

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. Open Session (closed session 5:30 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 Board of Trustees, complying with social distancing guidelines, met in person and all audience participation 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 5:32 p.m.
ROLL CALL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Nancy Brownell, President ✓Michael Gordon, Vice President ✓Suzanna George, Clerk ✓Tagg Neal, Member ✓Kim White, Member ✓Cheryl Olson, Superintendent and Board Secretary ✓Sean Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services ✓Dave Scroggins, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
PUBLIC COMMENT	There were no comments concerning items on the Closed Session Agenda.
CLOSED SESSION:	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 the District’s designated negotiators, Dave Scroggins and Sean Martin, regarding directions and issues in negotiations with Rescue Union Federation of Teachers (RUFT), California School Employees Association (CSEA), Confidential Staff, and Administrative Management.
OPEN SESSION:	Convene open session in the Board Room at 6:34 p.m.
Welcome	The Board president provided an introduction to Board meeting proceedings.
Flag Salute	Board President led the flag salute.

1. Adoption of Agenda (Consideration for Action)	Trustee White moved and Trustee George seconded to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.						
STUDENT SUCCESS / RECOGNITION:							
Marina Village Middle School	Marina Village principal, Levi Cambridge and assistant principal Samantha Schlesinger provided a site update and honored Teacher, Sami Gray and Lead Custodian, Hilaria Diaz as the recipients of the Difference Maker Award.						
REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:							
Report from Closed Session	Board president reported no action taken in closed session.						
2. Superintendent's Report (Supplement)	January is School Board recognition month and Superintendent Olson presented a proclamation to our Board of Trustees honoring them for their dedication and hard work to the students, staff and families of the Rescue Union School District.						
PUBLIC COMMENTS:	Public comments were heard from: <table border="1" data-bbox="672 835 1464 1583"> <tr> <td>Brian Gunther Parent</td> <td>Indicated he was an essential worker, and with the pandemic, he did not get to work at 50%. They did not have the opportunity to fail, had to continue even with short staff. Now we have schools in other counties and states open, mainly due to high suicide rates. We have heard you talk for an hour on anything but reopening schools. By not getting schools open full time you are all failures.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lee Kirkpatrick Parent</td> <td>Recommendation that the Board meetings potentially could be recorded in the future and made available online. It would allow the work of the Board to be seen by the public and also give busy families an opportunity to be involved. Actual recording would be a benefit to the public and the Board.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Isaac Dixon Parent</td> <td>Thanked Lakeview teachers, Mrs. Keever, Ms. Valencia, and Principal Miracle for all their hard work and shared appreciation for the Board's service to the community. Very disappointed with comments made previously by President Brownell, she owes everyone an apology or she should step down. A lot of conversations around equity but not equitable between private and public schools. They are open, Roseville is open figure it out and get schools open. Also commented about lack of information/discussion regarding learning gap for students.</td> </tr> </table>	Brian Gunther Parent	Indicated he was an essential worker, and with the pandemic, he did not get to work at 50%. They did not have the opportunity to fail, had to continue even with short staff. Now we have schools in other counties and states open, mainly due to high suicide rates. We have heard you talk for an hour on anything but reopening schools. By not getting schools open full time you are all failures.	Lee Kirkpatrick Parent	Recommendation that the Board meetings potentially could be recorded in the future and made available online. It would allow the work of the Board to be seen by the public and also give busy families an opportunity to be involved. Actual recording would be a benefit to the public and the Board.	Isaac Dixon Parent	Thanked Lakeview teachers, Mrs. Keever, Ms. Valencia, and Principal Miracle for all their hard work and shared appreciation for the Board's service to the community. Very disappointed with comments made previously by President Brownell, she owes everyone an apology or she should step down. A lot of conversations around equity but not equitable between private and public schools. They are open, Roseville is open figure it out and get schools open. Also commented about lack of information/discussion regarding learning gap for students.
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GENERAL:							
3. Resolution #21-01 Censure of Trustee Brownell (Supplement) (Consideration for Action) Vice President, Michael Gordon Member, Kim White	Consider approval of Resolution # 21-01 of the Board of Trustees of the Rescue Union School District regarding censure of Trustee Nancy Brownell for violation of Gov. Code § 54954.2 subd. (a)(2)(E)(3), and Board Bylaw 9010. At this point in the meeting, President Brownell turned the gavel over to Vice President, Michael Gordon for Item 3.						

Vice President Gordon proceeded with Item 3 and asked Trustee White to read Resolution #21-01. Once the resolution was read, Vice President Gordon called for public comments on this item.

<p>Laura Brady Parent</p>	<p>Expressed concern that the President of the Board would make such divisive comments. She stated that Trustee Brownell should remove herself from her position of President, and should be removed from the Board. The statements were political in nature and should not be part of a school board meeting. Asked that Trustee Brownell excuse herself from the Board.</p>
<p>Effrain Mercado Parent</p>	<p>He said, given his work in education, he feels we have the best district team in the entire state. He went on to say he has had the privilege of knowing Nancy Brownell for almost a decade, professionally, as a friend and a constituent with the school Board. Very proud to have her as a member, representing himself, his children and his family. A great educator, person, and very passionate as everyone was able to see on January 12. While her comments may have been inappropriate, it doesn't change the fact that she has a constitutional duty as an elected official to uphold the constitution and stated there is no one he would rather have representing his children and his community. Our community should not confuse the idea of the resolution as to what was said but rather how and when, which is fair (Nancy would also agree, given her nature as a fair person). Our community needs her as a thoughtful leader and to represent our kids for the future.</p>
<p>Alena McClain Parent</p>	<p>She stated that Trustee Brownell used poor judgement in the comments that she made, very concerning and upsetting. Mainly because we are in such divisive times in our nation. Stepping back from the situation, she realized there are two things in common with Ms. Brownell. Even though she does not agree with the comments, they were both deeply troubled by the events and lives lost, and both deeply care about this district and our students. We do have a unique district, with a supportive community of parents, teachers, administrators and Board that care so deeply for our kids, going above and beyond. She encouraged everyone to not buy into the lie that differences make us enemies. We can come together over what we have in common, which is the welfare and higher education for our kids.</p>

Board members proceeded to comment on item 2. Trustee Neal stated that it is important for the community to know that the members have not been able to discuss this resolution until this meeting. He indicated he felt it would be appropriate for Trustee White and Trustee Gordon to explain why we have this resolution on the agenda, why we are discussing it and how it came about. He also indicated that Trustee Brownell should have an opportunity to comment before the Board takes action.

Trustee White stated the resolution is brought forth very specifically regarding speaking on an item that has not been agendized, something all of the Board should know and be respectful of. She went on to say that this is not a content based conversation, she offered no opinion on the content it is strictly procedural and how we want to run our board. Trustee White stated we have an agenda for a reason and if Board members want to share/comment we have a way of doing

that by agendaizing Board Member Comments/Reports. This makes it clear to the public who is speaking and on behalf of whom. The Board is not allowed to have a conversation in any other forum about this, regarding our norms or how we wish to proceed as a Board. Trustee White stated she offered no opinion on what the Board should do, but merely was bringing this forth so there can be a conversation about it and the Board can decide what the Board wants to do.

Trustee Gordon stated that in the time he has known Ms. Brownell her lifetime commitment and service to education is apparent and he commended her. He stated as a new Board member he finds value and precedence of adhering to the Brown Act. He indicated that the rules and guidelines are for everyone, and must focus on the work of the board members pertaining to the education of our students. This Board or any Board for that matter adheres to the policies that are set and this act in itself does not deter his thought or feeling for Ms. Brownell as a public servant.

Trustee White echoed Mr. Gordon's comments and stated that Ms. Brownell works tirelessly for our district and has done a lot of good work.

Trustee George stated of the two items that are highlighted in the resolution, beginning with Gov Code §54954.2, the actual language itself seems cherry picked. Looking at the entire language it does state in the same paragraph: *in addition on their own initiative a member of a legislative body may make a brief announcement or a brief report on his/her own activities.* Going to the next charge BB 9010, it also states, *The Governing Board recognizes the rights of Board members to freely express their views and encourages open discussion of issues during the Board meeting.* Trustee George went on to say the bigger point here is in her 14 years on the Board no member has been censured, however she stated that did not mean she felt it could never happen. She went on to say the very first section of this item indicates that we should have a procedure in place and we do not. Trustee George said we could look at adding information regarding censure under BB 9005 and that could be addressed at a later date. She indicated that even if we did have a procedure in place, her greater concern is that not any of the Board members objected to the comments as Trustee Brownell was making them, which she stated, was our right and frankly our duty. It wasn't until social media got involved, and in her personal view point that is when it went off the rails. She went on to say that perhaps all members should be censured as no one spoke up and called the comments inappropriate. She stated that with all the years Ms. Brownell, has in education we are blessed to have her on the Board with the immense depth and knowledge she brings to us. She also indicated, with new members, or as we move to different positions, we may all get a little rusty and at that point one of us could step in as a reminder. She went on to say the censure sends a message of being extremely divisive and stated that legally you could argue within the context of the Board Bylaws, but the 4 other members bore the responsibility of speaking up.

Trustee Neal stated this item was brought forth for discussion and asked if there is a recommended action. Also asked if Trustee White or Trustee Gordon wanted to opine further on what they wanted to see from this resolution. The following is the prepared statement from Trustee Neal.

I commend Vice President of the Board Michael Gordon, Trustee Kim White, and some members of our community for holding our governing board accountable, as well as us as individual trustees accountable. Public participation is always welcome. I think it's a great learning

opportunity for the students of RUSD – as well as an opportunity of leadership for the RUSD Board to our very valued community Teachers, Staff, Parents, and general community members at large.

The institutional integrity of the board is of the utmost importance. Public meetings are run by Parliamentary Procedure to ensure that integrity. Board Policy and procedure provide further clarification to our board’s institutional integrity, defining acceptable and unacceptable behavior by trustees as elected officials of the state of California.

Violations of these should be interpreted on behalf of the public constituents, our community, by using these policies and procedures. In the interpretation of violations, it is my personal conviction that syncretism should be practiced, to ascertain the breach of “the letter of the law”, as well as the spirit in which they may have been compromised.

Study sessions are presumed informal board meetings where brain storming, long term thinking, and open mindedness are practiced. The meeting in questions was such a meeting. While having an official “Agenda”, the meetings are loose and open. Like all board meetings they are held in public fashion, where the public is encouraged to attend and/or participate – and the meeting on 1/12 did have several audience members in attendance which is unusual – as our study sessions typically include the 8 cabinet members, and two union presidents, or ten people total, not 75+.

While being a public school system – held to accountability of the public – we are also an institution of learning and educational excellence - held accountable to the ideology of academia. All academic institutions should be of open thought, passionate opinions, moments of enlightenment, sharpening of principles and values, and incidences of learning and grace for one another. I believe this is even more important to demonstrate to our young minds of Rescue Union School District.

Regarding the specific incidence in question and statement by Board President Nancy Brownell:

It should be noted Ms. Brownell has a history of impeccable service to the Rescue Union School District. She has served as an RUSD Teacher, Parent, 3-Term+ Trustee of the Board, and even the Interim-Superintendent. Her dedication and service has provided unmeasurable benefit to the tens of thousands of students that have received their elementary and middle school education here during that time.

Prior to making her statement, Ms. Brownell looked at us board members and presumably asked to make a statement on current events, and without seeing hesitation immediately began reading. No discussion was held, no action was actually taken, and not one of us spoke up to say, “Is this on the agenda? Are we having Board Member Reports tonight?” Ms. Brownell continued with emotion and passion – and we moved on.

Nancy’s intent was to speak on her own personal behalf, I believe she felt safe to do so as we were in a study session, and I believe it took courage for her to share her opinion on what may have even construed contentious, or partisans as it related to national politics.

The board should remain grounded in our local issues as a governing body – and welcome the opinions of my fellow board members during board member reports, or study sessions when they are identified as individual opinions.

Nancy – I believe your comments were heartfelt and out of turn. Any action by the board to “Censure” your misjudgment would be punitive and unnecessary, considering the public scrutiny your potential violation has now received.

I appreciate your words tonight and trust you will enlighten us all prior to sharing such opinions in the future. Thanks for standing for what you believe in – all the students of RUSD can learn from that. Additionally –

	<p><i>they can learn there is a time and place for everything – and respecting our institutions of integrity is an equal opportunity to learn. RUSD is family – and in my opinion you are safe to make mistakes here of this level. Thanks for your continued service to the board.</i></p> <p>Trustee Brownell did clarify that she was actually the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and did have the opportunity to teach in the district. She then made the following statement:</p> <p><i>I accept full responsibility for my personal comments at the January 12 study session and understand what I heard from parents, colleagues and board members tonight. I regret the turmoil experienced by some of you as a result of what I said and believe listening to those with whom we disagree and agree strengthens our district and common humanity as Americans. Like each of you, I believe our children, grandchildren and students deserve to live in the democracy our founders envisioned with leaders who demonstrate honesty, courage, decency and embody the values and ideals of liberty, equality and justice for all. As a lifelong educator, I know and deeply understand the value of public education and appreciate the dedication of our Rescue educators, staff, students and parents.</i></p> <p><i>The founders of America recognized that an educated, well-informed citizenry is fundamental to a democratic form of government. Educated citizens can make wiser choices about whom to elect, how to spend public funds, and which legislative measures to support. They are more likely to have civic values and habits important to a democratic society, such as respect for the views of others, the ability to collaborate and reach compromises, and a willingness to participate in the political process and perhaps even become leaders themselves.</i></p> <p><i>Public education in the United States emerged in the 1800s in part from the goals of building a democratic society: to prepare people to become responsible citizens; to improve social conditions; to promote cultural unity; to help people become economically self-sufficient; and to enhance individual happiness and enrich our individual lives (Center for Education Policy). Early school curricula centered on reading, writing, arithmetic and what it means to be an American citizen.</i></p> <p><i>The Rescue district community, all the educators, staff and families value such educational goals and all work to accomplish great things for students' success and well-being every day. Moving forward, that will continue to be my focus. Thank you for your courageous opinions.</i></p> <p>Trustee Neal moved to suspend consideration of Resolution #21-01 Censure of Trustee Brownell and Trustee George seconded the motion. At this point Trustee George and Trustee Neal removed their motions.</p> <p>Vice President Gordon asked for any motions regarding Item 3, there were no other motions. The item failed due to lack of a motion.</p>
<p>4. COVID/Calendar Update (Supplement) (Consideration for Action) Superintendent</p>	<p>The Board will receive an update on our current COVID status and discuss the calendar for continuing in the hybrid program.</p> <p>Superintendent Olson provided a brief overview of the newly released guidance discussed at the previous Special meeting. She briefly reviewed the sections that hinder RUSD from moving forward to a more full time</p>

model and require us to remain in the hybrid model. The most significant being the directive that student chairs cannot be less than 4 feet apart. She shared information regarding advocacy groups such as: Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), California School Boards Association (CSBA), the superintendent group in El Dorado County, El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE), Small School District's Association (SSDA), El Dorado County Public Health (EDCPH), and others, who are communicating with Governor Newsom, legislators, State Board of Education (SBE), and CDPH to seek revisions of the document so that the directive supports all districts instead of just some.

Mrs. Olson also stated that it is important to remember that the Safe Schools for All document was intended to support and help all districts. Our Health Officer has also stated that the last draft before it was finalized had kept the language as "3 feet, or as practicable" in reference to the distance between students chairs. Our Health Officer was actually surprised that the language changed and will support communicating with CDPH to make the revision. Until it is, we are required to follow the directive as written.

Superintendent Olson shared that CDPH is listening and been involved in meeting with the Governor. She indicated that she believes there will be a chance in the future for us to open more fully. Mrs. Olson also shared that she reached out to the Superintendent of Roseville and found out that they are indeed going to be open in a fuller (with an early release model) for the rest of the year. The way they were able to implement this was by hiring 20 additional multiple subject teachers splitting existing classes so they will fit in the classrooms. They took elementary music and PE teachers putting them as facilitators at the middle schools. They have more capacity, and moved students from small classroom to larger ones, giving them the ability to spread out more.

Trustee Gordon asked if Mr. Martin could provide an approximate cost for the addition of 20 half time teachers. Mr. Martin responded about \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Trustee George commented that Roseville did not break the rules they were able to accommodate the mandates. She indicated it is unfortunate, there is not a clear understanding by the public that we have no choice but to follow the mandate.

Superintendent Olson went on to review our COVID-19 Safety Plan. This new guidance affects all schools, public and private, and must be posted by February 1. Mrs. Olson shared that we did find out that our plan does not need to be approved by the Board, however, in appreciation for our Board staying informed and involved we would like to have approval. Our plan is the same as our previous one with the exception that we included the new directives from CDPH, and our plan is complete and ready to post. Mrs. Olson then reviewed the additions to the plan. She briefly updated the Board on case numbers for the district, from August through January 25, 2021.

Dave Scroggins, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction provided updated information on the county COVID dashboard in relationship to our district. He indicated it appears there seems to be a leveling off, we don't see the low numbers like in September/October but we do seem to be avoiding the high spikes that we saw in late November and the middle of December.

It appears we are averaging about 70 cases a day in the county and he also reminded everyone of the lag time as the information is updated.

Superintendent Olson followed up with our next steps and shared we will be looking to provide a robust summer program at multiple sites, 5 hours per day for both general education and special education students. The focus will primarily be on ELA and math as well as filling in the learning gaps and preparing students for the next school year.

Mr. Martin at this point provided an overview of the revised calendars as we continue on in the hybrid model, and plan for return to full time. He shared our current calendar showing our transition to Phase 2 and Phase 3, the revised version to continue in the hybrid program given the new state directives, as well as the revised version for returning to full time. The revised regular calendar reflects the elimination of Phase 2 moving forward directly into Phase 3. Mr. Martin indicated that instead of having 2 or 3 weeks in the Phase 2 transition, then having to shift again, we would rather implement what we are going to do and move forward, making it much less cumbersome.

Mr. Martin reviewed the Hybrid calendar sharing that two distance learning days have been added for February through May (February 26 and May 21 were already approved as report card prep). These will be to support teacher collaboration and lesson planning for asynchronous student learning. Potentially, there will soon be language changes that don't require us to stay in the hybrid for an extended period of time however the intent here is just in case, to give us structure, we will have a system in place should we need to pivot again. Our desire would be to implement our revised regular calendar (full time model), should we be able to get a waiver, and/or once we determine what day we could start back. Also included is a formula outlining the timeframe to return, so it will not be necessary to come back to the Board to approve yet another date change. This language is included to determine the timeframe to transition from hybrid to the regular program, giving us enough time operationally for staff, extended day, and other county programs to prepare for the change. The language states that we would use the hybrid calendar until the second Monday once CDPH restrictions are lifted and depending on the day of notification, it could be as much as two weeks or as little as one week. This sets the standard and everyone knows when we will return. Both of these calendars have been discussed with RUFT and CSEA. They are in support of these calendars and the direction we have put in place. Mr. Martin concluded by saying that our intent is to have a structure in place with all the scenarios ready to go so we can move forward with whatever model is appropriate.

Public comment regarding this item were heard from:

Melissa Twitchell Parent	Shared her frustration and confusion regarding comments by Dr. Mark Gahly, Secretary of Health and Human Services who stated that the 4 foot guidance was not meant to inhibit or slow down the important plans already in place by school districts. But that is what it has done. Recognized that it is not the Board that does not want to open but still very frustrating.
Brian Gunther Parent	The Board has spent another hour on censure ship and can't get that right either. Still no solutions for opening schools. Suggested having all parents and teachers sign waivers to go back to school full time, taking the liability away from the District. Stated you keep saying how we can't do anything, your focus should be

		on what we can do. In the spirit of the guidelines, you have talked about all our safety precautions, cleaning, etc., we have met the threshold but you still will not open schools. You will continue to fail if you keep talking about how we can't do anything.
	Ashley Douglas Parent	Could parents help along with the Board to contact Governor Newsom? Perhaps have a prepared letter that everyone could send. Hearing from the Board, and from parents and community feels the district is doing an amazing job, regarding safety for our children and families, should go back in school full time.
	Carol Wahl	Addressed the slide in the COVID safety plan regarding band and the directive for instruments to be played outside. That comment is directed toward WIND instruments. Wanted to be sure the wording was accurate since CDHP has taught us that words matter. Other options to consider, such as rhythm percussion or strings
	Laura Brady Parent	Very disappointed with every member of the Board for not voting on the resolution. Shame on all of you, this was not about whether Trustee Brownell has 100 years of service to the district, but about a violation of Board policies. Can we look at something besides COVID numbers, what about suicide rates? Waiting for this Board to do what the supermajority of parents in this district want, get the schools open. Stop putting up roadblocks, think about the students, quit thinking about yourselves and your affiliations with CTA
	Isaac Dixon	Appreciates how hard the district is trying, but from a parents perspective it is difficult to work, to educate our children and do it well. Continues to hear all the things that can't be done, not hearing any ideas on what can be done to allow our kids to have a better education. He challenged the Board, to help more, to come up with ideas to get kids back into school, stating that is the Board's job. Very disappointed we are accepting the status quo. Not a lot of thinking outside the box, please do better.
	Hannah Danto-Dorafsha Parent	Thanked the Board and district for everything they have done so far, it is not easy for anyone. The district has worked very hard to open in a way that is safe, that provides some in person instruction and still can meet the needs of those who are not comfortable or have reasons for not wanting full time instruction. COVID is dangerous for her family with underlying conditions and feels lucky to be able to send her child to school half a day for social interaction. She concluded by saying she appreciates the district and knows we are doing the best that we can with the resources available.
	Carlyn Douma Parent	Follow up to previous comment, thank you to all of you for the work you are doing. Knows

		<p>many parents want their children back in school full time but reminds families that there are many parts of the state that are still in full distance learning and how lucky we are to at least have kids back part time. It would be amazing to be back full time but our hands are tied, hopefully the directives can be revised soon. What we have been doing is working.</p>
	<p>Kelly Parent</p>	<p>There are some facts that do not align. Considering every state back to school except CA and even then some counties are open full time. We are fortunate to be in county with low case numbers. Social interaction is important and currently not balanced. Why with most states having schools open we just sit here and say we can't. Encourages the Board/district to find options for everyone to come together for the education and social emotional needs of our students.</p>
	<p>Caden Alber Student</p>	<p>As a middle school student in this district, expressed we have been doing an excellent job coming from the student standpoint. He expressed he and his friends feel they are getting more one on one time with teachers and get more information on subjects they are learning. Stated in band, over the last few months they have been able to play woodwind instruments asked why now they will be required to be outside.</p>
	<p>John Whitfield</p>	<p>Stated that CA consistently bucks trends when it comes to rules. So interesting what is transpiring for our kids, and that parents have no say in it. Feels the Board is failing on number of objectives, have not provided key performance indicators, surveys from parents, student surveys, and no grade comparison for trend data. Encouraged the Board to review and track this data to determine where we stand as a district.</p> <p>Expressed there would be no reason for distance learning days to continue with the hybrid model, kids should be there 5 days a week. Too many holidays and time off and our kids are failing, it is not fair when everything is within your power to change. Does not believe funding will not be pulled should we return to full time. Asked the Board to make the hard decision, get it done like we were supposed to, and get kids back in school.</p>
	<p>Morti Parent</p>	<p>Some of his comments expressed by previous speaker. Wanted to remind everyone, that Board/district answer to the people of El Dorado County. You don't work for the state of CA or anyone else, and it is obvious families want their kids back in school full time. You can do anything you want to do, you can make this work, do the right thing and get them back in school.</p>

Trustee Brownell addressed the Board and asked for comments/discussion regarding the safety plan and calendars that are being considered for action.

Superintendent Olson provided clarification regarding the woodwind instruments, stating that with the new directive, these do need to be outside and that our music departments are working to provide other alternatives, such as music theory, strings, percussion and rhythm.

Sean Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, commented that as the district representative for negotiations, our union groups have been partners in this process from day one. They have never tried to not have kids in school, and have always prioritized safety of students first over their own. They have been together with us shoulder to shoulder throughout this process and there is no way we would be where we are today without them. We are leaps and bounds ahead of many places because of the relationships we have with our unions. He went on to say this decision has nothing to do with the unions; the Board is a governing body based off of laws and rules and we have to follow them. He stated, as a Board, you lead us and if you disregard a law or rule that puts us in a position where we would not be able to follow you. He shared he appreciates what each of you do as Board members but wanted to recognize the staff, and the unions and what they have done to take care of staff but also to take care of kids.

Trustee White moved and Trustee George seconded to approve the modifications to the Safety Plan to be COVID compliant. The motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Neal commented we know we would not be where we are without the relationship that RUSD has with RUFT and CSEA. Mr. Neal stated regarding the language about returning on the second Monday once restrictions are lifted, in his opinion it should be sooner, perhaps 3 days. Our teachers and staff should be preparing now and we need to return at a moment's notice, perhaps not ideal but necessary.

Trustee White stated how proud she is of us for being leaders, when other districts were not going back in person we did with the hybrid model and she commended staff, administration and Board for moving ahead. She went on to say she is also very proud of our decision that students would be going back full time, we approved a calendar that allowed for a transition period that we would have had us in Phase 2 right now and back full time by March. The intention of this Board is to get everybody back in class full time as soon as we can. We still have our Frontier program for those who may not be comfortable returning to full time. We voted and laid out a calendar and agreed with Mr. Martin regarding following the law. Not doing could have serious ramifications, we could be shut down or it could possible affect the hybrid program. We are stuck, even though our intentions have shown this is our plan to get our kids back as soon as possible, truly leading the state of CA. Once the directive is revised that very next day, as crazy as that next day would be, we have a calendar in effect for Phase 3 we get back in school. Trustee White stated that she understood this would be difficult for staff, but shared that was her thought, and if we are going to shift again, her preference would be to get back as soon as possible. She also indicated that Phase 2, at this point would be for such a short period of time it no longer makes sense, so we would be returning to full time (Phase 3). Trustee White stated she would

be supportive of these calendars with a shorter turnaround time. She went on to say that with all due respect to our negotiating team, and our unions for coming together to work this out, we have heard from our families and they are desperate to have children back in school. If we could, as uncomfortable and difficult as it might be to do it faster, she would be more comfortable with perhaps a three-day turn around. She stated she committed to the number 3 however; the current language of second Monday is too long a timeframe.

Trustee George indicated that she was in agreement with Trustee Neal and Trustee White and the expedience of returning. With regards to transportation and bus routes, with that quick of a turnaround, we would need to let our families know that perhaps services might be delayed (few days or by a week). She indicated we would want to communicate that to our parents, so they could plan for what they need to do to get their children to school. She stated she would not want the date to become too elusive, so indicating a certain number of days rather than a day of the week would be more appropriate.

Trustee Gordon stated that he would defer to staff to determine what is realistic to have food service and bus routes ready to go, and hoped our teachers could also be ready in that amount of time. He indicated that for everyone involved he would trust administration and perhaps that could be our driving force, when food service and bus routes are ready within an expedient and acceptable time period. Trustee Gordon shared that as a coach he hates to lose more than he likes to win, and as a school board member our students are now our competitors and he feels every day we are not in school we are losing in some capacity. He is willing to fight to get our kids in sooner than later. He went on to say the conversation so far has been about when we go back when the restrictions are lifted, and although he will continue to remain positive and optimistic, he feels he should vote for a calendar, with the anticipation that we may not change out of hybrid. He went on to say we have backed off of full time, continuing in hybrid and our students are losing out on instructional time in our classrooms. These 6 distance learning days equate to just a little less than 2000 minutes of prep time. When we pivot, we are doing a little less than half of the instructional minutes for our students (from 22,000 to 10,000 minutes at the elementary level from January 25 until the end of the year). He stated the distance learning days are not reflective of decreasing instructional time by half with prep time. In fact the prep time does not decrease very much at all, while we have taken half of the instructional time away from our students.

Trustee Gordon shared he reached out to some of our teachers, and expressed he can hear their frustrations and there is not enough time to invest in learning for our kids. He heard comments such as working through lunch, adding 10 to 20 hours extra every week, meeting before school with teacher groups to plan and staying after school to grade. He commented on the frustration and exhaustion he sees in our teachers, but continues to see their commitment at the same time and their willingness to fend off the enormous decrease in our kids academic performances. He expressed that they need prep time to do their job. He went on to say that he could not in good conscious, knowing that we are not giving our kids full time instruction in the classroom, and not modify in some capacity the amount of minutes we are taking away from them by giving prep time to our teachers. He recommended 4 distance learning days for teachers instead of 6.

	<p>Our teachers need the time to invest in our children’s education, our parents need help in what they are asking for and but more importantly our kids need to be in the classroom as much as possible.</p> <p>Trustee Gordon indicated he knows the teachers need prep time, and he is supporting them but also supporting kids. He stated he struggles with 6 days and taking that much time away from our kids, but can support 4 days.</p> <p>Trustee Brownell concluded that there are several points of view, given the model calendars presented by staff. The conversations have been about providing more specificity about when we are given the green light to return. She stated as government employees we can’t break the law and forge ahead, but changes are being discussed that may assist us, but we are preparing in a way that will allow for a quick turnaround. She indicated her concerns regarding a delay in transportation services, as it is our least affluent families who would have difficulty getting their children to school without busses.</p> <p>Mr. Scroggins added in conversations with our transportation department, bus routes would need to be rebid and that would take about 3 to 4 days, however there is the possibility that perhaps that could be done proactively.</p> <p>Trustee Neal stated that the impossible is possible, and commented that everything we have done up to this point will be judged by the last 1 mile and how we respond the second the restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>Trustee Neal moved to accept the calendars with two distance learning days removed, one in March and one in April for the hybrid calendar, leaving 4 distance learning days instead of 6 and the response time would be 4 work days from the time it is lifted. Trustee White seconded the motion.</p> <p>Sean Martin asked for clarification, and the motion was amended to include 4 work days, date of notification is not counted and school would return on the 4th day after restrictions are lifted, but no later than the 5th day.</p> <p>President Brownell summarized the motion, stating one prep day in March and April will be removed, and up to 4 days of preparation will be provided after the date we receive notification and called for a vote.</p> <p>The motion passed 5-0.</p>
<p>BUSINESS AND FACILITIES ITEMS:</p>	<p>These items are provided for Board information, discussion, and/or action.</p>
<p>5. Auditor’s Report Financial Statements for 2019-2020 (Supplement) Assistant Superintendent of Business Services (Consideration for Action)</p>	<p>To comply with Ed. Code 14503, each year an independent audit must be conducted. Stephen Roatch Accountancy Corporation completed the financial audit for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. District administration recommends acceptance of the Auditor’s Report on the 2019-2020 financial statements.</p> <p>Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Sean Martin, presented the audit summary sheet showing the core components of the audit. Although we had three findings, Mr. Martin reported that it is important to recognize that these are not considered material weaknesses meaning it does not</p>

	<p>impact financial information we have reported and does not undermine the financial systems, they are more procedural in nature. Two of the findings were attendance related, processes were not followed and we have already worked with staff to find a solution. The third finding was related to general funds appropriations and moving forward the district will ensure expenditures are budgeted and Board approved with appropriations. Mr. Martin stated it was a very clean audit we do have some findings but relative to specific issues that can be resolved.</p> <p><i>Trustee White moved and Trustee George seconded to extend the meeting until 9:45 p.m. The motion passed 5-0</i></p> <p>Trustee George moved and Trustee Gordon seconded to approve the Auditor’s Report Financial Statements for 2019-2020. The motion passed 5-0.</p>
<p>PERSONNEL:</p>	
<p>6. Openers for CSEA Negotiations 2021-2022</p> <p>(Supplement)</p> <p>(Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>The Board is required to set a date for public comment on collective bargaining unit openers for the upcoming session. District administration recommends that California School Employees Association (CSEA) negotiations openers be put on the agenda for February 9, 2021 regular Board meeting for public comment.</p> <p>Trustee George moved and Trustee Gordon seconded to set February 9, 2021 as the date for public comment on CSEA negotiation openers. The motion passed 5-0.</p>
<p>CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION</p>	
<p>7. California Healthy Kids Survey</p> <p>(Supplement)</p> <p>(Information and Discussion) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>The Board will receive information regarding the Rescue Union School District’s results for the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) administered to 5th and 7th grade students.</p> <p>Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction provided an overview of the CHKS results. The CHKS is one measure used alongside, parent survey results, student listening circles, reports from teachers, classified employees, administrators, results from previous years, discipline referrals/suspension rates, behavioral observations and attendance rates. The response rates this year for our students was up from 51% in 2019-2020 to 61% for elementary and from 85% to 94% for middle schools. Mr. Scroggins reported we have seen a general improvement in student behaviors and overall school climate, possible attributed to lower class sizes this year. It was also noted facility upkeep is improved at both the elementary and middle schools. This may be a result if increased cleaning and disinfecting as part of our COVID mitigation plans.</p> <p>In reviewing areas of concern, academic motivation and meaningful participation are lower at both elementary and middle, perhaps due to shortened school days and reduced instructional minutes. Students reported a decrease in caring adults at school and less peer support. This may be directly related to the decreased amount of time students have with staff and peers. Another area of concern is that survey results indicated students feel less optimistic, less belief in self and others and less excitement about their days (engaged living). More middle school students reported feeling chronically sad and more said they have</p>

	<p>considered suicide. This is especially concerning and may be attributed to stressors associated with COVID isolation, etc.</p> <p>Mr. Scoggins commented that results for each school have been shared with administrators and site leadership teams, school site councils, safety teams, student councils and other groups will be planning ways to strategically improve student perceptions and outcomes. He stated it will be especially important to ensure that we continue to provide quality mental health services and social emotional supports, including counseling, PBIS, SEL competency building lessons and the like. Additionally, we must be mindful of students' decreased levels of academic motivation and feeling regarding meaningful participation and look for ways to rebuild areas while simultaneously ensuring that their social emotional and mental health needs are address.</p>
<p>CONSENT AGENDA:</p> <p>(Consideration for Action)</p>	<p>All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered to be routine or sufficiently supported by prior or accompanying reference materials and information as to not require additional discussion. A motion as referenced below will enact all items.</p> <p>Trustee George moved and Trustee Gordon seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.</p>
<p>8. Board Meeting Minutes (Supplement)</p>	<p>Minutes of December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.</p>
<p>9. Board Meeting Minutes (Supplement)</p>	<p>Minutes of January 12, 2021, Board Study Session.</p>
<p>10. District Expenditure Warrants (Supplement)</p>	<p>Warrants must regularly be presented to the Board of Trustees for ratification. Detailed warrant order listings are available at the District Office. The supplement reflects expenditures from 11/20/20 through 12/18/20.</p>
<p>11. District Purchase Orders (Supplement)</p>	<p>Purchase orders must regularly be presented to the Board of Trustees for ratification. The supplement reflects expenditures from 12/9/20 through 1/15/21.</p>
<p>12. Williams Quarterly Report (Supplement)</p>	<p>Title 5, Chapter 5.1, Section 4600 requires school districts to report summarized data from the Uniform Complaint Process to the county superintendent quarterly.</p>
<p>13. Personnel (Supplement)</p>	<p>Rescue Union School District's long range goal is to recruit a diverse, high quality staff whose goals and philosophies are student focused. Periodically, changes in staffing occur due to need for additional positions, resignations, or requests for leaves of absence. All positions listed are within current budget allocations.</p>
<p>A. Certificated Personnel Employment:</p>	<p>Graham Harris, Teacher - temporary assignment, (1.0 FTE), Marina Village, effective 1/4/21</p>

Temporary Assignment Ends:	Morgan Butler, School Nurse - temporary assignment, (1.0 FTE), District Office, effective 1/4/21 Morgan Butler, School Nurse – temporary assignment, (.2176 FTE), Marina Village, effective 1/3/21
B. Classified Personnel Employment:	Stacy Gallman, Student Services Secretary, (1.0 FTE), Lake Forest, effective 1/11/21 Zoe Hanko, Yard Supervisor, (.53 FTE), Jackson, effective 1/4/21 Laura Knight, Food Services Secretary, (.8750 FTE) Food Services, effective 1/4/21 Mayah Nepo, Yard Supervisor, (.49 FTE), Lakeview, effective 1/13/21 Cody Poor, Lead Maintenance Technician, (1.0 FTE), District Office, effective 1/4/21
Leave of Absence (LOA):	Morgan Butler, Health Office Nurse, 100% LOA (.4688 FTE), Marina Village, effective 1/4/21 Deborah Hiscott, Bus Driver, 100% LOA (.7655 FTE), Transportation, effective 2/1/21
Resignation:	Zoe Hanko, Yard Supervisor, (.39 FTE), Lake Forest, effective 1/3/21 Elvira Almanza Rodriguez, Food Service Worker, (.25 FTE), Food Services, effective 1/22/21
14. School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) (Supplement)	Each school has updated their individual School Accountability Report Card (SARC). District administration recommends the Board of Trustees approve the SARC's for the 2019-2020 school year, published in 2020-2021.
15. Contract for Audit Services (Supplement)	The Board considered approval of the contract for audit services with the firm Stephen Roatch Accountability Corp for year two of a three-year contract beginning in 2019-2020.
ADJOURNMENT:	Trustee White moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Suzanna George, Clerk

Date

Nancy Brownell, President,

Date

Board Approved February 9, 2021