

BEAR VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2021, VIA THE ZOOM WEBINAR
PLATFORM PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S EXECUTIVE
ORDER N-29-20 DATED MARCH 17, 2020

Present: Mrs. Cathy Herrick
Dr. Stephen Foulkes
Ms. Sudie Smart
Mr. Jack Roberts
Mr. Paul Zamoyta

Also Present: Dr. Mary Suzuki
Mrs. Linda Rosado
Dr. Lisa Waner
Ms. Lucinda Newton

President Herrick noted this meeting is being recorded.

1. Call to Order Open Session

President Herrick called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

M20-21-068

President Herrick called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Smartt to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

Second by Dr. Foulkes.

President Herrick called for the vote. Said motion was approved
by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Foulkes/Herrick/Smartt/Roberts/Zamoyta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items

President Herrick called for Public Comment on Closed Session agenda items.

Hearing no request to make Public Comment, President Herrick adjourned the
meeting to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

4. Closed Session

4.a Pursuant to Government Code 54957.6: Conference with Labor Negotiators:

Ms. Linda Rosado, Executive Director Business Services/Classified Personnel
and Dr. Lisa Waner, Executive Director 6-12 Curriculum, and

Instruction/Certificated Personnel. Two Bargaining units: CSEA Chapter #415 and B.V.E.A.

4.b. Potential Litigation

5. Call to Order Open Session

President Herrick called the meeting back to open Session at 5:35 p.m.

6. All present participated in a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

7. Report of Action Taken in Closed Session

No action taken.

8. Community-Staff Presentations

8.a. Rachel Green, Senior Manager of Eide Bailly, LLP presented the results of the 2019-20 Audited Actuals Report. Ms. Green expressed her appreciation to the Bear Valley Unified School District administration and staff for their diligent assistance in getting this report done on time. “The District received an unmodified opinion over State compliance which is the highest level of assurance we can provide to you.” There were no State compliance findings or questioned costs in this audit. There were no instances of noncompliance in the audit that required reporting. Ms. Green could not remember a school district that had no findings or audit adjustments. She stated that this is a very impressive audit. Mrs. Rosado thanked Ms. Green and Mr. Rauch for their hard work and for acknowledging her team’s hard work on this project.

9. Hearing Section

9.a. Public Comment

President Herrick read the parameters to make public comment.

President Herrick read the following statements:

Submitted by Tiffany Santillan:

My name is Tiffany Santillan and I am a 2nd grade teacher at North Shore Elementary. I would like to start off by saying that I know we all have very different opinions at this time and I respect all sides. With that being said, I would like my opinion to be known as well. I firmly believe that we should be not teaching in person with the hybrid model right now. It is not safe or effective. Our infection rate has never been higher. Our hospital is completely full, and our town is the busiest it’s been in months. This situation will not be slowing down anytime soon, and our current hybrid plan is not reaching our students.

Hybrid learning is not an ideal situation. Since being on hybrid, my attendance has dropped dramatically. I am not able to monitor my students and work with them as frequently as I was with distance learning. Today I sat in a class with 3 out of my scheduled 9 students. Most of my students are shifting in and out of distance learning for various reasons. This inconsistency in attendance and types of learning means that all needs are not able to be addressed.

Having the students back hybrid will make this infection spread faster and in turn, slow the progress towards getting our students back full time. I want my students back, full time, in my classroom when we have slowed the spread and it is safe. I miss them and our regular school day so much!

I contracted the Corona Virus in August. I was one of the first teachers to get it. It is taking a long time to recover; I am not sure if I ever fully will. I still get easily tired doing the simplest tasks, my sense of taste never came back fully, and I have had significant hair loss that isn't seeming to stop. I don't wish this upon anyone. The safest thing to do at this time is to protect our community and go back to full time distance learning until the vaccine is easier to come by. Thank you so much for hearing my thoughts.

Tiffany Santillan
2nd Grade Teacher

Submitted by Jenny Hollenbaugh:

Good Evening Dr Suzuki and District Cabinet and Governing Board Members.

My name is Jenny Hollenbaugh. I have lived in Big Bear for my entire life. My husband and I are raising two daughters here who are currently attending the high school. It's such a unique opportunity to be able to have my daughters attend the same schools I did and I now work at the same elementary school I attended. I love my school, community, and district.

I am very aware that everyone has mixed feelings about our current situation. I have attended almost every board meeting since March. I have listened to the opinions on both sides of having students safely in the classroom, and I truly have an understanding and deep respect for both sides of the argument. However, I truly believe that as a mother, community member, and Bear Valley Unified employee that the tipping point is doing what is best for our amazing students. I would like to thank our leadership for making the bold decision to return to school on hybrid. I know these decisions are not easy and not taken lightly. With k-3 and eventually 4-5 returning we can prove that our schools can keep students safe and support them academically, socially, and emotionally. I believe this is how we move forward to eventually get our middle and high school students back in the classroom with their teachers, who they need so much right now.

This week I have been outside every morning assisting in the health check of students. They are so excited to be at school and so many parents are so appreciative that their kids have the opportunity to be with their teachers at least two days a week. We check temperatures, check for masks, and ensure students are ready for school. I have watched our custodians go above and beyond to ensure our campus is sanitized and safe for both staff and students.

As a parent I am encouraged and hopeful that I too will be able to have the opportunity to see my high school girls off to school in the morning soon. Especially my senior who so deserves every amazing experience that I had at Big Bear High School.

Thank you for your time and all you do.

Jenny Hollenbaugh

Submitted by Georgi Jayne:

Good evening Dr. Suzuki, and board members,

My name is Georgi Jayne, and my husband and I have two boys, 6th and 9th graders, who attend school in the Bear Valley Unified School district. We are writing this letter in support of moving forward with a return to in-person classes for all students.

We highly respect everyone's opinions on the matter, both for and against, but in our household and others we have talked with, we are seeing the need to return to school greater and greater each day.

At this point, our opinion is that the students' mental and physical health greatly outweigh the risks involved in returning. Sadness, hopelessness, and sorrow are just a few of the words that come to mind as my sons sit, once again, isolated in their rooms staring at a computer screen day in and day out.

We appreciate all of the safety measures that the district has in place and are sure that with our kids returning, they will continue to feel and be safe as they join their classmates and teachers.

We appreciate all that you have done for us so far within the district and thank you for your time with this matter.

Georgi Jayne

Submitted by Amy Stockwell:

Dear Members of the Board,

I am a teacher. I am an essential worker. My job is essential. School is essential. What we do for students is absolutely essential. We teach them essential academic skills such as reading, writing, adding, subtracting, and so much more. We teach them other valuable life skills such as how to socialize, interact, set goals and be independent. We give them love, shelter, and often times a safe space. We teach them skills that cannot be measured by a test, such as how to manage their feelings. During this time of a pandemic, many of our little people are having some big feelings that we need to be there to help them address.

Let me be perfectly clear. I am absolutely in favor of schools remaining open. I am concerned that the louder angrier voices are drowning out the people like myself who wish to remain open. As an educator my primary concern is my students. Now that I have students in front of me, I can see the detrimental effects that this shutdown has had on them. They are academically behind, craving social interaction, and need a solid routine. We have a looming educational crisis on our hands. We cannot fail this entire "COVID-19 generation" of students. As educators, our job is to serve our students. Zoom is not how we should be attempting to serve our students. Is the hybrid model harder than distance learning? Absolutely. Is it more work? Yes, but this is my job. My job is not to sit at home and Zoom and take the easy route. My job is to serve students. Having students in our classrooms is what is best for the children.

As a mother of a kindergarten student, I have seen first-hand the damage that we are doing to our students. My son went to TK last year and was thriving. He loved his teacher, his peers, and his school. This year my son has had more emotional outbreaks, and often fights me when it is time to do schoolwork at home. He dreads his "Zoom days," but looks forward to his in-person days.

On the days that he is in school we can actually be a mother and a child, while laughing and playing together instead of the blurred lines of homeschool teacher and mother where I'm holding up the next piece of work that we must accomplish. He loves his school and looks forward to seeing Mr. Marquez, Mrs. Kim, and his friends. These are the relationships and connections that matter and that cannot be forged over Zoom. How does a child make friends over Zoom? You can't. Now that the students are back in class, they are more engaged on Zoom and will unmute themselves to say hi to their new friends.

Those 19 excited waving faces are why I teach. I teach for the relationships, the light bulb moments. I teach for the hugs and the hand drawn pictures and notes, for the magic and positivity that can only be brought to you by a child. I teach to make a change in the lives of the next generation.

Dr. Suzuki and board members, I commend you for standing up and being brave. I applaud the choice you made, despite what other districts may be doing. I thank you for making the right choice and bringing our students back to our campuses. It is my hope that ALL students will soon be brought back to campus to reap the benefits of all of our amazing teachers. Thank you for your time.

Amy Stockwell
Kindergarten Teacher
North Shore Elementary School

Sharon Meagher read the following statement:

Good Evening, I am a 2nd grade teacher at North Shore Elementary School. Much of last school year and all of this school year has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our Small, tight-knit community has had a slow up-tick in COVID case numbers from the beginning, but the unbelievable rise in COVID case numbers in the last few weeks, forcing closure of local businesses due to employee outbreaks, causing our local hospital to turn into a scene straight out of "Mash", and putting great fear into the minds of many in our community. This massive outbreak is occurring at the same time our school district has decided to follow through with the Hybrid school schedule for grades TK-e return to our classrooms. Our community is continually physically inundated with infected and exposed visitors. The majority of school districts throughout Southern California and the rest of California especially San Bernardino County, remain on Distance Learning due to the incredibly high surge in the number of COVID cases throughout all counties. Those of us that have personally experienced COVID know how horribly vicious this virus is, how it sneaks up on you and your family, and that we would not want to experience this hellacious virus ever again. Because of the incredible surge in case numbers all around us, the school district's decision to return to in-person teaching is showing little regard for the health and safety for our staff, both classified and certificated. This decision is also showing little regard for our students and their families. I would ask that you reconsider this Hybrid (in-person) classroom schedule decision and switch our schedule back to Distance Learning until more of our community members have received the vaccine and the current surge has subsided. The health and safety of students and staff is of utmost importance.

Alan Lee, Big Bear Lake City Council Member, District 1, stated that he wanted to come by this evening to introduce himself and say that he is looking forward to working in a collaborative way with the School Board in areas that they may find common ground, to enhance the educational opportunities for our children. Mr. Lee shared that he is the son of a public-school teacher and his youngest son is a teacher. Councilman Lee stated that he offered no opinion at this time; but, wished the Board God's wisdom and understanding as they make the tough decision whether to return to school or not. Councilman Lee invited the Board Members and Superintendent to attend a town hall meeting he is holding on January 23rd at 10:00 a.m. via telephone. Councilman Lee shared information on an app called Donors Choose, where a person can help sponsor the educational needs of students and school districts across the country. He noticed that a one of our 2nd grade teachers; Tiffany Santillan, is utilizing the site to raise funds for Kindles for her students to encourage read-a-loud at home. Councilman Lee states he is contributing and encourages others to do the same.

Rachel Edwards read the following statement:

Dear Governing Board Members:

My name is Rachel Edwards, and I am a third-grade teacher at North Shore Elementary School. I first attended North Shore as a kindergartner many years ago, and I feel fortunate that I've now been able to be part of the North Shore family for much of my 15 years of teaching. I care deeply about my students, their families, and our community. I am writing this as someone who contracted COVID-19, and who is still feeling the effects of it several months later.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to please reconsider returning to in-person learning at this time. We are currently experiencing the highest levels of transmission, hospitalization, and death rates of this pandemic. The lack of availability of medical care, no matter what type of health emergency one might face, is frightening. My concerns for the health and safety of our teachers, staff members, and school families has only grown with the news regarding how the UK strain (currently here in our community) is affecting children in England. We are hopeful the vaccine will soon be available to all school employees who choose to get it, helping to make it safer for everyone.

Also, to be considered are the difficulties experienced with the hybrid model. We are struggling more with students' attendance and with their completion of assignments. It is hard to maintain consistency for all students and, with upcoming holidays, there will be several students that lose two Mondays. Also, a greater number of families are choosing to remain on distance learning due to the current health situation.

As an educator, I want nothing more than to be in the classroom safely with my students, *all my students*, and by returning to school now, when infection rates are so high, we will most likely contribute to the delay of this being able to happen.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

10. Consent Calendar

M20-21-069

President Herrick called for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion by Mr. Zamoyta to approve the Consent Calendar as follows:

- Employ Lead Cafeteria Worker – North Shore Elementary School (Lo Ami Donoho)
- Employ 1.0 FTE Temporary Teacher – Bear Valley Virtual Academy (Heather Lindquist)
- Revised Extra Duty Stipends Not Paid on Schedule C for the 2020-2021 School Year
- Unpaid Student Teaching Agreement with National University for the 2020-2021 School year
- Consulting services agreement between Bear Valley Unified School District (BVUSD) and Davis Demographics and Planning, Inc.
- Consulting Agreement with Eide Bailly, LLP
- Renewal of the San Bernardino County Probation Department and Bear Valley Unified School District
- BVUSD Education Foundation request to construct transitional grading along the District’s property line
- Obsolete Equipment
- Purchase Order Report – FY 2020-2021, Purchase Orders, Numbers 210523 through 210589
- Governing Board Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2020, December 9, 2020, December 11, 2020
- Certification of Board Minutes
- Certification of Board Minutes

Second by Dr. Foulkes. President Herrick called for the vote. Said motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Foulkes/Herrick/Roberts/Smartt/Zamoyta
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

11. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar

None.

12. Employee Announcements

Dr. Suzuki introduced the employees approved under the Consent Calendar.

13. Information Section & Reports

13.a Superintendent Comments/Calendar

Dr. Suzuki shared that our Transitional Kindergarten through 3rd grade students returned to school on January 11th, with the Hybrid model. An average of eight to ten students were in each classroom. Parents and students were happy to be back at school. It was wonderful to see the joy on our students’ faces. Students receiving special services Kindergarten through 12th grade were also welcomed back. Dr. Suzuki went on to say that our classified staff, teachers, and principals have worked diligently, above and beyond, to provide a safe environment for our students return. We have all K-3 staff back in the classrooms. We have only had two students and two staff members report that they were exposed during the holiday break (not at school).

They were still quarantined as of Monday, so there were substitute teachers in those classrooms. The teachers are expected back next week. During the Board Meeting we continue to hear the community's desire to go back to school. Our 4th and 5th grade students are scheduled to return to school January 25th. There has been a drop in COVID cases between December 26th and January 2nd compared to the week before. We are awaiting further data. Dr. Suzuki also shared that we are looking forward to providing our staff with the vaccination late January or early February. We are continuing to monitor the State and County data because we are not allowed to bring our middle and high school students back until we enter the red tier. Both the middle and high school are prepared to bring the students back when it's time. We have small cohort groups of 6th through 12th grade students who may need extra support. If anyone is struggling please contact your principal. There may be a cohort group that we can bring your child back in. Dr. Suzuki expressed her appreciation to our teachers and classified staff for their hard work and making this possible. Dr. Foulkes asked what our actual attendance is. Dr. Suzuki shared that our attendance in September was about 90% in December it was about 88%. Some Districts in the Desert Mountain Region are at 70%. Some families are making the personal decision to keep their children home for the next two weeks. Mr. Roberts asked for the rationale behind going to school on Hybrid rather than going to school four or five day a week. Dr. Suzuki explained that we have to maintain the CDC guidelines which are six feet apart and wearing masks. Some teachers have 10 on Monday, Wednesday and 14 on Tuesday, Thursday. We cannot bring all 24 students back at this time because we have to slow the spread. We have been very fortunate that we are not considered spreaders. There are fewer incidents occurring at our schools compared to the community, because of all of the precautions we have taken. Our TK at Baldwin lane is daily, half in the morning and half in the afternoon. We would love to do that with all of our TK through 3rd grade; however, we don't have the transportation to be able to do that. We have to make sure we follow best practice so that we meet the concerns of our staff and our families. Mr. Zamoyta asked for an update regarding distribution of the vaccine. Dr. Suzuki stated that the vaccinations will be provided by Redlands Hospital and administered at City Hall. We will let our staff know immediately when the vaccine is available. We will send out a survey to staff to see who is interested in getting the vaccine now, who will want the vaccine in the future, or not at all. People are making different choices. Because we are in school, they told us that we would be prioritized. We are pushing for that. Mr. Zamoyta asked about the lag time between shots. Dr. Suzuki shared that she heard it's about 50% immunity after the first shot after the second shot you are at the full percentage and believes it is two weeks between shots. She does not have data, but that is what she heard. Dr. Foulkes asked for clarification on why we are waiting for the vaccine because our employees are eligible and we are in the tier that is eligible. Dr. Suzuki stated that we are waiting for the vaccine to get in hand, possibly by the end of the month. Dr. Suzuki continued with follow up on the reconfiguration of Big Bear Elementary School. During the December 9th Board Meeting Mr. Phil Hamilton and Mr. Ron Peavey presented findings on the 7/11 committee. Based on their findings and current data, it was recommended that we consolidate our elementary sites, moving our Big Bear Elementary students to North Shore and Baldwin Lane Elementary. This reconfiguration would allow Big Bear Elementary students

access to resources, after school enrichment and extra-curricular activities that the other schools have, as well as to help the District maintain fiscal solvency. Based on the approval tonight of the contract with Davis Demographics that was in the Consent Calendar, they will help us revise the boundaries. Dr. Suzuki requested the Board discuss and provide direction for a timeline of the Big Bear Elementary reconfiguration, that we confirm we want to have the reconfiguration completed by the end of the school year 2020-21. Families would receive notification of their child's placement by June if not sooner. If your direction is to proceed with the reconfiguration, we will have a community meeting on January 21st at 6:00 p.m. to share the process with our families and answer any questions. This does not cover the repurposing discussion this just covers the reconfiguration, to make sure our students, teachers and families are moved into the new school and make sure that everyone is settled in first. We would like that done by May or June 2021 so they are ready to enter their new school August 1, 2021-2022. The demographic study should be completed in early March. Davis Demographics will get input from the Board with regards to the boundaries. The meeting January 21st is to answer questions and let families know what the process will look like, the timeline and next steps. Also, to assure parents who have student(s) on a current Intra-District Transfer, that transfer will still be honored. We want students to be as stable as possible. There are about 180 students we will need to divide between the two schools. Dr. Suzuki stated that her understanding is that Davis Demographics will provide more than one option for boundaries and the Governing Board's input would be greatly valued. Please share their thoughts ahead of time so we can add their opinions to the choices presented. President Herrick shared that she feels the Board is already in agreement, that the timeline would be completing this last school year for Big Bear Elementary, the 2020-21 school year. Dr. Suzuki confirmed that this is the general consensus of the Board.

13.b. Governing Board Reports

Mr. Zamoyta commented that before he logged into Board meeting, he saw that the CDC came out with a new report with the latest research on schools and is looking forward to reading it.

President Herrick expressed her thanks to all who presented public comments. Obviously, we continue with a challenging year in 2021. Unfortunately, it doesn't look much different from the end of last year. There is enthusiasm for the vaccine. It will be interesting to see how many of our staff members are comfortable in getting the vaccination, I hope as many as possible will take advantage of that. We are trying to get things back on track, as normal as things can be at this time while also being safe for our families, our students, and our staff. We know it continues to be an incredibly challenging time as we head into 2021. President Herrick thanked those who took the time to write their public comments and speak on their own behalf. "You are being heard; we are listening." President Herrick continued saying that the Board, Cabinet and Superintendent are trying to make the best decisions for everyone involved.

Mr. Roberts stated that Mrs. Rosado did a great job on the audit, that he has never seen an audit go so smoothly. Congratulations to Heather Lindquist.

13.c. Cabinet Reports

13.c.1. Ms. Lucinda Newton, Executive Director of Elementary Curriculum/Educational Services, presented information on the Elementary Science Adoption. Ms. Newton shared that teachers took another look at curriculums they were interested in piloting. Upon review and after a vote, it was decided that Twig would be piloted this spring and STEMscopes would be piloted in the fall. We will share the choices with the public and Governing Board for approval next December.

14. Curriculum/Instruction Report

14.a. President Herrick called for a motion to approve an Integrated Computer, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (CSTEM) Science Class at Big Bear High School Commencing with the 2021-2022 school year as presented. **M20-21-070**

Motion by Dr. Foulkes.

Second by Mr. Zamoyta.

President Herrick called for the roll call vote. Said Motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Foulkes, Herrick, Roberts, Smartt, Zamoyta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

14.b. President Herrick called for recommendation and adoption of McGraw Hill Inspire Science Curricula for Bear Valley Unified School District 6th-8th Grade. **M20-21-071**

Motion by Mr. Zamoyta.

Second by Dr. Foulkes.

President Herrick called for the roll call vote. Said Motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Foulkes, Herrick, Roberts, Smartt, Zamoyta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

15. Business/Financial Report #20-21-006

15.a. President Herrick called for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Audited Actuals Financial Report as presented by Eide Bailly, LLP. **M20-21-072**

Motion by Mr. Zamoyta

Second by Ms. Smartt

President Herrick called for the roll call vote. Said Motion was approved by the following roll call vote

AYES: Foulkes, Herrick, Roberts, Smartt, Zamoyta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

General Functions
January 13, 2021
Page 092

15.b. President Herrick called for a motion to approve FEV Tutor proposal for live one-on-one instruction. M20-21-073

Motion by Mr. Roberts

Second by Mr. Zamoyta

President Herrick called for the roll call vote. Said Motion was approved by the following roll call vote

AYES: Foulkes, Herrick, Roberts, Smartt, Zamoyta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

15.c. President Herrick called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-21-008 for a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) to offset State cash deferrals. M20-21-074

Motion by Mr. Zamoyta

Second by Dr. Foulkes

President Herrick called for the roll call vote. Said Motion was approved by the following roll call vote

AYES: Foulkes, Herrick, Roberts, Smartt, Zamoyta

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

16. Suggestions for Future Meeting Agendas

- Big Bear Elementary Reconfiguration
- Ski Team – Self Funding as a sport
- Special Board Meeting on January 27, 2021
- Community Meeting on January 21, 2021

17. Meeting Adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

17.a. Next Board Meeting scheduled on February 3, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Secretary

President of the Governing Board