

ADOPTED MINUTES  
El Dorado Union High School District  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Special Board Meeting  
March 23, 2021

Submit to  
Board \_\_\_\_\_

**A. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Call to Order

This meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President David Del Rio in the Union Mine High School Theater.

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. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment/Resignation (GC 22714; 44929; 44929.21; 44934; 44949; 44951; 44953; 44954; 44955; 45192; 44195; 87488)
- b. Conference with labor negotiators (agency negotiators for the Board are Assistant Superintendent Tony DeVile, 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})
- c. Conference with labor negotiators (agency negotiators for the Board are Assistant Superintendent Tony DeVile, 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 6:42 p.m. in the Union Mine High School Theater.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Hannah Frost.

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 DeVile, Assistant Superintendent  
Robert Whittenberg, Assistant Superintendent  
Pam Bartlett, Senior Director  
Chuck Palmer, Senior Director  
Serena Fuson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Student Board Member

Hannah Frost

Association Representatives

Stephanie Davis  
Teri Lillywhite

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  
(Frost): Aye

**B. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was shared with the Board of Trustees from members of the community.

**C. SUPERINTENDENT'S – INFORMATIONAL UPDATE.**

1. COVID-19 Update.

Assistant Superintendent Christopher Moore reviewed the new California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidelines for Schools, which included a change for classroom spacing. Now, maintaining a minimum of 3 feet between student chairs is strongly recommended and schools will focus on high mask adherence. Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing is now listed as a consideration and not a requirement for our District. In addition, El Dorado County has now met the Orange Tier Metrics for the first time in 2021.

Mr. Moore shared that the District is recommending returning to full in-person instruction the week of April 12, 2021 and not April 5, 2021 for the following reasons:

- Spring Break from March 29-April 5, 2021 is a logical challenge, as staff are not working.
- Configuring classrooms to maximum social distancing requires both teacher and custodial time.
- Preparing units and lesson plans for having all students on campus.
- Preparing transportation routes for students, especially for students with disabilities.
- Ordering and receiving sufficient food to serve meals to full campuses.
- Installing bi-polar ionization units to mitigate transmission.
- Allowing for staff who recently received their second dose to achieve full immunity.
- Schools are only in session 2 days before April 6, 2021 thus, there is not time to coordinate all items in the checklist.
- We are in conversations with the Faculty Association and CSEA about the schools' full in-person schedule.
- We need time to share ideas and listen.
- A schedule will be announced at a minimum of a week before returning.

Mr. Moore shared that we have seen a decrease in the overall numbers in our learning community. Today we are down to 5 active student cases and 0 staff cases. As well as down to 9 student quarantines and 3 staff quarantines.

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

1. Mrs. Stephanie Davis, President of the Faculty Association, shared how proud she is of the work that has been done this year to successfully educate our students while also keeping them safe. Our District created new educational formats and mastered new technology

- while undergoing schedule changes, new textbooks, new curriculum and new testing formats. She stated that making the next transition is critical in ensuring that we do not give up ground that we have fought so hard to gain. Mrs. Davis shared that now more than ever it is important for everyone on campus to follow safety protocols including wearing masks and social distancing as much as possible. In addition, quarantined students will need ways to access their teachers as well as their curriculum and teachers are ready to do their very best for the good of our students.
2. Ms. Teri Lillywhite, President of CSEA, shared that their negotiations team met earlier today and made progress on Article 7 – Compensation, Article 9 – Transportation and Working Conditions, Article 10 – Benefits and Article 16 – Layoff and Reemployment. CSEA was offered a 2.5% one-time off schedule payment retroactive to July 1, 2020 and they are seeking the 0.32% that the Faculty Association received towards their equity floating cap. They have agreed on language that nothing regarding salary will become effective until after July 1, 2021. They will meet again on April 16, 2021. Ms. Lillywhite stated that they voted to ratify their MOU to eliminate the Program Operations Technician position and stated how proud she is of the classified employees for ensuring that the campuses are safe for our students and staff. Lastly, CSEA supports the re-opening of schools the week of April 12, 2021.
  3. Heidi Hannaman, Jennifer Yoder, Laura Brady, Tyler Abers, Sara Ambrose, Blake Zulanas, James Burgos, Kai Fritz, Vani Das, Sharon Nunes, Lance Cason, Leah Applegarth, Denise Byer, Susan Parker, Katy Mulligan, Kristen Roeder, and Nitya Haswani submitted speaker cards and addressed the Board on the matter of the re-opening of school.

**E. SUPERINTENDENT’S – ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. New CDPH on Full Cohort Attendance and 3 feet of Distancing.  
Superintendent Carruth stated that the Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees approve all schools in the El Dorado Union High School District to re-open to full student instruction and implement the safety protocols for asymptomatic and surveillance testing as determined necessary by the California Department of Public Health in the Safe School Plan. Full student instruction shall begin the week of April 12, 2021. The Board of Trustees further directs the Administration to consult with the Faculty Association and CSEA on the final schedule for the remaining 2020-2021 school year and as appropriate implement the existing MOU and take all related steps to effectively re-open our schools to full cohort attendance. The Board of Trustees further directs Administration to install reverse ionization ventilation devices that kill COVID-19 in air ducts, manage new State testing requirements so less full cohort instruction is lost, reconfigure all rooms for 3 feet of distancing as practicable, adjust student schedules, finalize bus routes, order food for schools, finalize staffing and take all steps necessary for full cohort instruction.

Mr. Brown inquired about the State testing on April 6 & 7, 2021. Mr. Moore stated that all 11<sup>th</sup> graders need to be tested in English, mathematics and science. One English test will take two hours and the other will take one hour. Both mathematics tests will take one hour and both science tests will take one hour. Students not testing will be assigned online work.

Mr. Brown inquired about when the ionization systems will be completed. Mr. Moore stated that the systems should be completed by the end of the first week back.

Mr. Brown inquired if the District offered an online learning option for anyone who did not feel safe returning to school when the District moved to hybrid in October 2020. Superintendent Carruth shared that the District offered an Online Distance Learning Program (ODLP) to all of our families. A message went out and stated that our goal was to move to full in person instruction at the first available opportunity and if families did not want to return to in person learning, they were encouraged to sign up for ODLP

Mr. Cary stated that the Board has been incredibly responsive in a situation where the State has been changing the guidelines constantly and has moved as quickly as possible within safety limits. He thinks that it is worth it to wait for the installation of the ionization ventilation devices and return the week of April 12, 2021.

Mrs. Rodgers commented that quarantined students will need extra support to stay on top of their academics and will need access to their teachers as well as their curriculum.

Mrs. Veerkamp thanked everyone who sent in emails, those who came in, and those who called in to the Board Meetings. Board Members take everything to heart as they are all parents and some are grandparents. She stated that our staff are doing an amazing job keeping our campuses clean and safe for our students, teachers and staff. Mrs. Veerkamp commented that she is torn tonight. In her heart, she wants the date of re-opening to five days a week to be April 6, 2021. Logistically, our Administration feel that the District needs an additional week.

Mr. Cary moved that the Board of Trustees approve all schools in the El Dorado Union High School District to re-open to five days per week student instruction on April 12, 2021, concurrent with the implementation of any legally required safety protocols for asymptomatic and surveillance testing.

He further moved that the Board of Trustees further direct Administration to complete installation of reverse ionization ventilation devices that kill COVID-19 in air ducts by April 12, manage new State testing requirements so less full cohort instruction is lost, reconfigure all rooms for 3 feet of distancing as practicable, adjust student schedules, finalize bus routes, order food for schools, finalize staffing, and take any and all steps necessary for full cohort attendance.

Mr. Cary finally moved that the Board of Trustees direct the Administration to consult with the Faculty Association and CSEA on the final schedule for the remaining 2020-2021 school year, and as appropriate implement the existing MOU, and take all related steps to effectively re-open our schools to full cohort attendance five days per week. Mr. Brown seconded. The motion carried (4-1).

**Brown:** Aye

**Cary:** Aye

**Del Rio:** Aye

**Rodgers:** Aye

**Veerkamp:** Nae

**(Austin):** 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 8:34 p.m.

---

Ron Carruth  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees