

Rescue Union School District
2390 Bass Lake Road, Rescue, California 95672

BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDY SESSION MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 26, 2020 – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session at 4:30 p.m.)
Rescue District Office Board Room**

The Public’s health and well-being are the top priority for the Board of Trustees of the Rescue Union School District and you are urged to take all appropriate health safety precautions. To facilitate this process, the meeting of the Board was held via Zoom:

DISTRICT MISSION

Rescue Union School District, in partnership with families and the community, is dedicated to the success of every student by providing a challenging, comprehensive, and quality education in a safe environment in which all individuals are respected, valued, connected, and supported.

ITEM	ITEM DESCRIPTION
CALL TO ORDER:	Board President called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
ROLL CALL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Kim White, President ✓Stephanie Kent, Vice President ✓Tagg Neal, Clerk ✓Nancy Brownell, Member ✓Suzanna George, Member ✓Cheryl Olson, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board ✓Sean Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services ✓Dave Scroggins, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
PUBLIC COMMENTS	There were no comments concerning items on the Closed Session Agenda.
CLOSED SESSION: District Conference Room	The Board adjourned to closed session to discuss matters of personnel, security, negotiations, student discipline, litigation, or other matters as authorized by Government Code Sections 3549.1, 54956.9, 54956.8, 54957, and 54957.6 and Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918.
Conference with Labor Negotiator	Discussion with District’s designated negotiators, Sean Martin and Dave Scroggins regarding directions and issues in negotiations with Rescue Union Federation of Teachers (RUFT), California School Employees Association (CSEA), Confidential Staff, and Administrative Management.
Public Employee Evaluation	Superintendent
OPEN SESSION:	Convene open session in the Board Room.
Welcome	<p>Superintendent Olson provided the following introduction to the meeting:</p> <p><i>Before we begin, we would like to thank our teachers, staff, administrators, parents, and students again for all they have done to successfully work together to make this year positive and productive, despite all we have faced. We are concluding an unprecedented year. We know it hasn’t been easy for our amazing teachers who would much rather be actually teaching</i></p>

	<p><i>their kiddos in person, and who had to completely change how they reach and teach their students pretty much overnight. We know it has not been easy for our parents who have had to work and also supervise their children’s learning. It hasn’t been easy for our students who miss their friends and school. It simply has not been an easy year, but we are absolutely grateful for each and every person in our Rescue family for banding together to make it work clear to the end, to finish strong. With that said, we are blessed with a Board of Trustees who care deeply about our district, teachers, staff and families. Their goal is to make sure we provide a safe, welcoming, rigorous educational experience for all students. With that in mind, we look forward to the start of the next school year on August 11, and this evening we will be discussing important aspects of this with our Board, teachers and community. We know our teachers and parents would appreciate the opportunity to share their perspectives and ideas and suggestions regarding our plans for next year so tonight, after Dave Scroggins shares some possible scenarios and we share our recommendations, we will have time for questions and suggestions. We also will be reaching out to our teachers, staff and families with a survey to make sure we hear all voices as we create our plans for next year. This is vitally important.</i></p> <p><i>So, tonight, our Board will be discussing critical information received from the Governor’s May Revision to the State Budget and its serious ramification to our district’s budget, and also the creation and implementation of a Budget Advisory Committee. We will also discuss our recommended re-entry scenario for August.</i></p> <p><i>Again, our primary goal is to bring students back to school in a safe manner. We know we have significant challenges ahead with the budget reductions and continuing issues surrounding COVID-19, but with the amazing teachers, staff and families we have in Rescue, we know we will work through the challenges together and be able to continue providing a top quality instructional experience for our students, and keep as many teachers and staff members employed as possible.</i></p>
<p>1. Adoption of Agenda (Consideration for Action)</p>	<p>Trustee Neal moved and Trustee Brownell seconded to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0. Roll Call Vote Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p>
<p>Report from Closed Session</p>	<p>The Board president reported no action taken in closed session.</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS:</p>	<p>Public comment will be heard on agenda items at Board Study Sessions. All other public comments can be made at the June 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.</p> <p>There was one question regarding distance learning that was addressed during the Item 4 discussion.</p>
<p>BUSINESS AND FACILITIES:</p>	
<p>2. May Budget Revision (Supplement) (Information and Discussion) Assistant Superintendent of Business Services</p>	<p>The Board reviewed and discussed the information regarding the Governor’s May Budget Revisions.</p> <p>The state of California’s economy has taken a devastating hit as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Reduced tax revenues and other negative factors have resulted in a 7.9% reduction in base LCFF funding. This reduction, combined with our declining enrollment and an ongoing structural deficit has put us in a place where significant cuts have become a necessity. We have so far identified over \$1.6</p>

	<p>million in reductions in the budget for next year, and we'll use about \$2.5 million of reserves to fill the remaining deficit. We will still need to identify about three million dollars of additional cuts during the 2020-2021 school year to be applied in 2021-2022. These will be difficult conversations, but the District, CSEA, and RUFT remain committed to working together, in the spirit of unity, to find solutions.</p>
GENERAL:	
<p>3. Budget Advisory Committee (Supplement) (Information and Discussion) Superintendent</p>	<p>The Board received information regarding the development of a budget committee during the 2020-2021 school year and discussed the process and purpose of the committee.</p> <p>This will be brought back to the next Board meeting for approval.</p>
<p>4. Scenarios for the Reopening of Schools (Supplement) (Information and Discussion) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>The Board will review and discuss various scenarios for reopening school with the current COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Board President, Kim White relayed a comment/question from a parent who asked, "If we go to a distant learning model again next year, can I assume that his 504 plan would qualify him for additional support in order to ensure his academic success?"</p> <p>Several reopening plans were reviewed, including opening back up for all interested students, hybrid models where students spend a portion of their time in class and a portion of their time in remote learning, and a full blown, enhanced distance-learning model. Ultimately, it was determined that we would move forward with plans to reopen for those students who wish to return, and at the same time, provide a virtual home study option for those who feel uncomfortable or who are unable to return at that time. In this model, we will provide social distancing and other measures to reduce any potential spread of the coronavirus on our campuses, and those details will be worked out in conjunction with representatives from RUFT, CSEA, and District Administration.</p>
<p>5. Attractor Programs (Supplement) (Information and Discussion) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>The Board will discuss attractor programs for the Rescue Union School District.</p> <p>Prior to the Governor's May Revise and the proposed cuts to education funding, the Board had discussed the idea of adding attractor programs to increase enrollment and add exciting and unique opportunities for our students. Ideas such as adding a zero period at the middle schools or creating a computer science magnet school were explored. After the initial discussion, it was decided that the topic of attractor programs should remain a standing item on the agenda so that any interested parties could bring forward creative ideas or suggestions to address declining enrollment.</p>
ADJOURNMENT:	<p>Trustee Neal moved and Trustee George seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.</p>

Tagg Neal, Clerk

Date

Kim White, President

Date