

Minutes  
**BIGGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**August 4, 2021**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER** – President Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**ROLL CALL - Board members present:** Jonna Phillips, Linda Brown and America Navarro were present. Dennis Slusser and Kathryn Sheppard were not present.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board approved the agenda with changes / additions. Remove Item 7C – Approve field trip for football program to play at Coral Academy of Science in Reno, NV on September 10 or 11. Add Personnel Action Item 8L – Accept resignation of Danelle Holt as elementary teacher at BES effective 7/29/21 and Add Personnel Action Item 8M – Approve hiring Ashley Odekirk as a Intern teacher at BES effective 8/9/21. MSCU (Brown/Navarro) 3/0/2

Slusser – Absent                  Navarro – Aye                  Brown – Aye                  Sheppard – Absent                  Phillips – Aye

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board approved the minutes from the June 9, 2021 Regular Board meeting and the June 23, 2021 Special Board meeting as written. MSCU (Navarro/Brown) 3/0/2

Slusser – Absent                  Navarro – Aye                  Brown – Aye                  Sheppard – Absent                  Phillips – Aye

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 6:35 pm

**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. **Instructions to Board Negotiators, Superintendent and Board Member; Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6(a)**
5. **Litigation; Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9**

**Closed Session was adjourned at 7:01 pm and reconvened to Open Session.**

**Staff Present:** Doug Kaelin, Superintendent; LaQuita Ulrich, Elementary School Principal; Tyler Rutledge, High School Principal and Donna Cyr, Admin. Assist. & HR Director

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION** – President Phillips announced no action was taken in Closed Session. Changes were made to the agenda - Remove Item 7C – Approve field trip for football program to play at Coral Academy of Science in Reno, NV on September 10 or 11. Add Personnel Action Item 8L – Accept resignation of Danelle Holt

as elementary teacher at BES effective 7/29/21 and Add Personnel Action Item 8M – Approve hiring Ashley Odekirk as a Intern teacher at BES effective 8/9/21.

**PARENT ASSOCIATIONS REPORTS** – Nothing reported.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Sharleta Bassett, Biggs, spoke on not mandating masks or vaccine requirements for students. We need to be more concerned with the wellbeing of our students.

Sandi Moffett, Biggs, spoke on not wanting masks for students. She feels that the government cannot mandate masks.

Tom Bassett, Biggs, spoke on a letter his granddaughter received from her school regarding sexual orientation questions and preferred pronouns from students.

**REPORTS:**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Ulrich gave the report:

- New hires/positions for the year:
  - Fazila Afzal - Counselor
  - Hollie Byers – 1<sup>st</sup> grade
  - Aaron Bayless – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
  - Nich Grubiss – RSP 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Ashley Odekirk – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
  - Hokulani Wickard – Instructional Aide
  - Jessica Jensen – Instructional Aide
  - Ashley Nelson – Instrucitonal Aide
  - Beth Chavez – 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher
  - Joelene Gilman – Independent Study
  - Renee Personius – Intervention
- Trainer Heidi Koski will be coming in and working with / supporting new teachers
- Having staff professional development – Heather Thompson, Sutter County will be working with all teachers.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Rutledge gave the report:

- Prepping for the start of school year, registration is now open – All-Call went home this morning and welcome back letter will be sent out Thurs., August 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation will be August 10<sup>th</sup>
- Fall sports are in full swing with Volleyball, Cheer and Football. Season to start soon. Stadium camera is now functional – will be able to livestream on NFHS network
- New hires for the year are:
  - Michaela Haemmig – English teacher
  - Esmeralda Esquivel – Spanish teacher
  - Christine Ryan - Attendance Secretary
  - Loretta Long - Student Services Coordinator
- Name changes at the HS – Casey Smith is Casey Morch; Anne Romena is Anne Lair and Tanisha Norvell also got married.
- Teacher prep days are mapped out for next week – Google Classroom training is planned with BCOE
- NSCIF Conference at Pleasant Valley HS. The big focus this year is sportsmanship.

*Board member Dennis Slusser arrived at 7:47 pm*

M/O/T/, FOOD SERVICE and SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Kaelin gave the report:

- Getting everything done and finalizing cleanup of grounds and sites.
- Annual DOT audit is Friday, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>
- It will be either Thanksgiving or Christmas break when counters are replaced in the HS Science Lab
- Looking into approval / waiver for removing the old building in Richvale.
- The new meal program doesn't have any restrictions this year. Regular breakfast & lunch.
- Working on LCAP. LCAP review had a couple minor changes – will need to come back in Sept.
- FPM review in February 2022.
- Board policy for Independent Study and been revised and there will be a new process.
- Annual Welcome Back breakfast is on Wed., August 10<sup>th</sup>
- A new State guideline on masks just came out.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Nothing from the Board

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board approved the Consent Agenda Items A. MSCU (Navarro/Slusser) 4/0/1

Slusser – Aye                      Navarro – Aye                      Brown – Aye                      Sheppard – Absent                      Phillips – Aye

A. Inter-district Agreement Request(s) for the 2021 – 2022 school year

**ACTION ITEMS**

The Board approved Action Items A, B & D. MSCU (Slusser/Navarro) 4/0/1

Slusser – Aye                      Navarro – Aye                      Brown – Aye                      Sheppard – Absent                      Phillips – Aye

- A. Approve Revision or Adjustment to 2021-2022 Original Budget of \$60,000 for Transportation.
- B. Approve 2021/24 CCAP Partnership Agreement and 2021/22 CCAP Appendix between Biggs High School and Butte College
- C. ~~Approve field trip for football program to play at Coral Academy of Science in Reno, NV on September 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> (TBD)~~ **REMOVED Game will be played in Biggs on 9/11/2021**
- D. Adopt the Following New or Updated Board Policies (BP), Admin. Regulations (AR) and Exhibits (E):
  - AR 1312.3 - Community Relations – Uniform Complaint Procedures - update
  - BP 1313 - Community Relations – Civility – added
  - BP/AR 3511.1 – Business and Noninstructional Operations – Integrated Waste Management - added
  - BP/AR 3515.31 – Business and Noninstructional Operations – School Resource Officers – added
  - BP/AR 4112.42/4212.42/4312.42- Personnel – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers - update
  - BP 4141/4241 - Personnel – Collective Bargaining Agreement - update
  - BP/AR 4158/4258/4358 - Personnel – Employee Security - update
  - BP/AR 5141.4 – Students – Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting – added
  - BP/AR 5141.52 – Students – Suicide Prevention – updated
  - BP/AR 5142.2 – Students – Safe Routes to School Program - added
  - BP 5145.12 – Students – Search and Seizure - updated
  - BP 5145.9 – Students – Hate-Motivated Behavior - updated
  - BP 6142.5 - Instruction – Environmental Education – added
  - AR 6162.51 – Instruction – State Academic Achievement Tests – update
  - BP 6157 – Instruction – Distance Learning - delete
  - BP/AR 7211 – Facilities – Developer Fees – updated
  - BP/AR 6158 – Instruction – Independent Study - added

**PERSONNEL ACTION**

The Board approved Personnel Action Items A – M. MSCU (Slusser/Navarro) 4/0/1

Slusser – Aye                      Navarro – Aye                      Brown – Aye                      Sheppard – Absent                      Phillips – Aye

- A. Approve Agriculture Teacher Extended Year Agreement with Stephen Boyes
- B. Approve Agriculture Teacher Extended Year Agreement with Tanisha Norvell
- C. Accept resignation of Beth Chavez as Instructional Aide at Biggs Elementary effective July 1, 2021
- D. Approve hiring Jonathan Smith as walk-on football coach for the 2021/2022 season
- E. Accept resignation of Javier Solis as CJSF Advisor for 2021/2022 school year
- F. Approve hiring Dawn Robinson as CJSF Advisor for the 2021/2022 school year
- G. Approve hiring Jessica Evans as HS Cheer coach for the 2021/2022 season
- H. Approve hiring Hollie Byers as a teacher at Biggs Elementary for the 2021/2022 school year
- I. Approve hiring Nicholas Grubiss as a RSP Special Ed teacher at Biggs Elementary for the 2021/2022 school year
- J. Approve hiring Hoku-Lani Wickard as a 5.25/hr. Instructional Aide at Biggs Elementary for the 2021/2022 school year.
- K. Approve hiring Wilbur Bowers, Vanessa Stewart and Charles Tracy as Substitute Teachers starting the 2021/2022 school year
- L. Accept resignation of Danelle Holt as elementary teacher at BES effective 07/29/21 ADD**
- M. Approve hiring Ashley Odekirk as an Intern Teacher at BES effective 08/09/21 ADD**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. LCAP Update – Updated under Superintendents report.
- B. Quarterly Williams Uniform Complaint Report – No complaints were filed with any school in the district during the last quarter.

**FUTURE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION - NONE**

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 8:06 pm

**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 8:21 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION** – President Phillips called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** - Dennis Slusser, Linda Brown, Jonna Phillips and America Navarro

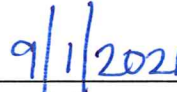
**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION** –President Phillips announced action was taken during closed session. President Phillips read statement regarding initial position on current guidance of mask. s(See attached). This will be posted on District webpage and all sites webpages. The Board also approved a one time off the salary schedule bonus for Certificated and Classified employees. Employees working seven hours a day or more will received \$2000 minus any federal or state withholdings and employees working less that seven hours a day will receive \$1000 minus any federal or state withholdings.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:27 p.m.**

MINUTES APPROVED AND ADOPTED:



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Presiding President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

# *Biggs Unified School District*

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(530)868-1281

Doug Kaelin  
Superintendent

## INITIAL POSITION ON CURRENT GUIDANCE

The Biggs Unified School District will strongly encourage all students and staff to comply with CDC/CDPH guidance, including use of mask; however, district staff will not be placed in the compromising position of taking enforcement actions. District staff will direct all of its resources toward ensuring every student gets the best mental health services and education possible as well as engaging students with gaps in learning due to COVID disruption and challenges during the past school year. The Biggs Unified School District will continue to deploy COVID prevention measures and encourage everyone to continue to take public health precautions and follow CDC and CHPH guidelines. Additionally, the district remains committed to advocating for local governing board control on issue of this nature.