

ADOPTED MINUTES
El Dorado Union High School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Board Meeting
July 26, 2021

Submit to
Board _____

A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President David Del Rio in the El Dorado High School Multi-Purpose Room.

As there were no requests to address the Board, Mr. Del Rio closed this portion of the meeting and the Board adjourned for Closed Session discussion on the following agenda items (GC 54957.7, 54954.5):

- a. Conference with labor negotiators (agency negotiators for the Board are Assistant Superintendent Tony DeVille, Assistant Superintendent Christopher Moore and Assistant Superintendent Robert Whittenberg) to discuss with the Board represented employees: Discussion related to Proposals from Faculty Association. (GC 3547 {a})
- b. Conference with labor negotiators (agency negotiators for the Board are Assistant Superintendent Tony DeVille, Assistant Superintendent Christopher Moore and Assistant Superintendent Robert Whittenberg) to discuss with the Board represented employees: Discussion related to Proposals from CSEA. (GC 3547 {a})

The Board reconvened Open Session at 5:15 p.m. in the El Dorado High School Multi-Purpose Room.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Jessica Rodgers.

3. Attendance

Board Members

David J. Del Rio
Lori M. Veerkamp
Jessica K. Rodgers
Timothy M. Cary
Kevin W. Brown **

D.O. Staff

Ron Carruth, Superintendent/Secretary to the Board
Christopher Moore, Assistant Superintendent
Tony DeVille, Assistant Superintendent
Robert Whittenberg, Assistant Superintendent
Pam Bartlett, Senior Director
Chuck Palmer, Senior Director
Serena Fuson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

** Board Member Kevin Brown conferenced in to participate in the Board Meeting. He is located at 10416 Prescott Dells Ranch Road, Dewey, AZ 86327.

Association Representatives

Stephanie Davis

4. Requests to change the agenda and approval of agenda.

Mrs. Veerkamp moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Rodgers seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Brown: Aye
Cary: Aye
Del Rio: Aye
Rodgers: Aye
Veerkamp: Aye

5. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Veerkamp moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Cary seconded.
Motion carried (5-0).

Brown: Aye
Cary: Aye
Del Rio: Aye
Rodgers: Aye
Veerkamp: Aye

1. Review of Board Policy and Administrative Regulation AR/BP 6158 – Independent Study.

B. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was shared with the Board of Trustees for their review.

C. SUPERINTENDENT’S – INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

1. COVID-19 Update and Resolution Background.

Superintendent Carruth reported that the California Department of Public Health recently specified that people are required to wear masks in the classroom. The Board of Trustees has before them a Resolution declaring the need for local control on masking, the need for guidance on how the State expects the District to enforce the masking requirement and the need for the California Department of Public Health to align with the CVC’s guidance. At the same time, it recognizes that we are required to comply with the California Department of Public Health to the extent that we can understand the guidance and successfully implement it. The District is also working closely with legal guidance from a liability perspective, as there is also a need to ensure the District is not financially jeopardized in the mist of this debate. There are a few critical legal questions yet to be answered before the District can make a final decision on how to approach face coverings. The District is in communication with a significant number of similar school districts from more rural and conservative areas of the State that have similar concerns as our community. The Board takes this situation very seriously. They have read every piece of correspondence sent to them and are studying the issue from every perspective, including the legal implications. That said, the Resolution tonight is a clear declaration of the District’s intent and through the Board to notify the entities in California who are tasked with the guidance on our local position. More information is needed before a final statement on masks will be released, likely later this week. Superintendent Carruth read the Resolution that the Board will be considering tonight.

D. INVITATION TO BARGAINING UNIT PRESIDENTS/DESIGNEES AND/OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (GC54954.3)

1. Mrs. Stephanie Davis, Faculty Association President, shared that she sent the Resolution to all teachers for their feedback and commented that most are concerned

about how they are to track who is vaccinated and who is not. As the CDC says, the most important way to protect everyone is through the vaccination. Our County is on the low side in terms of numbers of vaccinations at 47.7%. She appreciates the District's desire for local control, but stated that it is difficult to assess what that policy would be if we got local control. Another year of quarantines and gaps in learning would be a disaster. If the District wants to pursue an optional mask policy, we also need to encourage vaccinations and tracking that data until we get to a point where masks are not needed. As of now with our case rate at 10.3% and the positivity rate at 5.5% it seems prudent to follow the State guidelines. Most teachers would like to make masks optional as nobody enjoys wearing them, but teachers with unvaccinated children at home and immunocompromised people who the vaccine has not been an effective deterrent for must still be protected. Reasonable caution seems the wisest approach for now. They want students back in school full time without unnecessary quarantines so some reasonable precautionary measures seem necessary. Teachers are concerned about the safety of students and staff.

2. Myra Lowder, Bob Price, Sarah Sleppy, Julie Warden, Brigid Bourque, Mitch Applegarth, Lindsay Moffett, Sloan Applegarth, Vicki Hunt, Leah Applegarth, James Coyle, Kim Coyle, Jared Collins, Sharon Nunez, George Hephenson, Charla Russell, Lora Scott, Sheri Freyre, Jennifer Spring, Christine Spencer, Jessica Hunt, Nieva Natalie, Saige Polk, Samai Martinez, Jady Reynolds, Sibley Salstrand, Jesse Ryan King, Briana Lerza, Jen Swarbrick, Sydney Frocona, Meadow Nime and Vani Das submitted blue speaker cards and addressed the Board of Trustees on the subject of the requirement of masks for the 2021-22 school year.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Resolution Declaring Need for Local Control in Masking Requirements for Schools and Need to Align CDPH Guidance to that of the CDC.

Mrs. Veerkamp requested to add a section in the Resolution that deals with the mental and academic issues that have been experienced by many over the last 18 months.

Mr. Cary moved to approve Resolution #2021/22-01 Declaring Need for Local Control in Masking and Demand for Guidance on Enforcement and Need to Align School Guidance with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Authorizing Necessary Actions in Connection Therewith including an additional bullet point to read "Declare that the academic and emotional needs of students are paramount and lost in the guidance the CDPH provided for schools."

Mrs. Rodgers seconded. Motion carried (5-0).

Brown: Aye

Cary: Aye

Del Rio: Aye

Rodgers: Aye

Veerkamp: Aye

F. CLOSED SESSION

This session was not needed.

G. OPEN SESSION

This session was not needed.

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Ron Carruth
Secretary to the Board of Trustees