

Minutes
BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 2, 2020

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER – President Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Board members present: America Navarro, Kathryn Sheppard, Jonna Phillips, Dennis Slusser and Linda Brown were present.

Staff Present: Doug Kaelin, Superintendent; Karen Peters, CBO; LaQuita Ulrich, Elem. Principal; Tyler Rutledge, H.S. Principal and Donna Cyr, Admin. Assist. & HR Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President Phillips lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board approved the agenda with one modification of Personnel Action Item 9E – Accept Retirement of Biggs Elementary teacher Sandra Moore Effective September 18, 2020. MSCU (Slusser/Navarro) 5/0
Brown - Aye Sheppard – Aye Phillips – Aye Slusser – Aye Navarro – Aye

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes from the Regular meeting on August 5, 2020 as written. MSCU (Sheppard/Navarro) 5/0
Brown - Aye Sheppard – Aye Phillips – Aye Slusser – Aye Navarro – Aye

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:33 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Public Employment Appointment of Personnel as listed under “Personnel Action” below; Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
2. Classified, Certificated, Classified Confidential, and Management Personnel Discipline, Dismissal and/or Release; Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation of Classified, Certificated, Classified Confidential, Management and Superintendent; Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
4. Litigation; Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9
5. Instructions to Board Negotiators, Superintendent and Board Member; Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6(a)

Closed Session was adjourned at 7:04 pm

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION – President Phillips announced no action was taken during Closed Session.

PARENT ASSOCIATIONS REPORTS – Tamara Williams, RES President wanted to let everyone know that the annual Spaghetti Feed would be a drive through this year.

CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (CSEA) and BIGGS UNIFIED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (BUTA) REPORTS
No report for CSEA or BUTA. – No reports.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To allow public input on the Resolution regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for 2020/2021

The hearing for the Resolution regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials was opened at 7:06 pm. There was no public comment. The hearing closed at 7:07 pm.

B. To allow public input on the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan

The hearing for the Resolution regarding the new Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan was opened at 7:07 pm. Mr. Kaelin explained the new Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. There was no public comment or questions. The hearing closed at 7:08 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Tamara Williams, parent, presented a letter to the Board from Ashley Stone. (See attached letter). She also said she had concerns with students with IEP's and asked about the District filing the Waiver. Superintendent Kaelin said he would address matters under his report.

REPORTS:ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Ulrich gave the report:

- Social & Emotional Learning – Counselor holds weekly lessons; building strong character; uplifting comments from teachers and aides.
- Curriculum Distribution Day – 90% of parents showed up; lines ran smoothly; Parents were happy; RES schedule for two days.
- Technology training – Tues., Wed. and Thurs. they are having technology training. Two teachers took advanced training.
- First day of school – well attended; majority of classes were able to connect through Zoom. 1st day went well.
- Attendance Team – 1st day teacher contact; 2nd time Attendance team contact; 3rd time Principal contact; 4th time Counselor & Principal do home visit.
- Challenges - working with IT on Clever and Zoom not reading each other and other issues with Clever & Zoom separately. Parents learning technology.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Rutledge gave the report:

- No real attendance issues
- Teachers have done a great job
- Working on Social & Emotional issues – having good academic conversations
- Teachers are developing new skills
- Having a teacher meeting on attendance guidelines
- Working on sports / league schedules. Plan will be ready by November 1st.

SUPERINTENDENT & M/O/T, CAFETERIA REPORT:

Superintendent Kaelin gave the report:

- Started the Grab & Go meals for students. Breakfast & lunch drive through in front of Biggs Elementary school
- Working on distribution times for families so it doesn't interfere with class and working on new suppliers for food
- Construction progressing and they are about 90% complete at BES & BHS.
- RES is moving along 95% done. Need to move a wall for bathroom; classrooms need to be carpeted, move wall between computer lab & classroom.
- Working on the waiver to the State. Close to being done. We are looking at identifying BES & RES separately. We will need to confer with the Union but we don't need their approval.
- State talked about allowing small cohort groups back to school – 14 or less students; two adults; never have interaction with others; they are pretty flexible with schedules. Still a lot of questions.

- Meeting regarding special ed. students and how do we support them. Looking into bringing them into part of the small cohort
- Looking at speech and how we support them.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: No Board member reports.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved the Consent Agenda Items A-B. MSCU (Slusser/Brown) 5/0

Brown - Aye Sheppard – Aye Phillips – Aye Slusser – Aye Navarro – Aye

- A. Inter-district Agreement Request(s) for the 2020/2021 school year
- B. Approve second year with JEG Consulting E-Rate Services Contract for 2020-2021

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved Action Items A – F. MSCU (Slusser/Sheppard) 5/0

Brown - Aye Sheppard – Aye Phillips – Aye Slusser – Aye Navarro – Aye

- A. Approve changes to Ag Advisory Board Member and Terms:

Name	Sector	Term /end date
Tyler Rutledge	H.S. Principal	Added / Standing
Peggy Baker	Ag Business	TERM ENDED

- B. Adopt Resolution 2020/2021 #5 – Resolution Regarding Sufficiency of Instructional Materials as they relate to the Instructional Materials Funding Realignment Program (IMFRP)

PERSONNEL ACTION

The Board approved Personnel Action Item B - E. MSCU (Slusser/Brown) 5/0

Brown - Aye Sheppard – Aye Phillips – Aye Slusser – Aye Navarro – Aye

- ~~A. Approve hiring of Multi Subject Teacher at BES for the 2020-2021 school year. REMOVED~~
- B. Approve hiring of Michaela Haemmig at Long term Substitute Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.
- C. Accept resignation of Tony Luquin in Head Grounds / Bus position effective 8/31/2020
- D. Approve hiring of Head Grounds/Bus position for the 20/21 school year. **Derek Tanner**
- E. **Accept retirement of Biggs Elementary teacher Sandra Moore effective September 18, 2020**

INFORMATION ITEMS

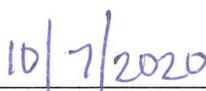
FUTURE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – None

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED AND ADOPTED:



 Presiding President



 Date

Distribution: Board of Trustees, Superintendent, Elementary School Principal, Financial Officer/Administrative Advisor, BUTA and CSEA Presidents, Gridley Herald, District Office and Schools for Posting, and Official Record.

From: Ashley Stone ruddashley@gmail.com
Subject: Board meeting 9/2
Date: Sep 2, 2020 at 6:02:31 PM
To: Tamara tamaralw26@gmail.com

I'm speaking tonight regarding the lack of special education and supports that are not being provided to students with disabilities during distance learning and the difficulties students with IEPs are facing without in-person instruction. However, I first want to put on record that the LCAP public hearing is occurring in violation of the Brown Act and requirements for public hearings.

If you review the LCAP Frequently Asked Questions on the California Department of Education's website, it clearly states that the public must have the opportunity to review the LCAP prior to the public hearing and that the agenda must include the location where the LCAP will be available for public inspection. As of this morning, the Biggs USD agenda continued to state under Public Hearing that the LCAP was "to follow under separate cover." From my research, the LCAP was not posted anywhere and "to follow under separate cover" does not give the 72 hour notice of how or where the public can review it.

Because the public was not provided the legal notice of how to review the LCAP, I have not been able to review the sections that is supposed to outline how the District will support or address learning loss for students with exceptional needs, which brings me to the issue that I am here to discuss today.

There is a legal requirement under Ed Code 43505(b)(4), which was added under SB 98, that distance learning must include special education, related services, supports, and accommodations that is not being met from my experience and discussions with other parents. I know that children are not receiving their services, such as speech, or appropriate accommodations. Personally, I have not been contacted by my child's case manager, and I know numerous other families who have not either.

Students with exceptional needs face significant challenges even in the brick and mortar setting. Distance learning is not an optimal model for any child, but it presents even more challenges to students with disabilities, particularly when they are not receiving what is outlined in their IEP and what is legally required. While I understand that school just started, there have been months to plan for this and the biggest frustration is lack of communication or perceived action. Also, there are numerous ways in which Biggs could serve students with IEPs in-person.

There is the waiver process. I provided over 15 family letters in support of the waiver to the school secretary to pass on to the superintendent weeks ago, yet it has not been submitted to public health. Other surrounding districts submitted their waivers, and a transitional kindergarten class held their first day today, IN PERSON, just 10 miles the opposite direction of Biggs. Living in the middle of that school and Biggs Elementary, while watching my son struggle, I imagine you understand my concern that a neighbor child is receiving a more enriched education than mine. Even if a waiver is not requested or granted, the California Department of Public Health's August 25th guidance allows for districts to provide specialized services to students with IEPs and in small cohorts. This could begin immediately, if the Board wanted.

I ask that you rectify this situation immediately. Not only is it the right thing to do for students with exceptional needs, the District not providing appropriate services and supports exposes it to CDE complaints, costly due process claims, and other lawsuits.

Best,

Ashley Stone