

BEAR VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 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 4:09 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

M20-21-075

President Herrick called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting with the addendum received this afternoon.

Motion by Dr. Foulkes to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

Second by Ms. Smartt.

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 4:10 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.

5. Call to Order Open Session

President Herrick called the meeting back to Open Session at 5:30 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 reportable action taken.

8. Hearing Section

8.a. Public Comment

President Herrick read the parameters to make public comment.

Marjie Perkins stated that we needed to bring students back to school now. Citing a report from the CDC Director today, that teachers do not need to be vaccinated to open schools safely. Schools can be opened safely as long as we have a set course and plan. Mrs. Perkins went on to say that our students and families are suffering. Students in our district are suffering from anxiety, depression, anger issues, abuse and they are self-harming; because, they are isolated, not in school, and they are losing relationships. Mrs. Perkins read comments from her senior students who were bold enough to share their concerns with her. Her students stated that they are suffering from lack of motivation, suicidal thoughts, they have nothing to live for, they feel isolated and feel that nobody is behind them. Mrs. Perkins will send the student comments to the Governing Board Members. Mrs. Perkins shared that about thirty percent of students are not at school but are working in the village, at the slopes and in restaurants where every weekend they are exposed to thousands of tourists. Mrs. Perkins continued that not having sports right now is in the Board's hands. If drop-out rates are a concern, bring the students back to school. If there is a way to fight to separate our community from the county, we need to do that. Get the teachers vaccinated and back in the classroom. We need teachers in the classroom so we can bring the students back and end their suffering.

Heather Wylie states she is a parent to a student in the district and booster member at Baldwin Lane Elementary. She shared that she has fully embraced her child's distance learning but it has impacted her relationship with her child. Her child is on a hybrid schedule and she has been very pleased with it. Ms. Wylie states she has a wonderful working relationship with her son's teacher and her son is happy when he gets to go to school. Ms. Wylie states she is not a teacher, she is a mom and distance learning has drastically impacted her relationship with her son. He does not want to learn and take additional instructions from the same person who makes him do his chores and eat his vegetables at dinner time. Ms. Wylie continued that she is here to comment on item

14.a. of tonight's agenda for the simple fact that the district has identified a greater need for mental health in elementary students that was not as large of an issue for kids prior to the distance learning arrangement. Children are committing suicide at greater rates; some are in more vulnerable situations at home than they would be if they were in the classroom. Ms. Wylie went on to say that her son needs to be considered essential by this district, the teachers union, and the State of California. It is time for the Board and Superintendent to please take whatever steps we can to insure a full-time education for our kids. If we can eat indoors, go to the grocery store safely, then our kids can be in school full-time. It is high time to listen to the will of the parents and taxpayers of this district who fund public education. Teachers are working harder than ever and it is not fair to them either. Ms. Wylie suggested a waiver for families to opt-in to a full-time education. The children deserve to get the education that our wonderful teachers offer our students, and many of the teachers wish to return to the classroom. Ms. Wylie asked that the Governing Board submit a waiver to return to school so that we can get our children back to school.

David Rufner expressed his gratitude to Dr. Suzuki for taking the time to speak with he and his wife prior to their relocation to Big Bear. Mr. Rufner shared that he has four children attending school in the district three boys: a junior, a freshman, a 6th grader, and a daughter in 5th grade. Bravo for bringing the 5th graders back to school. His daughter is thrilled to be back in school. Mr. Rufner referenced Governor Newsom's 'Safe Schools for All' which encourages the opening to 6th grade minimally. Mr. Rufner continued with encouragement for the Governing Board and Dr. Suzuki to keep going in unrolling the classes and bringing the kids back. Mr. Rufner stated that as far as he can see the science shows that kids are not getting sick, teachers are not getting sick when things are being taken care of wisely.

Michael Weber began his statement by saying God bless to the parents who are out there struggling with this. He continued saying thank you to the teachers for all they are doing but feels there is more that could be done. Mr. Weber shared his disappointment in the inability to find solutions to bring the children back to school. He stated that the shutdown was a big waste of time. Some of his clients throughout the valley are losing their life savings and their dreams. Mr. Weber continued saying he feels we are ruining the future of our society by not letting the children attend full days of school and having to break it up between hybrid and staying home. He shared that it is difficult coming home seeing his kids depressed. Mr. Weber shared that his family is trying the hybrid program now and he sees an improvement in their mental health. However, they are struggling with having to carry all their supplies back and forth, temperature checks, wearing masks and sitting behind plastic boards. Mr. Weber went on saying that if teachers don't want to work, they should stay home and not get paid. He suggested bringing in younger teachers who are at less risk of getting COVID-19. Mr. Weber expressed his concern with psychiatric emergencies amongst children and that the fail rates of children on virtual learning are on the rise. Mr. Weber expressed his frustration with the American system of controlled education and the lack of leadership in this situation. Someone needs to grab the problem and get it done.

9. Consent Calendar

M20-21-076

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

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

- Employ Bus Drivers (Kelly Farnum, Daniel Pastore)
- Employ High School Secretary (Heather Quillen)
- Employ Executive Director's Secretary/Credentials Analyst (Katarina Lemmer)
- Big Bear High School Coaches for the 2020/2021 School Year
- Governing Board Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2021, January 27, 2021
- Purchase Order Report – FY 2020-2021 Purchase Orders, Numbers 210590 Through 210613 (Excluding 210612)
- Williams Quarterly Report

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

10. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar

None.

11. Employee Announcements

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

12. Information Section & Reports

12.a Superintendent Comments/Calendar

12.a.1 Update on Schools Reopening and COVID-19

Dr. Suzuki provided an update on schools reopening and COVID-19. Dr. Suzuki spoke to the sports programs that are currently in session; an upcoming cross-country meet if it can be done safely, football conditioning, volleyball conditioning, and cross-country. At this point anything we are allowed to do, we are doing. The cross-country meet would be our first competition at the end of February unless the county changes that direction. Seven of our female runners and seven of our male runners would participate using safety protocols and precautions; although, public health department could change that. We are having the students in cohorts attend middle and high school; however, we want all our students back as well. We are not allowed to do that until we go into the red tier as a region. Dr. Suzuki continued saying that we are looking at, finding a way of bringing our 6th grade students back as well. If the CDC distance guidelines go from 6 feet to 4 feet, we could possibly bring more students back at the elementary level on a

daily basis. There are some parents who want to continue distance learning which would reduce the number of students in classrooms. Dr. Suzuki shared that she understands families' frustration. When we go into the red tier hopefully at the end of February or early March, we will be able to bring middle and high school students back on a block schedule. We are working on the vaccinations for staff, hopefully we will have them next week. Our district is a top priority for the vaccine because we are in school with our students on a waiver. We have a waiver and that is why we are able to be in school. Other school districts that have not applied for the waiver are still not allowed to be in school until they go from the purple tier to the red. We applied early, that is the reason we can have our students back. We want normalcy as well. We do have cohorts, there are a number of teachers at middle and high school who are able to serve our students.

12.a.2 COVID-19 Prevention Plan

Dr. Suzuki shared information on the need to have a COVID Prevention Plan posted on our website by February 1st. As everyone is aware, we had our District Reopening Plan which we posted in July and updated in August. OSHA weighed in and provided a template which covers everything about in-person reopening, the type of PPE we are using, student arrival and departure, how to keep students spaced, ventilation, cleaning procedures, and if we have a number of cases, when we would have a closure. Fortunately, we have been open since September 16th and we have not had a closure of our schools except for a day here or there out of the utmost caution due to an exposure. Mr. Roberts asked for clarification re: red tier and returning on a block schedule. Mrs. Fulmer, Principal, Big Bear High School and Mrs. Basham, Principal, Big Bear Middle School created a plan which is posted on their websites. Dr. Suzuki shared information on the block schedule and said that she would put an update out on the District app for further clarification. She will also share what will happen with each tier so that our families will know what that looks like. Dr. Foulkes shared that we are getting as many students back as we can legally while following CDC regulations. Dr. Foulkes asked what percentage of staff want the vaccination. Dr. Suzuki shared that approximately 70 percent of our employees want the vaccination. Redlands Community Hospital staff are scheduled to come to BBHS next week to administer the vaccine. Dr. Suzuki expressed her gratitude to Mrs. Fulmer, the BBHS staff, Dr. Knapik, Brittany Norton and others for their efforts in the coordination of this project.

12.b Governing Board Member Reports

Dr. Foulkes shared that he was vaccinated last Thursday at Loma Linda and was relatively painless.

Mr. Zamoyta commented that he appreciates all the hard work that everyone is doing from top to bottom; the parents and teachers, and the administration for all they have done to secure the vaccine. Mr. Zamoyta shared that there are a couple of things he felt we could do in this scenario, one is to do everything we can to reduce the numbers in our community into a lower tier, second is to try to get the government rules changed so we can come back sooner. Talk to your State Representatives to change the requirements for opening school.

Mr. Roberts shared that it is important to get the kids back in school. Distance learning is not ideal. The staff has done a good job of making it work. Mr. Roberts stated that it would be his push to get the students back in school.

Ms. Smartt shared she wants students back at school safely.

President Herrick commented that the public who have tuned in can see that the Board as a whole are trying to get students back in school. Dr. Suzuki touched on some of the challenges we have with the County and the State the public may not be aware of. President Herrick thanked Dr. Suzuki and the staff for all their hard work.

12.c Dr. Lisa Waner, Executive Director of 6-12 Curriculum/Certificated Personnel
Potential Addition of a Sports Team

Dr. Waner presented information regarding the possible addition of a ski team for Big Bear High School. After the presentation and in-depth discussion, it was decided to do further investigation and return this item to the Governing Board.

13. Administrative Report

Removed per Addendum.

14. Curriculum/Instruction Report

14.a. President Herrick called for a motion to approve Creation of an Elementary School Counselor Job Description Commencing with the 2021-2022 School Year as presented. **M20-21-77**

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 #20-21-007

15.a President Herrick called for a motion to approve Resolution Number 20-21-011 – Transfer of Redevelopment Agency (RDA) Funds **M20-21-78**

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.b Letter from San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools regarding BVUSD's First Interim Financial Report for Period ending October 31, 2020.

This agenda item is submitted as an information item only. No Governing Board Action required.

16. Suggestions for future meeting agendas

Baldwin Lane Elementary School HVAC

Possible Creation of Ski Team

2nd Interim

Demographic Study

Update on HVAC at Big Bear High School

17. Meeting Adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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

Secretary

President of the Governing Board