

CUTTEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MINUTES
September 29, 2020
5:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Videoconference

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.
Board members in attendance: Andy Sundquist, Dennis Reinholtsen, Mary DeWald, Becky Reece and Verne Skjonsby
- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – None Offered
- 3.0 CLOSED SESSION – 5:40 p.m.
With respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session:
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR 9GC SECTION 54957.6)
Agency Negotiator: Susan Ivey
Organization representing Employees: Humboldt Bay Teachers Association
- 4.0 RECOVENE TO OPEN SESSION – 6:35 p.m.
4.1 No reportable action was taken.
- 5.0 PUBLIC HEARING
5.1 Andy Sundquist opened the public hearing for the 20-21 Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. Sue Ivey reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the state did not require a Local Control Accountability Plan for the 20-21 school year. Instead the state is requiring a Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. The template was released in August and needed to be approved by September 30. The plan details how the district plans to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the learning loss caused by it. The budget part of the plan shows how the district plans to use the one-time COVID-19 relief funds provided by the state and federal government. Like the LCAP this is a plan and is subject to change due to the circumstances. Changes will be reflected in the Annual Update. No public comment, hearing was closed.
- 6.0 INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS
6.1 Progress on Plans to Reopen – Sue Ivey reported that the district had developed a checklist for re-opening that was included in the board packet. The district had finalized the list of students who are coming back to in-person learning and those who are remaining on the distance learning option. The district is in the process of assigning cohorts for the in-person students with feedback from staff about student grouping. There are 5 instructional aide positions open, with one interview scheduled for September 30. The district is working on a safety protocol letter to send to families. Most items on the checklist are in process or completed.
6.2 Consider Approval of Reopening date – Sue Ivey detailed some of the complexities of opening school in the blended learning model, such as the symptom checking app being live and the need for more instructional aides. Discussion ensued with board members, employees and parents stating their opinions on the different student learning models. Motion by Dennis Reinholtsen, second by Verne Skjonsby, to try to transition to the blending learning plan by Wednesday October 14. Motion carried 5-0.

- 6.3 Adjustments to Blended Learning Model – Sue Ivey presented a couple of changes to the Blended Learning Model to be considered by the Board. One, make masks mandatory for all grade levels TK-6 barring a note from the doctor for a medical condition. Two, if a child displays severe symptoms of COVID-19 transport the child to the hospital, if a child displays mild symptoms, the parents should be called to pick up the child. Three, limit the school week to 4 in-person days, with one day distance learning for all students. This would allow time for mandatory meetings such as IEP’s. Motion by Becky Reece, second by Verne Skjonsby, to accept the changes to the Blended Learning Plan and review the Friday distance learning day at the end of the trimester. Motion carried 5-0.
- 6.4 Student Transportation Services – The district conducted a survey in July and only 8.4% of families declared that they had a transportation hardship. The district would like to not offer transportation services at this time as it adds another level of exposure for the students and mixes cohorts. Motion by Becky Reece, second by Dennis Reinholtsen, to not provide transportation services at this time, but to re-evaluate at a future date.
- 6.5 Approval of .4375 Custodial Position – The district would like to hire an additional .4375 FTE custodian position to help with the cleaning and disinfecting of rooms while on the Blended Learning Plan. Motion by Dennis Reinholtsen, second by Mary Dewald, to approve a new .4375 FTE custodial position.
- 6.6 Increase Classroom Aide Time – The district has decreased the Aide time due to the discontinuing of the TIP and MAP programs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The district would like to increase the current Aide time by 4 hours per week to help combat the learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion by Dennis Reinholtsen, second by Mary Dewald, to approve the increase in instructional aide time by 4 hours per week. Motion carried 5-0.
- 6.7 Purchase to Short Throw Projectors – The district would like to purchase short throw projectors for the teachers for their rooms to support learning. It was recommended to purchase only two projectors at this time to try them out before purchasing for every teacher. Motion by Becky Reece, second by Verne Skjonsby, to purchase 2 short throw projectors to pilot at the school sites.
- 6.8 Classroom Funds – Sue Ivey reported that during a normal school year classroom funds would be provided by the Cutten Ridgewood Student Foundation (CRSF) and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). With the CRSF dormant and the lack of fundraising events due to the pandemic the district would like the board to approve providing \$200 in district funds to each teacher’s classroom fund. Motion by Verne Skjonsby, second by Becky Reece, to provide \$200 to each teacher’s classroom fund from the district. Motion carried 5-0.

7.0 BOARD MEMBER & ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS / COMMUNICATION

- 7.1 Becky Reece wanted to thank the staff for doing a wonderful job during these unprecedented times, and to thank all the parents for their comments and concerns.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Ivey
Secretary to the Board