

Special Meeting of Board of Education - Conducted Telephonically 5:30 p.m. (Thursday, October 29, 2020)

1.1 Call To Order :

Meeting called to order at 5:41 PM

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Dr. Myrna Morales, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources

1.3 Roll Call

Members present

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

1.4 Special Meeting Agenda October 29, 2020

Approve the Special Meeting Agenda October 29, 2020.

There was a question/discussion on the following: I have a question or comment on agenda item 3.2 So who authorized this to be placed on the agenda (De Leon)

Motion by Carmen Gomez, second by Linda Garcia.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

2. Public Hearing - The following public comments were received electronically and read word for word - three (3) minute time limit applied.

Anonymous - Hello Board and Community, I'm writing to inform the Board of education that we need change in our special education department, these services we offer need to be evaluated. We need reform an innovation into the new era of special education: better learning programs, more recognition of special needs students, inclusivity & especially permanent special education staff. Expressing that the district immensely focuses on the general student population, but what about our students who have disabilities? What recognition are they receiving? Do they have the support in an out of class environment? I know the school board is committed it all students within the community of Paramount. A food for thought on reflecting out a plan for the future.

Ardelia Aldridge - I'm asking for support with the communication of online community standards. Clear expectations from the district for students and their homes must be communicated on a regular basis to help improve online behaviors. This ask comes as I have been experiencing persons trying to join my class Google Meeting from outside of our g-suite organization and the names have been OBSCENE. These intrusions are also racialized attacks as I am an African American teacher and the screen names used to intrude have been those of UNARMED AFRICAN AMERICANS THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED BY POLICE. I'm deeply disappointed and disheartened to be experiencing this after serving the Paramount community for 18 years. Regular communication of district-wide expectations can assist site principals in building positive virtual school culture. Please consider immediate action to improve our online community.

Margaret Rivas - My daughter is a 11th grader at Paramount high school. I started listening to the board meetings a while ago when a friend told me that she was concerned about the board behavior. She was right. When I listened to the part about ethnic studies classes at Long Beach I couldn't believe it. First those classes are a good thing so there should be no complaining. Then why would Deleon and Cuarenta and Gomez complain that the district is waiting until the state released guidelines for this course before making one of their own? Working with the state is what the district is supposed to do. When I research ethnic studies I learned that the first class made by the state was against certain groups of people so that's why the governor took control of it and started progress of making a course for districts all over. The district is doing the right thing by waiting until the state is done. I am glad about the class at Long Beach. My daughter will take it. I hope those board members understands things better next time they complain on tv. I also heard that those board members also did not support hiring a college counselor or khan academy which my daughter uses. What is going on with them? Thank you.

April O'Connor - Good evening PUSD School Board President Hansen, Board members, Superintendent Dr Perez, Executive cabinet and guests. I am please to announce a former PUSD employee and retired teacher Margret Nelson has donated to our scholarships fund. This year instead of offering 5 scholarships we will be able to offer 7. Mrs. Nelson requests that those two additional scholarships go to students in high need and with a career tech training focus. Additionally the Association representative council voted last week to donate \$4,500 to the PUSD foster youth and our rapidly increasing homeless population through the districts supply distribution events. I am very proud of past and present educators and their dedication to the children we serve. thank you!

CSEA Member - First I'd like to say congratulations to Dr. Stark on her retirement. We will miss her. She has done good work here and has been helpful. With that said it really doesn't make sense to me or any of my CSEA colleagues why we need to replace her. I know that's what you are discussing tonight. Renee Jeffrey is the director of k-5. Greg Francis is the director of 6-12. Dr. Smith can oversee Ed Services and he has done great work since coming to Paramount like Dr. Stark has. Use the money saved by Dr. Stark's retirement to hire more classified staff or teachers or to prevent layoffs down the road. Thank you for listening.

Anonymous - Good Evening Board Members, Superintendent, community, Cabinet and a special good evening to Dr. Stark. Dr. Stark or (Debbie), please know you WILL be missed! Thank you for your leadership, for always listening to our ideas and our challenges but most importantly for preparing us for this day, your retirement. Your continued guidance and teachings have prepared us to continue

your great work. I know we're always busy and trying to catch a break but after reading the Assistant Superintendents' Responsibilities, now I can see why...WOW, it's amazing to see how much a team lead by a great leader can accomplish. Let's continue where you will leave off...and the only way we can accomplish this is by filling the K-8 Assistant Superintendent position. I look forward to working with our new leader so that we can continue to support our Paramount Unified School District families, because that is why I am here. Thank you.

3.1 Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR)

Superintendent Dr. Perez informed the Board that this item was placed on the agenda at the request of Vice President Cuarenta and the services and contract with one of the district's current legal firms, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo is up for discussion by the Board. Vice President Cuarenta shared that she was studying Board policy and per policy 4111 Recruitment and Selection, whenever we employ, it should be someone who is a suitable qualified to carry out the district, the vision of our district and should also happen with the approval of the Board and in accordance with district needs, and based on what she had done research on and the information that she was provided with by the district, she lost faith in this firm.

There were questions/discussion on the following: Vice President Cuarenta what concerns do you have about the services that they provide (Hansen), Can you explain what equitable and inclusive means please (Hansen), Ms. Cuarenta, could you just share with me what you mean by inclusive and equitable (Hansen), it is clearly stated that the attorney is for the Board. If someone could please clarify, is it just the Board president and what channels do we go through (De Leon), I'd like to know what firm Ms. Cuarenta is talking about that she has looked into or who gave her the information (Garcia), Ms. Cuarenta, what is it that you would like us to direct the superintendent to do (Hansen) your direction is to follow a Board policy 4111, is that correct which states exactly what, I don't have it in front of me (Hansen) and you think the district needs what (Hansen)

President Hansen received consensus to direct the Superintendent to bring back information about looking at other firms.

3.2 Assistant Superintendent Position

Superintendent Dr. Perez shared that this item was brought forward by Vice President Cuarenta. Vice President Cuarenta commented that she wants to make sure that policy 4111 Recruitment and Selection is kept at the center of the discussion and opened it up for Board discussion.

There were questions/discussion on the following: For the assistant superintendent/director position, so the direction that you wish to give to the superintendent is that this position be filled with a director, is that correct (Hansen), Now this means we're going to be searching for a director and not an assistant supt (Garcia) can I ask what would Dr. Smith's position will be, if he was doing the upper level grades in high school K-12, K-8 or just K-5 (Garcia)

There was consensus reached and President Hansen directed Superintendent Perez to replace the Assistant Superintendent -K-8 with a Director K-8 position.

3.3 Compton College Request (PAS)

Superintendent Perez shared with the Board that a request from Compton college was received to offer some of their college courses at our Adult School and she wanted to share this with the Board. She would like to be able to negotiate with Compton college on behalf of the Board that they allow us to offer Cerritos College courses during the day at our senior high school that are of high-interest, and that do not compete with Compton. In other words, the only courses the district would offer are Cerritos courses that are of high interest to Paramount students and that Compton College currently does not offer. Cerritos is more than willing to provide these courses for PUSD students. Dr. Perez shared that the district had three Cerritos courses lined up by Cerritos for this Fall, but Compton would not give their approval. Dr. Perez stated she would like to negotiate in partnership with Compton college, and the recommendation would be that we allow them to offer their courses at our Adult school to help them, but also that they would allow our students to get the Cerritos courses that our students are interested in and Compton College does not offer.

There were questions/discussion on the following: we're going to ask Compton College if we can offer Cerritos College classes during the day and so then Compton College will be in the evening. Is that correct (Gomez), the three courses we were turned down, can you elaborate on that (Gomez), what is the likelihood you think Compton is going to accept that we can have Cerritos classes during the day and Compton College students could come in the evening to the adult school, to take classes (Gomez)

4. Information Items

4.1 Special Education Advisory Group

Dr. Debbie Stark, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services and Sue Saikaly, Interim Director-Special Education outlined and provided background information on the Special Education parent group, how they started, when they started, and will frame specific information on some of the things they've accomplished during the time that they've been meeting, future actions and next steps.

Mrs. Saikaly shared that last school year, parents of students identified special needs met as initiated by requests from parents and the desire to form a special education parents committee from their emergency group of parents, with the purpose of planning to establish the committee. This planning group met again once last year and twice this year. Their accomplishments have been to establish a purpose, draft bylaws and next steps after reviewing the meeting's minutes and draft by laws. The purpose of the Special Education Parent Committee once formed is to assist and advise the district and the following activities promote disability awareness within the school sites, in the district, development of disability, awareness, events, and activities, development of workshops for families of students with disabilities, promote ways to increase parent awareness of program regulations and laws promote parent participation in workshops, meetings, and activities.

The next step is to meet with the planning committee group to clarify the details of a general meeting that will need to be set up, so the group can work on outlining the components of the events entailed in this general meeting with the goal to work on including parent representation from every site. As noted in the draft bylaws, a general meeting will be held and the goal of explaining the purpose of the Special Education Parent committee, the role and responsibilities of its elected members and the election process for membership, once the special education hearing committee is formed, it would meet six times this year and fulfilled its purpose.

There were questions/discussion on the following: When would be the next meeting (De Leon) Do they need to reach out to you since they were working with Dr. Garcia (De Leon)

5. Adjournment

The Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Motion by Carmen Gomez, second by Linda Garcia

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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