

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 - 6:30 p.m. Open Session
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, this 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 |
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| CALL TO ORDER: | Board president called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. |
| ROLL CALL: | ✓Kim White, President ✓Stephanie Kent, Vice President ✓Tagg Neal, Clerk ✓Nancy Brownell, Member ✓Suzanna George, Member ✓Cheryl Olson, Superintendent and Board Secretary ✓Sean Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services ✓Dave Scroggins, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction |
| OPEN SESSION: | Convened open session in the Board Room |
| Welcome | The Board president provided an introduction to Board meeting proceedings. |
| Flag Salute | The Board president led the flag salute. |
| 1. Adoption of Agenda (Consideration for Action) | Trustee George moved to re-sequence the agenda moving Item 5 – Board Reserve Levels for Economic Uncertainty and Budget Guidelines Document before Item 2 – Adoption of the 2020-21 Budget and to pull Item 11 – June 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes for revision. Trustee Brownell seconded the motion to approve the agenda with listed changes. The motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White <i>(Item numbers and sequence will reflect this change)</i> |
| STAFF RECOGNITION: | Difference Maker Awards: District Office staff members, Virginia Tahmahkera, Personnel Technician and Sharon Laurel, Administrative Assistant were recognized. |
| PUBLIC COMMENTS: | There were no public comments. |

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| <p>BUSINESS AND FACILITIES ITEMS:</p> | <p>These items are provided for Board information, discussion, and/or action.</p> |
| <p>2. Board Reserve Levels for Economic Uncertainty and Budget Guidelines Document</p> <p>(Supplement)</p> <p>(Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Business Services</p> <p><i>(previously Item 5)</i></p> | <p>The Board will consider approval of the Board Budget Guidelines for 2020-2021 regarding reserves for economic uncertainty.</p> <p>Assistant Superintendent, Sean Martin explained that in the past, this document was used when developing the District’s budget. This document was last approved in April of 2017 and included an assignment to increase the economic uncertainty reserve from the required 3% to 10% due to declining enrollment. At the June 9th meeting when the budget was presented, it was noted that the Board might need to update policy, regarding reserve levels due to the multi-year projections showing ending fund balance levels below 10%. Review of BP (3100) showed no record of being updated with this change, therefore the Budget Guidelines document has been updated to reflect the current economic factors facing the District. The Board was appreciative of this document showing the change and also showing the intent to restore the reserves as funding became available. Updating this document provides the most flexibility and it was also noted these guidelines will be useful for the Budget Advisory Committee in establishing parameters.</p> <p>Trustee George moved and Trustee Brownell seconded to approve the Board Reserve Levels for Economic Uncertainty and Budget Guidelines Document. The motion passed 5-0.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p> |
| <p>3. Adoption of 2020-2021 Budget</p> <p>(Supplement)</p> <p>(Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Business Services</p> <p><i>(previously Item 2)</i></p> | <p>The 2020-2021 budget provides the District with a budget to meet the goals and needs of the District. District administration recommends adoption of the 2020-2021 budget.</p> <p>The budget was presented to the Board at the June 9, 2020 meeting and Assistant Superintendent, Sean Martin provided highlights regarding the Governor and legislative leaders recent budget agreement indicating the outlook is somewhat more positive for K-12 education.</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Instead of COLA and 10% cut now we will see no 10% cut and no COLA, flat funding based off 19-20 ADA which equates to about 2.3 million for Rescue and more less will help balance our budget. - This will be balanced with deferrals, which will still create cash flow issues in 2020-2021 and following year. - Federal one-time money for COVID-19 (some other funding), will help to address learning loss mitigation fund originally to support increase programs in the summer, or add extra services. The new model provides some funding for special education population, but also supplemental and concentration districts as well as some allocations for all districts. Funds can be spent on four general categories: student learning supports, general measures that extend instructional time for students, providing additional core academic support for students who need it and providing integrated services that support teaching and learning – such as student and staff technology needs, |

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| | <p>mental health services, staff professional development and nutrition. These funds must be spent by December which would make it difficult to use for staffing as there would be an additional cost for the remainder of the year. It is also contingent upon the adoption of a Learning Continuity and Attendance plan. The template for the plan will not be available until August but must be adopted by September 30. This document will replace the LCAP for 2020-2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The budget agreement includes and ADA hold harmless provision for the 2020-2021 that uses the adjusted ADA for 2019-2020 but still must meet the instructional minute requirements through a combination of in person and distance learning. - It also prohibits layoffs for certificated and specified classified employees (nutrition, transportation or custodial services) in 2020-21. <p>This is still preliminary information and more details to come.</p> <p>Mr. Martin concluded that we will continue to monitor the budget with further discussions in 2020-21 as we still have moving deficits and reductions.</p> <p>Trustee Brownell moved and Trustee Kent seconded to approve the adoption of the 2020-2021 Budget. The motion passed 5-0.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p> |
| <p>4. Statement of Reasons for Assigned and Unassigned Reserves Above the State Recommended Minimum Level</p> <p>(Supplement)</p> <p>(Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Business Services</p> <p>(previously Item 3)</p> | <p>The Board considered approval of the Statement of Reasons for Assigned and Unassigned Reserves Above the State Recommended Minimum Level. Per Education Code Section 42127(a)(2)(B) school districts are required to include this statement with the presentation of the budget.</p> <p>Assistant Superintendent, Sean Martin reported that this was brought to the Board at the June 9, 2020 for review and is a requirement that annually when we adopt the budget an explanation of what our reserves are for and the intended purpose of use and is now presented for action.</p> <p>Trustee Neal moved and Trustee Brownell seconded to approve the Statement of Reasons for Assigned and Unassigned Reserves Above the State Recommended Level. The motion passed 5-0.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p> |
| <p>5. Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds 2019-2020 and 2020-2021</p> <p>(Supplement)</p> <p>(Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Business Services</p> <p>(previously Item 4)</p> | <p>Revenues from Proposition 30, <i>The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012</i>, are deposited into a state account called Education Protection Account (EPA). Proposition 30 requires that the use of EPA funds be determined by the governing Board.</p> <p>Assistant Superintendent, Sean Martin reported the 2020-21 EPA funds will be spent on certificated staff (non-administration) and additionally the district is updating the 2019-20 allocation all of which will be spent on certificated staff (non-administration). Both comply with requirements from the state of California.</p> |

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| | <p>Trustee George moved and Trustee Neal seconded to approve the Education Protection Account (EPA) Funds 2019-20 and 2020-21. The motion passed 5-0.</p> <p>Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p> |
| <p>GENERAL</p> | |
| <p>6. COVID-19 Update (Supplement) (Information and Discussion) Superintendent</p> | <p>The Board received information regarding our status and plans for the future as our schools continue to be closed due to COVID19 restrictions.</p> <p>Superintendent Olson started by providing information on the work of the reopening committee to date and survey results. The reopening committee, with over 40 members from RUFT, CSEA and Leadership, has been working hard over the summer to prepare our plans for fall.</p> <p>The committee is focused on 4 areas: Health and Safety, Academics, Social Emotional Supports and Technology. The purpose of the committee is creating the umbrella protocols that will be followed districtwide. Then after each area is developed by the committee the specific area gets sent to the appropriate department or site to refine the plan knowing that something might work better for one department and differently for another, but must stay within the developed parameters. The refined plans are returned to Superintendent and the Assistants Superintendents before it is sent to the appropriated union negotiations team, for possible negotiations.</p> <p>Health and Safety is pretty much complete. Ideas that would most likely not be feasible at this point have been taken out and these umbrella protocols have been sent to the appropriate department/sites for refinement.</p> <p>The Academic discussion started with a lengthy conversation about the possibility of a hybrid model. After through discussion, the committee determined that we could meet the needs of students not wanting to return to a traditional model by offering a distance learning program with limited in-person contact with teachers</p> <p>Initial conversations about a Distance Model, determined that the elementary program could look different than the middle school due to needs and configurations. The group discussed the pros and cons of having a learning management systems like Fuel Ed, Edgenuity or Canvas as a base platform, the cost is a challenge but it would provide consistency. Another benefit would be if there are not enough students to fill a class, we could more easily have a teacher with multiple grade levels. At middle school, we discussed the possibility of the keeping the students that are in Distance learning on their traditional rosters and they just come part of the time. This would allow students who might go back and forth between traditional and distance learning, to have space on the roster without a huge shuffle. Teachers would have to provide live streaming to those remaining at home or video-taped lessons of some sort, with additional logistics and details to be worked out. There was</p> |

discussion that at the elementary level this would be difficult to keep the distance learning students on the traditional roster.

After discussing accountability of students and parents who are involved in a distance learning program, the recommendation at this point would be to go with a traditional grading methods like the high school did this spring, keeping track of scores and grades but then at the end of the trimester the student could decide whether to go with a traditional grade or a type of pass/fail system. Additional parent responsibilities would include: Distance Learning compact, transporting when students are assigned to attend – not participating in lunch, recess or other things like electives etc. or it negates their desire for social distancing. Parents will also need to ensure that the students are engaged in their work, participating in discussions etc. Also part of the discussion included special needs students desiring a distance learning program, IEP's would need to be revised.

There are also a number of other areas that still need to be discussed such as communication, check-ins, live/video instruction, attendance and tracking participation, access to devices, teacher selection and reassignment process, staff training, and social emotional supports.

Mrs. Olson went on to report the subcommittee researching ideas for a possible Block Schedule at the middle school level, shared the results with the entire committee. The question was raised about whether we would move to a block schedule for academic reasons, or is it more for health and safety and it was determined that it would mainly be for health and safety reasons. The catalyst and benefit was to reduce the number of student contacts per day. Challenges would include the Block schedules at Pleasant Grove and Marina Village may need to look somewhat different, daily repetition could be a concern for subjects like PE/music, absences – when a student is absent they would miss the equivalent of two days of instruction, PE supervision and indoor scheduling regarding rainy days or poor air quality. This conversation will be continued to determine if the benefits will outweigh the challenges.

The Board discussed the need for parent input, in an advisory capacity, regarding the Block schedule as it is a change from our current schedule. This model has however been used throughout the state for quite some time and has shown to be very effective.

Mrs. Olson shared there was also discussion about the latest guidelines put out by Governor Newsom and CDE regarding the wearing of face masks. We will need to require masks at this point unless we are outside and can socially distance. Additionally, as recommended by the CDE guidelines, we will seek to increase the space between desks to maximize the space between students. The Board discussed whether masks were appropriate for student use and what could be the long range impacts such as speech patterns for younger students (particularly pertaining to intervention strategies). Public health does provide recommendations, but one size may not fit all. Perhaps some other options might be considered, for instance when outside and distanced, masks are not required. It was also noted that many other countries who have used masks for a long time, for various reason, have been academically successful. Masks do provide protection to control the spread of the

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| | <p>virus and perhaps there are other options to consider such as face shields/visors. The goal is to provide the best education while keeping our students and staff safe.</p> <p>Survey results were shared and about 81% of our families had a desire to return to a traditional model, about 15% desired a hybrid model and 4% indicated their desire for a distance learning program. Due to the number and the desire for social distancing, the only two options that make sense are the traditional in conjunctions with a distance model. Another issue is the fact that each site has very few students who desire something other than traditional. It ranges from 16 students in the entire school, across all grade levels, up to about 120 at one of our middle schools. Our challenge will be making classes work with these numbers.</p> <p>The Board shared their appreciation to administration, and staff for their diligence and tremendous work throughout these unprecedented circumstances.</p> <p>Comment: Amber Alexander – Parent RE: Questions about block schedule limiting student contact, how would requiring masks change number of families desiring to return in person, and extended day offerings.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>7. Board Policy Revisions/Updates (Supplement) (First Reading and Possible Consideration for Action) Superintendent</p> | <p>The Board reviews and/or adopts Board Policy. The following policies are presented for first reading and possible consideration for action.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="613 999 1385 1171"> <tr> <td>BP 0470</td> <td>COVID-19 Mitigation Plan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BP 4113.5 4213.5 4313.5</td> <td>Working Remotely</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BP 6157</td> <td>Distance Learning</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Board reviewed these policies and determined they would be brought back to the July 14, Special Meeting for second reading and possible consideration of approval.</p> | BP 0470 | COVID-19 Mitigation Plan | BP 4113.5 4213.5 4313.5 | Working Remotely | BP 6157 | Distance Learning |
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| BP 4113.5 4213.5 4313.5 | Working Remotely | | | | | | |
| BP 6157 | Distance Learning | | | | | | |
| <p>PERSONNEL:</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>8. Certificated Personnel (Supplement) (Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p> | <p>Periodically, changes in staffing occur due to hiring, resignations or requests for leaves. The Board considered approval of the following certificated personnel changes:</p> <p><u>Leave of Absence (LOA)</u> Lynette Berry, Teacher, LOA 100% (.20 FTE), Lake Forest, effective 7/1/20 Jennifer White, Teacher, LOA .55 (1.0 FTE), Green Valley, effective 7/1/20</p> <p><u>Retirement</u> Kimberley Reyes, Teacher, (1.0 FTE), Pleasant Grove/Marina Village, effective 6/30/20</p> <p>Trustee Neal moved and Trustee Kent seconded to approve the above listed personnel changes. The motion passed 5-0</p> <p>Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p> | | | | | | |

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| <p>9. Classified Management (Supplement)</p> <p>(Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p> | <p>Periodically, changes in staffing occur due to hiring, resignations or requests for leaves. The Board considered approval of the following classified management personnel changes:</p> <p><u>Resignation</u> Phil Jones, Maintenance & Operations Coordinator, (1.0 FTE), M&O, effective 6/30/20</p> <p>Trustee Brownell moved and Trustee George seconded to approve the above listed personnel changes. The motion passed 5-0. Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p> |
| <p>10. Classified Personnel (Supplement)</p> <p>(Consideration for Action) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction</p> | <p>Periodically, changes in staffing occur due to hiring, resignations or requests for leaves. The Board considered approval of the following classified personnel changes:</p> <p><u>Employment</u> Terese Ellis, Food Service Worker, (.44 FTE), Green Valley, effective 8/10/20 Julie Fruge, Food Service Worker, (.16 FTE), Green Valley, effective 8/10/20</p> <p><u>Promotion</u> Denise Thomas, School Secretary, (1.0 FTE), Lake Forest, effective 7/1/20</p> <p><u>Resignation</u> Alexis Ryan, Itinerant Independence Facilitator, (.75 FTE), Lakeview, effective, 5/29/20</p> <p>Trustee George moved and Trustee Brownell seconded to approve the above listed personnel changes. The motion passed 5-0. Ayes: Trustee George, Brownell, Neal, Kent and White</p> |
| <p>CONSENT AGENDA: (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.</p> |
| <p>11. Board Meeting Minutes (Supplement)</p> | <p>Minutes of June 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.</p> <p><i>This item was pulled for revision and will be brought back to the July 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting</i></p> |
| <p>CLOSED SESSION:</p> | <p>The Board may reconvene to closed session as authorized by Government Code Sections 3549.1, 54956.9, 54956.8, 54957, and 54957.6 and Education Code Sections 35146 and 48918.</p> |
| <p>OPEN SESSION:</p> | <p>Reconvene open session</p> |
| <p>REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:</p> | <p>The Board president will report any action taken in closed session.</p> |
| <p>ADJOURNMENT:</p> | <p>It was noted that the next meeting of the Board will actually be held on July 14, 2020 and the next regularly scheduled Board meeting is August 11, 2020.</p> <p>Trustee Kent moved and Trustee Neal seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.</p> |

Tagg Neal, Clerk

Date

Kim White, President

Date