

Special Meeting of Board of Education - Conducted Telephonically - 5:30 p.m. (Wednesday, May 27, 2020)

1.1 Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Dr. Debbie Stark, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services

1.3 Roll Call

Members present

Carmen Gomez, Linda Garcia, Sonia De Leon, Vivian Hansen, Yesenia Cuarenta

1.4 Approve Agenda May 27, 2020 Special Meeting of Board of Education

Approve Special Meeting agenda of the Board of Education May 27, 2020

Motion by Linda Garcia, second by Carmen Gomez.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Carmen Gomez, Linda Garcia, Sonia De Leon, Vivian Hansen, Yesenia Cuarenta

2.1 Public Hearing

There were no public comment received.

3. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Perez informed the Board that updates would be provided on school closures from individuals that oversee departments and also being provided will be an update on the work that is being conducted as a result of the acquisition of the Long Beach grant by Mr. Frutos.

Mr. Ruben Frutos, Assistant Superintendent-Business Services shared that the Port of Long Beach awarded Paramount Unified School District grant of \$352,475. The grant is part of the Long Beach Facility Improvements grants program. Our district was very pleased to receive the amounts that came for the following schools, Gaines, Jackson, Keppel, Los Cerritos, Tanner for a total of \$352,000. In order to install the Merv 16 filters that the district proposed for the grant, the air conditioning units at the five school sites have to be modified to accept the larger filters. You may remember that Gaines was retrofitted so that we could test how the district would change to using Merv 16 filter over a year. The retrofitting work has to be open for public bid due to the estimated cost. A request for proposals which is request for proposal 71920 was publicly advertised in local newspapers on March 5th and March the 12th with unintended bidders job walk, which is part of the bid process to be held on March 31st, 2020. As you may remember, around March 16, the district implemented COVID-19 measures and under advisement of our legal counsel, the Bidders walk was postponed until June 1, 2020 to accommodate the stay at home orders issued by the California government. The request for information will be completed by June, 15, 2020 which allows us to continue or schedule, almost uninterrupted and after the Paramount Unified School District Board awards to the most responsibility work is expected to begin July 1st and still to be completed before schools reopen in the fall.

Dr. Myrna Morales, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources shared with the Board that the task force continues to meet weekly. A variety of topics have been reviewed and groups have also had the opportunity to review the work of other groups, to see if they have questions of the suggestions that have been made. The groups are pleasantly surprised that there is common thinking in the safety aspects of the plans that they've begun to develop next week. Groups will review the social emotional components that our counselors, BIS and social workers have been working on to work with students, staff and parents. As we begin to return and to deal with any aspects of the closures next week, the teams will review the work of the nurses in which they will give suggestions for symptoms, testing and protocols for entering school sites as well as what the protocols will be if there is a positive case. Additionally, groups this week will be discussing and examining neighboring districts plans if they are available. We will be narrowing ideas and then plan to send out small surveys again to get feedback, from stakeholder groups.

Lucy Albera, Director-Nutrition Services shared that they continue serving meals at the four meal distribution sites, which is Collins, Los Cerritos, Mokler and Wirtz. We are still averaging about 30,000 meals per week since school closures of March 3rd and 85,000 meals including both breakfast and lunch. The team is doing an awesome job in serving all of these nutritious grab and go meals. She also shared that the P EBT card, Nutrition Services department is passing out flyers in regards to the P EBT card. The CDE and the CDSS, the Department of Social Services is offering additional food for families to buy food. All schools are closed due to COVID-19. Children who are eligible for both free and reduced price meals can get up to \$365. This is a one time payment. In addition to picking up meals from school, all children who attend PUSD are eligible to receive the PEBT benefits card because we are providing meals for free under the two programs. The community eligibility provision, which is also called CEP.

Dr. Elida Garcia, Director-Special Education shared with the Board that the Special Education department developed a PowerPoint presentation for teachers to share with families of students transitioning to a new grade span. The PowerPoint

includes information on the IEP transition process as well as support programs in the areas of academic enrichment, social emotional and parent engagement. The presentation is available in English and Spanish and it will also be posted on the districts at home learning webpage for special education. The special education services continue to be provided remotely as well as we have staff representatives that continue to participate in the back to school task force that meets weekly.

May Revision Update for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Mr. Ruben Frutos, Assistant Superintendent-Business Services provided the Board with information on the May Revision for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and shared that based on the Governor's may revision that presents information related to the difficult economic conditions we find ourselves in from the national to the state, to the local district finances, the challenges are serious and the budgets at all levels reflect these evolving conditions.

May Revision

- **US Economic Data**
 - Implications – Interest rates
- **State May Revision Information**
 - Economic Data
 - Education Budget
- **District Financial Information**
 - Implications
 - Expenses/Revenues
 - Unknowns

Economists Expect a Significant, Immediate Downturn in the U.S. Economy

- Due to the uncertainty regarding the continued spread and duration of the novel coronavirus, forecasts for economic growth vary greatly among economists.
- Some expect a sharp contraction followed by a quick rebound, and others forecast a more protracted contraction followed by a gradual recovery.

The market conditions – Impact on rates

- PUSD debt is negatively impacted by low market conditions

US Unemployment Data

- Before the public health crisis, the U.S. Economy was enjoying full employment
- The national unemployment rate was at historic lows, and no one predicted that things would change so suddenly
- Some economists forecast that the unemployment rate could reach upwards of 20% in the third quarter of the year

State Economic Impact of COVID-19

- Eleven years of economic expansion came to a screeching halt this year
 - former Governor Jerry Brown always warned us, a recession was coming, but even he could not have foreseen this
- No aspect of the national or state economy seems to be unscathed by the virus and the path to recovery is unknown
 - there are no models for how world recovers from a near total shutdown of economies around the globe
 - initial recovery projections were optimistic, but along with the number of cases of COVID-19, have become more and more grim
- The actual economic effects will not be known for months and years, but nonetheless the administration must make some assumption as to how far California will fall and how it will make its eventual comeback

The May Revision assumes that the state will suffer from a \$41.2 billion loss in revenues compared to January estimates in 2019-20 and 2020-21 combined. Revenue losses are compounded by the growing number of Californians who need access to state safety net services, bringing the state's total shortfall to \$54 billion.

State Economic Risks include the following:

- Biological risks
- Fiscal risks
- Performance of the international economy
- Increasing Sino-U.S. tensions

State Cash Deferrals

- Cash deferrals were used during the Great Recession to implement state level budget cuts and/or improve the state's cash position
- The Governor's May Revision takes a page from the same playbook and proposes the following cash deferrals
- Local school agencies may need to implement local borrowing options to ensure adequate cash to continue paying employees and vendors during these times

State Cuts to School Districts

- The May Revision suspends the 2.31% COLA and includes an additional reduction – for a total of 10% cut to the LCFF
 - First, the 2.31% COLA is applied to arrive at the 2020-21 base grants
 - Then, the 10% reduction is applied – for an effective reduction of 7.92% to the 2019-20 base grant amounts
- The cuts are meant to reduce the LCFF with the reduction taken from the base grant, which lowers the amount upon which supplemental and concentration grant funding is calculated
- Strategies, Other Costs, Revenues and Unknowns
- Other Costs & Unknowns
- H&W costs in 2021 and beyond
- Workers' Comp / Liability Insurance
- Step & Column
- State Budget (July) August?
- Federal Budget (October)
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- Strategies and Other Revenues
- Reduced STRS/PERS
- Contract Savings
- Special Ed – State Funding
- Staffing to Enrollment
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- Protect credit – Reduce borrowing
- Proportional reductions

Next steps

Ensure District Solvency – AB1200/LACOE/AUDITOR/STATE

- District to analyze services, staffing and contracts to reduce and eliminate costs
- Identify and implement budget reductions of \$5.9M for FY 2020-21 in order to balance the budget
- Develop and present balanced budget for June 22, 2020
- Develop Budget Priorities for Multi-Year Budgets
 - Safety, Instruction and Services to Students
- District Budget Committee – Feedback from Stakeholders to recommend reductions and budget adjustments for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23
 - Begin budget committee meetings in August 2020

The following questions were discussed:

where from within are we borrowing from (Gomez), 25 positions will be reduced, is that the maximum or are we probably looking at probably a few more or less (Gomez), what happens if the deferral are not paid back in a timely manner (Cuarenta), can we be assured that the deferrals, the governor will implement, will be paid back to the school district and when (Cuarenta), want to reconfirm the that would have by August to reassign people and remove the 25. Is that correct (Garcia), how can Board members advocate for more funding and what should we specifically be advocating for (Cuarenta), are we going to give the Board members, the community, the stakeholders a say in what should be cut (De Leon)

4. Action Items

Action: 4.1 Resolution 19-36 - Mental Health Awareness Month
Adopt Resolution 19-36 declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

The following comment was provided by Vice President Cuarenta: May is mental health awareness month and I believe it is important to recognize as a board of education the importance of mental health awareness. Specifically the support of the emotional wellbeing of students and employees. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many are feeling of pressure brought about by the media changes. We have all had to adapt, specifically our students and teachers. Stress, anxiety, fear and sadness as well as depression are all feelings that everyone is experiencing. It is important that everyone learn about the self-care needed to help you cope. I'm so grateful that our school district provided a big mental health fair at Paramount High School right before this pandemic. Again, it's important to learn self-care strategies and to get the care you need to help cope.

Motion by Yesenia Cuarenta, second by Carmen Gomez.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Carmen Gomez, Linda Garcia, Sonia De Leon, Vivian Hansen, Yesenia Cuarenta

5. Closed Session

The Board of Education adjourned to Closed session to discuss the following:

- 5.2 Conference with Labor Negotiator per Govt. Code 54957.6
- 5.3 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release per Govt. Code Section 54957.6

5.4 Public Employee Appointment (Govt. Code section 54957)

5.5 Public Employee Performance Evaluation per Govt. Code 54957

6. Open Session

The Board of Education reconvened to open session at 8:32p.m. President Hansen reported that in Closed Session the Board Discussed the following:
Conference with Labor Negotiator per Govt. Code 54957.6, Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release per Govt. Code Section 54957.6, Public Employee Appointment (Govt. Code section 54957), Public Employee Performance Evaluation per Govt. Code 54957.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Motion by Carmen Gomez, second by Linda Garcia.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Carmen Gomez, Linda Garcia, Sonia De Leon, Vivian Hansen, Yesenia Cuarenta