

**SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

February 2, 2021
MINUTES

Douglas E. Giles
Educational Resource Center
9619 Cuyamaca Street
Santee, California

A. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

- Barbara Ryan, President
- Elana Levens-Craig, Vice President
- Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk
- Ken Fox, Member
- Dustin Burns, Member

Administration present:

- Dr. Kristin Baranski, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
- Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
- Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources/Pupil Services
- Dr. Stephanie Pierce, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
- Lisa Arreola, Executive Assistant and Recording Secretary

2. District Mission

President Ryan welcomed those in attendance and recited the District Mission.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Member El-Hajj led members, staff, and audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

President Ryan presented the agenda for approval. Member Fox moved approval.

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| <i>Motion:</i> | <u>Fox</u> | <u>Ryan Aye</u> | <u>Fox Aye</u> |
| <i>Second:</i> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Levens-Craig Aye</u> | <u>Burns Aye</u> |
| <i>Vote:</i> | <u>5-0</u> | <u>El-Hajj Aye</u> | |

B. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Superintendent's Report

- 1.1. Developer Fees and Collection Report
- 1.2. Use of Facilities
- 1.3. Enrollment Report

C. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

President Ryan explained that given the current circumstances with COVID-19, the public was given the opportunity so submit comments online or by phone prior to the meeting. There were two (2) public comments.

| ID | First Name and Last Name | Representing | Public Comment |
|----|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Cameron Williams | Distance Learning Teachers | Can the School Board please discuss the option of distance learning teachers to teach from home? We are incredibly dedicated to meeting the needs of our students. We arrive at our classrooms |

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| | | | <p>each day to teach our classes of up to 35 students online. We meet individually and in small groups. We email students and parents constantly. As a junior high teacher, I actually have 70 students and parents to email constantly. The work we do can be done just as effectively from our own homes.</p> <p>We will actually do our job even better from home because we will not be stressed about what could happen in a pandemic when we leave our homes every day against the recommendations of health care professionals. Vaccines are on the horizon. Can we please have the option to teach from home until we have the vaccine in a matter of weeks or months? We are so close!</p> |
| 2 | Amee Hughes | my student | <p>Our children certainly do not need to double class sizes for a longer day at this time. I ask that the board does not move forward with changing from the current schedule. Our children are thriving with how things are right now. We do not need to put them through another change.</p> |

D. CONSENT ITEMS

President Ryan shared comments from the public were requested in advance and there were no public comments on consent items.

- 1.1. Approval of Minutes
- 1.2. Agreement with UCSD for Staff Symptomatic COVID-19 Testing
- 2.1. Approval/Ratification of Travel Requests
- 2.2. Approval/Ratification of Revolving Cash Report
- 2.3. Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Bequests
- 2.4. Approval/Ratification of General Services Agreements
- 2.5. Approval of Agreements for Mileage Reimbursement In Lieu of District Transportation
- 2.6. Approval/Ratification of Expenditure Transactions Charged to District Issued Purchasing Cards (P-Cards)
- 2.7. Approval to Purchase New Forklift
- 3.1. Personnel, Regular
- 3.2. Proclamation for National School Counseling Week (2/1/21 – 2/5/21 and National School Social Work Week (3/7/21 – 3/13/21)
- 3.3. Approval of Short-Term Services Agreement

Member Levens-Craig acknowledged Item 3.2. Proclamation for National School Counseling and National School Social Work weeks and expressed her appreciation to the school counselors for their hard work in helping the students, parents, and teachers. The Board shared her sentiments. Member Burns moved approval.

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| <i>Motion:</i> | <u>Burns</u> | <i>Ryan</i> | <u>Aye</u> | <i>Fox</i> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Second:</i> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <i>Levens-Craig</i> | <u>Aye</u> | <i>Burns</i> | <u>Aye</u> |
| <i>Vote:</i> | <u>5-0</u> | <i>El-Hajj</i> | <u>Aye</u> | | |

E. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

Superintendent

- 1.1. Appointment of Coordinator, Out-of-School Time Program
 Superintendent Baranski shared the District had recruited for a Coordinator of Out-of-School Time Program, since the position was being vacated by Kristi Sheen, who was retiring after serving the students of Santee School District for the past 32.5 years. She expressed her gratitude towards Ms. Sheen for her hard work, dedication and commitment to the students of Santee School District and wished her the best in her retirement.

Superintendent Baranski explained the recruitment process and noted recommending the appointment of Chrishaun Green, as Coordinator, Out-of-School Time Program, effective February 9, 2021.

She shared Ms. Green was employed by San Diego Unified, where she worked with the YMCA in their before and after-school programs, extended day care, etc. Her most recent position, since July 2017, was a Quality Programs Coordinator, with the YMCA of San Diego County.


Ms. Green expressed her excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Santee School District students and the Santee community.

El-Hajj moved approval. President Ryan welcomed Ms. Green to Santee School District.

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| Motion: | <u>El-Hajj</u> | Ryan | <u>Aye</u> | Fox | <u>Aye</u> |
| Second: | <u>Burns</u> | Levens-Craig | <u>Aye</u> | Burns | <u>Aye</u> |
| Vote: | <u>5-0</u> | El-Hajj | <u>Aye</u> | | |

1.2. 2021-21 School Reopening Update/COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Baranski shared the following proposed local criteria for cohort integration and explained it was the same information presented at the January 19 meeting. She provided brief background information for the proposed criteria.



Proposed Local Criteria for Cohort Integration

- Santee Zip Code (92071) case rate is less than or equal to 7.0 for three consecutive weeks
- Santee School District "case rate" is also less than or equal to 7.0 for three consecutive weeks
- All schools have remained open for in-person learning for the past three weeks
- Vaccinations for all staff have been available for three weeks

District will need a two-week notice to move from current hybrid to cohort integration.

Superintendent Baranski shared the County provides a Santee Zip Code (92071) case rate, similar to what they provide throughout the County. She noted this data has not been updated in the last two weeks and was unable to provide an updated number. Superintendent Baranski shared concerns on relying on this source, as a local criteria, that may not be able to provide the most updated information.

The Santee School District "case rate" includes all of the District's staff and students. She explained this number has continued to decline over the last three weeks. Superintendent Baranski shared the case rate at the end of the week of January 22, was 54.92; and declined to 37.29 at the end of the week of February 12. She noted the cases continued to decline and reported the cases were 17.67 at the beginning of January 31; Superintendent Baranski reported there are currently nine cases reported, 2 staff and 7 students; and noted County's case rate has declined, but the case rate in the Santee Zip Code was currently higher than the County's.

Superintendent Baranski shared the California Department of Public Health changed the criteria for school closures and noted this information had been posted on the District's COVID-19 Dashboard website. She explained it would require a significant number of

cases and outbreaks for a school to close and did not foresee the new criteria being a problem for the District.

Superintendent Baranski noted hearing from the County, that vaccines for educators would begin the week of February 22. She explained prior to that, it was the first week of February; and noted the struggle with the vaccinations, vaccinators, and appointments.

Superintendent Baranski shared feedback received from the various stakeholders included, concerns with the Santee Zip Code criteria. She noted the Teacher Leadership group, and a few Pepper Drive parents, suggested expanding the zip code to include parts of El Cajon; as a vast majority of students live in the El Cajon zip code. Superintendent Baranski noted there was no feedback on the Santee case rate criteria and a few suggested waiting for staff to receive the complete vaccine regimen, two-doses, before starting the integration process.

She explained still believing the criteria being presented is "sound," but shared being able to provide a back-up plan, if needed; particularly for the Santee Zip Code rate. Superintendent Baranski shared that because of the low transmission within our schools, Administration feels this is a considerable amount of time for staff to be vaccinated and explained the availability of vaccinations, as a criteria, was intended as a "cue" to move forward. She shared being aware of the appointment scheduling challenges but shared the District would try to coordinate with the County's Public Health or other agencies to help facilitate the process for staff; and noted hearing the addition of a vaccination center at Sharp-Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa and hopes it would help speed up the vaccination process.

Member Levens-Craig asked for rationale for not waiting for staff to receive the second vaccination dose before integrating cohorts. Superintendent Baranski noted the addition of the vaccination criteria was not required, and explained that after the first dose, the body begins to build some tolerance. She noted that because of the low potential transmission at the sites, Administration did not foresee the need to wait for staff to receive the complete vaccination regimen before cohort integration.

Member Burns expressed his gratitude to Superintendent Baranski for the development of the criteria. But, shared he had concerns with the Santee Zip Code criteria and not having access to the most up-to-date information; which could lead to misinformation and speculations within the community. Member Burns shared agreeing with the Pepper Drive parents and the need to include part of the Pepper Drive zip code area, but not the entire zip code.

President Ryan explained the only way to obtain the most accurate data for each school, is to continue using the current measuring process by the site level and monitoring the number of student and staff cases reported. Member El-Hajj noted that even if the Pepper Drive area zip code is considered, other zip codes (from where staff reside) are not being considered. She added the idea of removing the Santee Zip Code (92071) criteria from the proposed criteria and explained this would give an actual representation of the case rate within the school district and a more accurate measurement.

Member El-Hajj shared being very familiar with the Pepper Drive area and speaking to some of their parents. She explained the Pepper Drive area zip code encompasses a large part of the City of El Cajon and it would not be an accurate representation. Member El-Hajj eluded to President Ryan's comment on using the current school criteria. President Ryan explained using data from the schools as a measure, would determine accurate data for Pepper Drive.

Member Levens-Craig asked if the District had tracked County data in comparison to the District's trends in the past weeks. Superintendent Baranski noted the District did track the data and in October and/or November, the District was doing drastically better than

the community and the County. She noted that as the County trend increased, the numbers in the community and the District increased. The trend is currently similar, but not as low as in early November, when the District was lower than the Santee community and County rates. Superintendent Baranski noted the District has not been consistently lower than the County or Santee Zip Code rates; and shared the District's case rate was slightly above the Santee Zip Code rate upon the return from winter break.

Member Fox inquired about the aforementioned "Plan B." Superintendent Baranski explained another option would be to use the County's twenty-five case rate threshold and provided the following example: San Ysidro School District has been on distance learning since March, and they are not able to make any reopening plans until the County rate is at 25.0 for the district to move forward into the model of their choice for in-person learning. This could be used as the same trigger for the District to start moving forward with integration and making sure all the other criteria is being met.

Member El-Hajj asked for clarification on "Plan B" and noted if the County moves to 24, the District is at 6.9, all the schools are open, vaccinations are available, the District is then ready for integration. But, if the County is at 26, the District remains at 6.9 for three weeks, but the District would still not be able to move forward because the County is still too high. Superintendent Baranski noted because the District has been operating in-person, it can continue to provide in-person learning and the District can set its own criteria. But this would just be another standard for consideration, if desired. Superintendent Baranski noted her recommendation would be to move forward with proposed criteria #'s 2-4. Member El-Hajj shared it was her interpretation that all the criteria would have to be met, and not one or the other. She shared that if there were better reporting data, she would support the Santee Zip Code criteria, but because of its inconsistency she did not feel comfortable with its inclusion. Member El-Hajj asked that the Santee Zip Code criteria be placed on hold and reviewed again at the next meeting. She asked for clarification on the last criteria, vaccinations for staff. Superintendent Baranski confirmed it meant that the Tier for education is open for appointments. Board Members suggested the language be reworded to be more understandable. Member Burns shared he liked including the Santee Zip Code but expressed his concerns with not having current data; and added he did not want to see it removed. He suggested Administration contact the Public Health Department on other means to secure the data, if any. Member Burns shared opposing "Plan B" because of the disparities within San Diego County communities.

President Ryan shared her concern of the six-week timeline for integration. Superintendent Baranski clarified that the District would begin preparations for integration once the District's data starts to decrease, none of the schools have been closed, and are only awaiting for the vaccine to be available for staff; and clarified it was never the intention for it to be three weeks for each criteria. She added the District has been working on the integration process and should not take very long to transition; but shared the need to adhere to the one-week notice to staff. Superintendent Baranski noted the criteria will be posted on the Dashboard for everyone to monitor, once it is approved.

Member Burns asked for clarification on steps if one of the criteria changes after the cohorts are integrated. Superintendent Baranski shared it would be similar as to when the case rates increased, the District would continue to move forward with the "full-day" cohort integration. Member Burns expressed concerns and noted he would prefer the District reassess the situation, if there was a drastic increase in cases. He noted the potential of having to close schools if the cases increased, and his preference that students continue in the hybrid model instead of not being in school at all.

Member Fox asked if the process would be delayed if the criteria was met between Board meetings. President Ryan noted that once the vaccine is available, and once the cases drop below seven (7.0), the timeline begins and it would not require additional action by the Board; as the Board was taking action on establishing the criteria. Member Levens-

Craig asked if there was a deadline for consideration to integrate cohorts and/or decide to continue with hybrid for the rest of the year. Member El-Hajj shared this question had been asked during one of their school visits and she had given it a lot of thought. She explained knowing the integration of cohorts entails a lot of logistics but noted the need to offer some “normalcy” to the students. Member El-Hajj asked that everyone look at the things the students will be able to gain (i.e., longer periods of time with other students and their teachers, etc.) and their importance. She noted observing students, during the school visits, being comfortable with wearing their masks and sitting at their desks with plexiglass.

President Ryan recommended the Board not discuss a date at this time and asked that they wait until the vaccination tier is available for the education sector and noted once the vaccination tier is available for the education sector, it would provide a better sense of an integration timeline. President Ryan shared Member El-Hajj sentiments about the need for the students to return to some “normalcy” and noted there were excellent, and very telling, articles in the San Diego Union Tribune on the impacts the closures have had on children.

Member Burns shared he would not support removing the Santee Zip Code criteria. Member El-Hajj suggested that it remain as a condition but reevaluate it again at the next meeting. Member El-Hajj moved approval of the proposed local criteria as follows.

- Santee Zip Code (92071) case rate is less than or equal to 7.0 for three consecutive weeks *(to be reevaluated at the next meeting)*
- Santee School District “case rate” is also less than or equal to 7.0 for three consecutive weeks
- All schools have remained open for in-person learning for the past three weeks
- Vaccinations are available to Phase 1B-Tier 1 (those at risk of exposure at work in the Education sector), for three weeks

District will need a one-week notice to move from current hybrid to cohort integration.

Member Burns, noted for the record, the Boards’ need to discuss and monitor cases for potential increases; and for the District take testing dates into consideration in the cohort integration planning.

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| Motion: | <u>El-Hajj</u> | Ryan | <u>Aye</u> | Fox | <u>Aye</u> |
| Second: | <u>Burns</u> | Levens-Craig | <u>Aye</u> | Burns | <u>Aye</u> |
| Vote: | <u>5-0</u> | El-Hajj | <u>Aye</u> | | |

1.2. Board of Education Self-Evaluation

President Ryan noted the self-evaluation was not completed in 2020 and brought forth the idea of combining the self-evaluation with a Board coaching workshop. Upon the Board’s consensus, President Ryan shared she would work with Superintendent Baranski on next steps and would bring forth for additional discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Business Services

2.1. Approval of Monthly Financial Report

Karl Christensen, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported the monthly financial report was for cash and budget revision transactions posted through December 31, 2020; and shared the District is projected to meet all financial obligations with internal cash. He shared the District ended the month with a cash balance in the General Fund of approximately \$17,866,307. Mr. Christensen noted the Projected Reserve

Percentages on the report were now outdated and shared more current information would be presented at the budget workshop in March. Member Burns moved approval.

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| Motion: | <u>Burns</u> | <u>Ryan</u> | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Fox</u> | <u>Aye</u> |
| Second: | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Burns</u> | <u>Aye</u> |
| Vote: | <u>5-0</u> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <u>Aye</u> | | |

F. BOARD POLICIES AND BYLAWS

President Ryan explained item F.1.1. were second readings of Board Bylaws BB 9140 (Board Representatives), BB 9220 (Governing Board Elections); and BB 9222 (Resignation); and item F.1.2. were first readings.

President Ryan suggested a change on BB 9220 – Governing Board Elections. She explained establishing a “dedicated fund for those seeking election to the Board” is not the District’s practice and asked that this language be omitted from the policy; and under Statement of Qualifications, change “may” require candidates to pay their estimated pro rate share, to “will” require. Upon discussion, Member Fox moved approval of item F.1.1. with noted changes to BB 9220, Governing Board Elections.

Campaign Conduct

All candidates, including current Board members running as incumbents, shall abide by local, county, state, and federal requirements regarding campaign donations, funding, and expenditures. A Board member shall not expend, and a candidate shall not accept, any public money for the purpose of seeking elective office. ~~However, the district may establish a dedicated fund for those seeking election to the Board, provided that the funds are available to all candidates who are qualified pursuant to Education Code 35107 without regard to incumbency or political preference. (Government Code 85300)~~

Statement of Qualifications

The district shall assume no part of the cost of printing, handling, translating, or mailing, or electronically distributing candidate statements filed of candidate statements filed pursuant to Elections Code 13307. As a condition of having candidate statements included in the hard copy and/or electronic voter’s pamphlet, the district ~~may~~ **will** require candidates to pay their estimated pro rata share of these costs to the district in advance pursuant to Elections Code 13307.

1.1. Second Readings of Board Bylaws (BB):

- BB 9140 – Board Representatives
- BB 9220 – Governing Board Elections
- BB 9222 – Resignation

1.2. First Readings of Board Bylaws (BB):

- BB 9223 – Filling Vacancies
- BB 9230 – Orientation of Candidates and New Board Members

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| Motion: | <u>Fox</u> | <u>Ryan</u> | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Fox</u> | <u>Aye</u> |
| Second: | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <u>Levens-Craig</u> | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Burns</u> | <u>Aye</u> |
| Vote: | <u>5-0</u> | <u>El-Hajj</u> | <u>Aye</u> | | |

G. EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION

Melanie Hirahara, Santee Teachers Association President, expressed her gratitude towards the Boards’ discussion on including the Pepper Drive criteria and noted they also had concerns but were also unable determine a solution. Mrs. Hirahara noted other concerns were also securing appointments for staff when the Phase 1B-Tier 1 is available and appreciated their discussion and the Superintendent’s interest in helping secure appointments and/or vaccines for staff.

Mrs. Hirahara agreed that integration of the cohorts, will not provide full “normalcy” to students; and shared there are still concerns with students eating lunch on campus, longer period of sitting time without time for recess, even if they have regular breaks. In addition to being unable to fill aide and custodial positions, the new 4-foot distance requirement and being able to accommodate a larger number of students in the classroom.

Member El-Hajj noted observing students being allowed more than just a “mask break” and having fun around other students in their cohorts. Mrs. Hirahara shared the concern is now instead of having a small group of 10-15 students in an assigned space, it will now be 24 students in the same amount of space. In addition to having more students using the restrooms, etc. Member El-Hajj noted the need to expand the space allowed at sites for breaks and other accommodations accordingly based on the increase of students on campus.

Mrs. Hirahara noted that although plans have been set in place by the Reopening Logistics Planning Team, they just have not been implemented and it causes a bit of concern when it is time for execution.

The Board expressed their gratitude towards Mrs. Hirahara for her communication.

H. **BOARD COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

Member El-Hajj reported visiting Pepper Drive and Hill Creek, along with Member Fox, and acknowledged there are great things happening. She added they are conscious of the 4-foot distance requirements and smaller areas; and are aware of the upcoming challenges at the sites, but hearing staff is looking towards the future.

Member Burns noted participating in the Calendar, Communication Committee, and Special Education advisory committees. He commended the meeting facilitators and noted the increase in meeting participation. Member Burns asked that the calendar committee consider establishing dates where parents can meet with school staff early in the year to address learning loss, in addition to the parent conferences. He noted speaking with a Pepper Drive parent who inquired on mental health services being offered by the District. Member Burns commended Mike Olander, Director of Pupil Services and Student Well-Being, and the counseling team for reaching out to this parent and providing her with the required resources; and making the community aware of the resources available to every family. Member Burns reiterated the need to hold a conversation on providing support to the school to address learning loss; and looking at addressing this issue in summer school.

Member Fox noted speaking to junior high students, while at school visits, and discussing their concerns with the plexiglass. He shared it seems the students continue to dislike the plexiglass but are getting used to having it on the desks. Member Fox reminded everyone to wash their hands, wear face masks, social distance, avoid gatherings; and wear a mask even if you are vaccinated.

Superintendent Baranski shared Member Burns' sentiments on the mental health issues and noted the District is building a more comprehensive list of available resources for families. This information is prominently posted on the District website and categorized by resources available at school and in the community; in addition to a creation of a monthly newsletter with resources and tips for families.

Superintendent Baranski shared working with the communication consultant on a communication audit. She shared areas will include how the District communicates, what is communicated, and if the communication is effectively reaching the District's intended audience. Superintendent Baranski noted progress and/or a timeline would be reported at the next meeting; and encouraged everyone to take the survey when it is available. Member Burns noted the need for a communication plan for the newly established criteria for cohort integration.

President Ryan noted the upcoming virtual events.

I. CLOSED SESSION

President Ryan announced that the Board would meet in closed session for:

1. **Conference with Labor Negotiator** (Gov't. Code § 54956.8)
Purpose: Negotiations
Agency Negotiators: Tim Larson, Assistant Superintendent
Employee Organizations: Santee Teachers Association (STA); and
Classified School Employees Association (CSEA)

2. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation** (Gov't. Code § 54957)
Superintendent

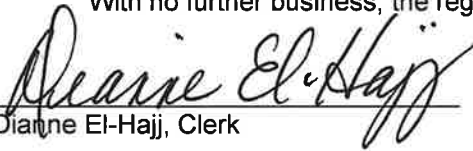
The Board entered closed session at 8:03 p.m.

J. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:55 p.m. and reported no action had been taken.

K. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the regular meeting of February 2, 2021 was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



Dianne El-Hajj, Clerk



Dr. Kristin Baranski, Secretary