

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDY SESSION MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 –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 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 will call the meeting to order.
ROLL CALL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Nancy Brownell, President ✓Michael Gordon, Vice President (not present for closed session) ✓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.
Public Employee Mid-Year Performance Evaluation	Superintendent
OPEN SESSION:	Convened open session in the Board Room at 5:31 p.m.
Welcome	The Board president provided an introduction to Board Study Session format.
1. Adoption of Agenda (Consideration for Action)	Trustee Neal moved and Trustee George seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
Report from Closed Session:	The Board president reported no action taken in closed session.
PUBLIC COMMENTS:	Public comment will be heard on agenda items at Board Study Sessions.

GENERAL:					
<p>2. COVID/Safety Review Application Update</p> <p>(Supplement)</p> <p>(Information and Discussion) Superintendent</p>	<p>The Board will receive an update on our current COVID status and the Safety Review Process.</p> <p>Superintendent Olson reported on our absences/quarantine for students and staff through February 22 and during the presentation information was also shared on case numbers in El Dorado County.</p> <p>She went on to report that the Safety Review process was released and it was apparent that any district that was open at all for in-person instruction would not be able to apply, as it was geared toward districts still in complete distance learning. Since that point in time, CDHP has revised the Letter of Intent form so that districts such as ours could apply for a Safety Review. RUSD has submitted the Letter of Intent and we received the application process. Late Friday evening (2/19) CDHP sent out an email to those districts that applied for a waiver which included additional details regarding distancing of student chairs. Additionally, information was received today from Dr. Manansala in an informal email from Dr. Bardach – “4 feet between chairs is measured from mid-point of back of chair to mid-point of back of another chair.” We are expecting official confirmation from Dr. Bardach by Thursday, February 25. Mrs. Olson went on to report that based upon this new distance calculation, we are now auditing all classrooms to confirm we can fit all students and meet the 4’ requirement, in some classes, furniture may need to be moved, and additional tables will be needed. Some student desks may be required to be placed in non-ideal educational options (desks against walls, close to whiteboard, some student work areas may be lost). If all classrooms are able to meet the 4’ distancing requirement, and we receive confirmation from CDHP, a waiver will not be required and by Thursday the formal notification of being able to go to full day should occur. The first day back with all students would then be March 4.</p> <p>Sample diagrams of what the classroom configurations would look like were shared along with the auditing process. Other considerations include teacher concerns that some educational components will be lost with the addition of desks/tables as normal classroom set ups will need to be spread out. Some additional furniture (tables/desks) have been ordered and more may be needed however, items may not arrive by the first day of full reopening. Superintendent Olson also shared that if for any reason we cannot meet the 4-foot calculation then we would proceed with the application process.</p> <p>Public Comment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="630 1346 1471 1875"> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 1346 867 1671">Jennifer Bazor Teacher</td> <td data-bbox="867 1346 1471 1671"> <p>Concerns about losing tables for small group instruction and placement of students (unable to see whiteboard) and asked if the Board thought it would be acceptable for teachers to not provide these instructional resources. Asked that in auditing classrooms, to consideration that rooms are worthy of teaching students, not just housing them.</p> <p><i>Mr. Scroggins thanked her for sharing her concerns and stated that they would be looking at classrooms along with principals to find potential solutions.</i></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 1671 867 1875">Collen Triana Parent</td> <td data-bbox="867 1671 1471 1875"> <p>Question regarding band and when will middle school students be able to play again.</p> <p><i>Mr. Scroggins responded to the question and stated that current guidance will not permit band instruments (any instrument that you would blow through) to be played indoors.</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	Jennifer Bazor Teacher	<p>Concerns about losing tables for small group instruction and placement of students (unable to see whiteboard) and asked if the Board thought it would be acceptable for teachers to not provide these instructional resources. Asked that in auditing classrooms, to consideration that rooms are worthy of teaching students, not just housing them.</p> <p><i>Mr. Scroggins thanked her for sharing her concerns and stated that they would be looking at classrooms along with principals to find potential solutions.</i></p>	Collen Triana Parent	<p>Question regarding band and when will middle school students be able to play again.</p> <p><i>Mr. Scroggins responded to the question and stated that current guidance will not permit band instruments (any instrument that you would blow through) to be played indoors.</i></p>
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	<p>The Board continued discussion that included: consideration of possibly moving outdoors to make up for space that may be lost in the classroom, beginning full reopening meeting the technical guidance but maybe without having all additional furniture orders in place on the first day, moving forward with the Safety Review application process simultaneously as a backup position, and providing additional whiteboards. The Board expressed that although this may not be ideal, they are confident that our teachers would be able to make the adjustments needed to adapt and still provide exceptional learning for our students.</p>				
<p>3. Frontier Program (Supplement) (Information and Discussion) Superintendent Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>The Board received information about the Frontier Academy and the parent survey results.</p> <p>Administration provided information regarding the parent survey results and considerations for the program for the 2020-2022 school year. Currently enrollment for the Frontier Academy is 702 students. Of the 134 responses received approximately 45% indicated they would probably or definitely return. However, reasons for returning showed that 61% would be due to COVID or other health concerns, with 24% unlikely to return and 13% providing other reasons (8% flexibility of schedules, 3% flexibility of schedules and COVID, and 2% because it provides more time for parents to be with students). Considerations for next year include cost equivalent to brick and mortar schools, operation as an independent study program, with parents needing to make a one-year commitment to the program. Multiple subject teachers for all grade levels, so self-contained middle school with teachers working from a school site. Students would have a normal length school day online, adjusted according to the grade level, with recess and lunch similar to in-person schools.</p> <p>Staffing options vary greatly depending on the number of students, and grade levels for the program, and could additionally impact staffing for school sites. Additional financial considerations would include: secretarial support, instructional technology support, prep periods for 4-8 grade teachers, class size would need to mirror the brick and mortar class sizes and instead of consolidating programs, we would be adding programs which increased expenses. Impacts on existing programs for reallocation of counselor, administrative support and impact on special education teachers/aides/services.</p> <p>The Board asked clarifying questions and provided comments regarding, how to have better communication between technology platforms (Aeries, Jupiter Grades etc.), how will breakfast and lunches be provided for Frontier program next year (would be able to continue if waiver is extended for free meals), and expectations/equity for teachers as well as for families/students.</p> <p>Public Comments:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="630 1482 1471 1881"> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 1482 854 1696">Erin Metcalf Teacher</td> <td data-bbox="854 1482 1471 1696">Frontier teacher using K-12 curriculum and wanted to clarify the misconception that the entire program is all online. There are additional workbook/reproducible materials that are essential for students to complete the courses. Is there reserved money to provide these resources for the program in the future?</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="630 1696 854 1881">Jen</td> <td data-bbox="854 1696 1471 1881">Thanked the Board for everything they have been doing, and for being constant advocates for our students. Concerns that with some students online and some fully in-person, how will that be equitized so that everyone is on the same page going forward.</td> </tr> </table>	Erin Metcalf Teacher	Frontier teacher using K-12 curriculum and wanted to clarify the misconception that the entire program is all online. There are additional workbook/reproducible materials that are essential for students to complete the courses. Is there reserved money to provide these resources for the program in the future?	Jen	Thanked the Board for everything they have been doing, and for being constant advocates for our students. Concerns that with some students online and some fully in-person, how will that be equitized so that everyone is on the same page going forward.
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<p>4. Summer School Program (Supplement) (Information and Discussion) Superintendent Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p>	<p>The Board reviewed and discussed information regarding the R.I.S.E and Boost Programs. Data from parent and staff surveys was also shared.</p> <p>Administration provided information regarding the summer school opportunities that will be offered for students to help mitigate learning loss and provide a jump start for students for the next school year.</p> <p>R.I.S.E Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 8-July 2, at Rescue School (8:15 to 12:45), Marina Village and Lake Forest (8:30 to 1:00) • Focus will be on ELA and Math • Class size cap 16:1 • Transportation and Extended Day will be available • Breakfast will be available as well as a grab and go lunch <p>BOOST Program Session 1 and 2 – running concurrently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 19-30, Pleasant Grove (8:15 to 12:15) and Green Valley (8:30 to 12:30) invitation only for unduplicated pupils and special education students both SDC and RSP • Class size cap 16:1 • Transportation and Extended Day will be available • Breakfast will be available as well as a grab and go lunch
<p>ADJOURNMENT:</p>	<p>Trustee White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.</p>

Suzanna George, Clerk

Date

Nancy Brownell, President

Date

Board Approved March 9, 2021