an additional portable classroom, exterior painting of the campus, and an allowance for lighting at the baseball and softball fields. This First Amendment will update the LLB contract documents to reflect a Final GMP of \$17,043,220.

► **Public Comments**

The Board heard comments regarding:

- Support for ethnic studies/ethnic lit curriculum and PUSD anti-racism efforts
- Concern over classified employees being stretched too thin and need for higher compensation
- New VAPA specialist position
- Concerns over COVID health and safety protocols
- Support for keeping board meetings virtual

► **Transportation Update – Later Start Times**

At the May 13, 2021, Board Meeting, Associate Superintendent Little and Director Purvis presented three possible options for a District Master Bell Schedule. The three options addressed the need for a staggered Master Bell Schedule for pupil transportation support and assured the parameters for later start times for our secondary schools. After working closely with the Learning Support Services team and assessing instructional minutes, Transportation Director Tim Purvis presented the Board with a new 4th option, which substantially mediates the on-going cost impact and provides for a more conducive starting time for the District's middle schools with little impact to our previous proposal for high school start times.

Elementary: 7:45am to 2pm

Middle: 8am – 2:45pm

High: 8:40am – 3:45pm

Staff will bring back this item at a future meeting for board action.

► **Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Expenditure Plan**

State funds have been appropriated for the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant. These one-time funds are being provided to county offices of education, school districts, charter schools, and state special schools for the purpose of providing professional learning for K-12 teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and classified staff to promote educator equity, quality, and effectiveness.

Poway Unified Plans include:

- Support Poway Professional Assistance Program (PPAP) and Intern program
- Continue to support professional learning in the areas of dyslexia and reading instruction
- Middle and high school language arts and social studies
- Continue math TOSAs coaching and lesson study to impact TK-12 math learning including targeting support for English learners
- Continue tech coaches support TK-12
- Continue support for social-emotional, trauma informed care, and positive behavior intervention and support
- Continue racial equity and inclusion professional learning and coaching
- Continue and expand inclusive practices and universal design for learning
- Continue and expand World language programs
- Provide professional development for universal transitional kindergarten staff

► **Health and Safety Protocol Update and CDPH Guidance**

- Masks for all indoors when students present, regardless of vaccination status
- Afterschool enrichment programs are allowed for site-based programs supported by teacher advisors and parents/volunteers
- Visitors on campus (during the school day) – visitors/guests on campus must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination to the site OR provide a negative COVID test within the week if interacting students/staff
- Vaccination update – the FDA gave emergency approval for children ages 5-11, the state mandate for students is still pending full FDA approval. It would be no earlier than July 1, 2022.

► **Connect Academy update**

The Technology and Innovation department provided an update on Connect Academy, PUSD’s new K-8 virtual learning pathway. Enrollment is 281 K-5 students, 147 6-8 grade students, with a total of 428. You can watch the entire presentation from Associate Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Burks and Director Jill Halsey in our Board meeting recording [here](#).

► **Approval to conduct the regularly scheduled PUSD Board of Education Meeting on December 16, 2021, online via virtual/video conferencing pursuant to AB361**

The Board approved holding the December 16th meeting virtually due to ongoing health and safety risks to staff.

Next meeting:

Thursday, December 16 at 6pm (virtual)

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