

RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

AGENDA ITEM: COVID/Safety Review Application Update

BACKGROUND:

RUSD continues working closely with El Dorado County Public Health, El Dorado County Office of Education, and California Department of Public Health as we navigate this school year. Due to this continued collaboration, the success of our hybrid model, and the success of our health and safety protocols, Rescue Union School District Board of Trustees had adopted a calendar to transition our district to full time in-person learning by March 1 at the December Board meeting.

CDPH then disseminated a revised guidance on January 14, 2021 that was a public health directive applying to all public and private schools operating in California. The directives within the document precluded our district from opening fully, as the one requirement to keep all children's seats at least 4 feet from one another was not possible in our classrooms. The mandate as it was written made it so our district must remain in hybrid status for the time being. They then created a process by which districts could apply for a Safety Review to see if they could open fully despite the inability to adhere to the 4-foot rule. When that process came out it was apparent that any district that was open at all for in-person instruction would not be able to apply. It was geared toward districts still in complete distance learning format.

STATUS:

Since that point in time, CDPH has revised the Letter of Intent form so that districts such as ours could apply for a Safety Review by the CDPH Safety Team. This review is a process by which districts can demonstrate evidence of health and safety protocols that could lead the State to give our district flexibility around certain guidelines like the current 4 foot mandated distance between children's chairs. RUSD has submitted the Letter of Intent to CDPH and we received the application process for the Safety Review on Wednesday afternoon, February 17. We have completed a draft of the application. We are meeting with EDCPH, EDCOE, and all area superintendents to review our applications. The plan is to submit it first to our public health officer, Dr. Nancy Williams, for her approval and then submit it to the CDPH Safety Team. CDPH will have 7 business days in which to either approve our plan or deny it. If it is approved, our students may attend school in-person full time within 4 days of that approval, as that is the timeframe approved by the RUSD Board of Trustees. Should CDPH deny our plan, we will remain in hybrid status.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Mitigation of Learning Loss funding will be utilized to cover costs of our programs offered

BOARD GOALS:

Board Focus Goal I - STUDENT NEEDS

- A. Student Safety and Well Being: Enhance and encourage social, emotional, ethical and civic learning by providing a safe, supportive and diverse environment.
- B. Curriculum and Instruction: Provide a meaningful, innovative learning environment using Common Core, and other student content standards and research-based, progressive, effective instructional methodology, instructional materials, staff development and technology that will ensure student success in career and college.

Board Focus Goal II – FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Keep the district fiscally solvent through prudent LCAP aligned budget processes in order to meet the needs of our students.

Board Focus Goal II - COMMUNICATION / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Establish and maintain consistent and effective communication that is transparent and timely in an effort to provide and receive information that will engage and educate our District and community.

Board Focus Goal IV - STAFF NEEDS

Attract and retain diverse, knowledgeable, dedicated employees who are skilled and supported in their commitment to provide quality education for our students.

Board Focus Goal V - FACILITY / HOUSING

Build, improve and maintain school facilities to meet current and future education needs while integrating the most effective and efficient use of resources.

Board Focus Goal VI – CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Create and promote programs that support, reward and incentivize employees to perform at exceptional levels for the benefit of our students.

RECOMMENDATION:

Information Only

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AGENDA ITEM: Frontier Academy Considerations for 2021-2022 School Year

BACKGROUND:

For the 2020-2021 school year, due to the COVID pandemic, RUSD provided families and staff with an alternative to in-person instruction. The Frontier Online Academy has been successful, with 702 students participating, TK-8th grade.

As we look toward the 2021-2022 school year, we need to determine whether or not we should or could provide this opportunity again. There are many things to consider in this decision. For one, it will take a considerable amount of money to continue operating the program, ensuring that classrooms operate at capacity will be an important component, and being able to reallocate personnel and services will also be critical elements to consider.

In order to guide our decision making, we conducted an initial survey of families currently in the Frontier program, to find out their thoughts and opinions about our current program and also if they would be interested in Frontier again next year and why. We also reached out to the teachers in Frontier to gather their feedback and perspectives.

STATUS:

Cabinet will share the survey data with the Board of Trustees at the February 23, 2021 Study Session as part of the preliminary discussion and planning for the next school year. Possible scenarios will be shared with the RUSD Board of Trustees to discuss.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A at this point. Discussion only.

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RECOMMENDATION:

District Cabinet requests direction from the Board of Trustees as to whether or not to continue exploring the feasibility of providing Frontier Academy to some degree for the 2021-2022 school year.

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AGENDA ITEM: Summer Learning Opportunities for 2021

BACKGROUND:

In order to support students and mitigate any potential learning loss due to COVID-19, RUSD will provide rigorous summer learning opportunities to help fill gaps students have and prepare them for the upcoming school year. Students will be assessed in the spring. Teachers will design lessons and units to address the learning gaps during the summer programs, based upon the essential standards the District determines to be most important for students to master.

R.I.S.E. (Readiness. Improvement. Success. Empowerment.)

- Dates for students: June 8-July 2
- Time: At Rescue the timeframe will be 8:15-12:45
At Marina and Lake Forest, the timeframe will be from 8:30-1:00
- Transportation will be available.
- The focus will be English Language Arts and Math.
- We will have a secretary and administrator at each site. There will be one roving nurse and 1 roving counselor, as well as instructional aide time available.
- Students will have breakfast available and students will receive a Grab and Go lunch at the end of the session each day.
- So far, we have 400+ students expressing interest in the program.

Extended School Year (ESY) for SDC Students

- This program will mirror the time frame and dates of the R.I.S.E program for our Special Day Class students. The program will be housed at both Lake Forest and Marina Village.
- Transportation will be available.
- Students will have breakfast available and students will receive a Grab and Go lunch at the end of the session each day.
- The support personnel will be shared with the R.I.S.E program, but also additional instructional aides will be allocated to the ESY program.

BOOST Programs

First Boost Program will be for Unduplicated Pupils (EL and SED Students)

Second Boost Program will be for Resource and Special Day Class students.

- Dates for both BOOST programs: July 19-30
- Location: Pleasant Grove from 8:15-12:15
Green Valley from 8:30-12:30
- Staffing: 1 secretary and 1 administrator, instructional aides, and teachers
- The focus: To give qualified students a BOOST for the upcoming year.
- Transportation will be available.
- Students will have breakfast available and each student will receive a Grab and Go lunch at the end of the session each day.

STATUS:

RUSD is currently planning and surveying parents and staff to determine the level of interest in these programs. Staffing needs are being posted this week. Assessments are being determined to help with determining which students will be prioritized for participation and also to determine which essential standards will be addressed during the summer programs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

COVID Learning Loss Mitigation money and Title III money will be utilized for the R.I.S.E. and EL Boost programs, and General Fund money will be used for the ESY and Special Education BOOST programs.

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RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion and information only.