

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES March 17, 2021

ROLL CALL

Present:

Trustee Dr. Jose Luis Araux, President Trustee Anthony T. Stafford, Sr., Vice President Trustee Dr. Randall Freeman, Clerk Trustee David Nelissen, Member Trustee Elizabeth Vallejo, Member

Administrative Staff Present:

Grant Bennett, Superintendent; Candace Reines, Deputy Superintendent – Business Services; Robert Brough, Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services; Kirk Skorpanich, Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources; Joseph Williams, Executive Director – Technology; James Heckman, Assistant Director – Technology; Hector Gonzalez, Director – Facilities; Alisha Fogerty, Director – Fiscal Services; Dawn Bray, Director – Purchasing; Julie Zierold, Director – Curriculum and Instruction; Amil Alzubaidi, Director – Special Education; Dr. Casaundra McNair, Coordinator – Special Education; and Dr. Igor Milosavljevic, Principal – California Military Institute

Others Attending:

Josh Rushing, Sarah Rico, Anna Fetzner, and others

PUBLIC NOTICE

<u>1.1 PUBLIC NOTICE: The writings, documents, or public records described in SB No. 343 are available at the District Office, currently located at 155 East Fourth Street, Perris, CA 92570</u>

PUBLIC NOTICE (cont.)

<u>1.2 PUBLIC NOTICE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meetings of the District's governing board, please contact the office of the District Superintendent at (951) 943-6369, ext. 80102. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accommodation and accessibility to this meeting.</u>

CALL TO ORDER

2.1 CALL TO ORDER: The President of the Board of Trustees Will Call the Perris Union High School District Meeting to Order

The President of the Board of Trustees called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY

3.1 INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Closed Session Items Only

There were no requests to address the Board of Trustees on Closed Session Items.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

4.1 ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION: The Board of Trustees Will Discuss Items Listed in this Section

- <u>4.2 PUPIL MATTERS Pursuant to Education Code §48912 and §48918</u>
- <u>4.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT/APPOINTMENT Pursuant to Government Code § 54957</u>
- <u>4.4 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE Pursuant to Government Code §54957</u>
- <u>4.5 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6</u>
 - <u>Employee Group: Perris Secondary Educators Association (PSEA), Agency Representative:</u> <u>Kirk Skorpanich, Assistant Superintendent - Human Resources;</u>
 - <u>Employee Group: California School Employees Association (CSEA), Agency Representative:</u> <u>Kirk Skorpanich, Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources</u>

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony Stafford, Sr.)** moved, Member **(David Nelissen)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adjourn into Closed Session to discuss the items listed in this section:

- 4.2 PUPIL MATTERS Pursuant to Education Code \$48912 and \$48918
- 4.3 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT/APPOINTMENT Pursuant to Government Code § 54957

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (cont.)

- 4.4 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE Pursuant to Government Code \$54957
- 4.5 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS Pursuant to Government Code \$54957.6
 - Employee Group: Perris Secondary Educators Association (PSEA), Agency Representative: Kirk Skorpanich, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources;
 - Employee Group: California School Employees Association (CSEA), Agency Representative: Kirk Skorpanich, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion **PASSED 5 – 0**.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5.1 RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Board Meeting Will Reconvene at Approximately 5:00 p.m.

The President of the Board of Trustees reconvened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

6.1 INVOCATION: Trustee Vallejo

Trustee Vallejo requested a moment of silence for those who lost their battle to COVID.

RECESS

<u>7.1 RECESS: The Board President Will Recess the Meeting at Approximately 5:01 p.m. to Conduct the Regular</u> <u>Board Meeting of the California Military Institute Charter School</u>

The President of the Board of Trustees called for a recess of the meeting at 5:46 p.m. to conduct the regular Board Meeting of the California Military Institute charter school. The regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

REVISION/ADOPTION/ORDERING OF AGENDA

8.1 REVISION/ADOPTION/ORDERING OF AGENDA: March 17, 2021

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve any revision/adoption/ordering of the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Perris Union High School District Board of Trustees for March 17, 2021."

AMENDED - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve any revision/adoption/ordering of the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Perris Union High School District Board of Trustees for March 17, 2021 with the following revision:"

• Pulled From Agenda: (13.13) BUSINESS: Agreement With Drift Net LLC, for the Implementation of Thermal Imaging Cameras Throughout the District (funded through the Federal CARES Act Learning Loss Mitigation Fund at a cost not to exceed \$235,800, not the General Fund)

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion **PASSED 5 – 0**.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

ORAL REPORTS

9.1 Report Out of Closed Session

There was no report out of Closed Session.

9.2 District Update by the Superintendent

The Superintendent reported on the following:

- Superintendent Grant Bennett shared that the District is continuing to host a COVID vaccination clinic at Heritage High School which is open to the public.
- The District is also holding a second COVID vaccination clinic on March 18th at Paloma Valley High School for all its employees.
- The District started additional student cohorts this past week. Mr. Bennett commented how exciting it is to see more students back on campus.

ORAL REPORTS (cont.)

- District administration is currently planning graduation and senior activities. Two separate committees are working together on graduation and grad night activities. According to CDPH, it would allow graduation ceremonies to follow live events rules, allowing a traditional ceremony with capacity limitations.
- Sports have also started at the sites. There have been a few games that have taken place,including cross country, soccer, and football. Paloma Valley football did report a few COVID cases and had to sit out some games. However, they will be playing again in the next two weeks.
- The second Aspiring Supervisors Academy for classified staff was held on March 6, 2021. Kirk Skorpanich, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, created the program for classified staff who would like to move up into supervisor positions. There are approximately 35 participants in the program.
- On Saturday, CMI and PMS middle school girls took part in the CyberlE girls event. This was a virtual event with students accessing the workshops and speakers on their chromebooks. Each participant also received a free Micro Bit that they could program during the workshops. Mr. Bennett thanked CMI teacher Kim Nelson and Tech Coach Jon Synnott, who "escorted" the students online during the event.
- The UCR MESA Day Competition virtual event took place last week. Before the event, students designed and constructed complex machines, practiced for Technical Interviews, created posters, and posted YouTube videos of their work. A good number of PVHS students scored well earning 1st and 2nd place across multiple categories. Mr. Bennett thanked PVHS teacher Sandra Arguello, who taught the student engineering concepts. She also made sure the students had the necessary supplies needed along with knowledge of the UCR MESA day's rules.
- Lastly, Mr. Bennett stated that all of the schools have been taking part in some level of RCOE eSports. Last week was the RCOE eSports Rocket League tournament. PUHSD schools had a strong showing, and we are proud of their sportsmanship. PVHS eSports dominated the field and won the Championship. Congratulations to their Coach, Mr. Conaway, and all the players.

9.3 PSEA President Jason Miller

PSEA President, Jason Miller submitted the following video statement:

Thank you to our membership, the Cabinet and the Board, for all the well wishes for my recovery from COVID. COVID is not a pleasant experience. I do not recommend it at all. It feels like we are starting to come out of this pandemic, and while there is light at the end of the tunnel, we are not out of the woods yet. Like landing, a plane coming out of this pandemic can be tricky, and it is crucial that we get it right. So far as I can tell, the District is navigating the end of this pandemic for a smooth landing. PSEA has continuously been calling our members since May of 2020 to keep a pulse on how they're feeling about coming back. A majority of those voting do not want to come back for the remainder of the school year according to our most recent poll. Our most recent poll from March 12th indicated that out of three hundred and sixty-five of our members that participated, approximately sixty-nine percent wanted to remain on virtual learning for the remainder of this school year. We have approximately four hundred and fifty members in PSEA. We have worked hard for our

ORAL REPORTS (cont.)

members to sort this whole pandemic out, and just so everyone knows, PSEA officers do not get paid for their association work. It is all voluntary work because our officers are committed to working towards our member's and our officers' best work conditions. Both executive board and site representatives, are proficient at what they do. The perspective that most of our member's want to remain on distance learning is what we bring forward generally. However, we do not stand in the way of members who cannot or can safely and logistically return. Case in point, some of the cohorts that are currently running are being implemented by PSEA members, and also sports that are set to return this semester will be implemented by PSEA members. We have heard that there is an idea floating around that our union somehow stopped the schools from reopening or that we somehow did not agree to some mysterious MOU related to the governor's new incentive program. We have never seen such an MOU and that entire idea is not true, but even if it were true, we would stand behind our decisions and be transparent to our membership. PSEA can only voice their perspective and negotiate any change in working conditions that occur. We could never tell the District, no, we will not come back. We can only negotiate the impact of coming back. I feel the District and the Board have been basing their decisions, and good decisions, on what the county and state are putting out for safety and legislation. When it is time to go back, we will go back safely and as smoothly as possible. Thank you for this time to speak.

9.4 CSEA President Josh Rushing

CSEA President Josh Rushing congratulated Mr. Bob Brough on his promotion. He stated that CSEA has been working non-stop since March 2020. NSA's have served almost two million meals. Campus supervisors, custodians, M&O staff have been working on a rotation schedule, and it looks like they are starting to come back full time. The biggest concern is the implementation of plans and making sure they are being followed. CSEA has MOU's in place with the District, and CSEA members know that if they see a safety issue, to let the union know right away so that it can be addressed. He stated that unions want kids back in school, and the priority is that students are safe, and so are the members. Mr. Rushing stated that he is looking forward to normal graduations.

9.5 Comments by the Board of Trustees

Trustee Vallejo shared that last month that she, Mr. Bennett, and Trustee Stafford, visited a couple of the high schools. She had never seen Paloma before, and Heritage has a very nice theater. She also stated that CMI is one of the school sites she would like to visit next due to all the construction that is taking place.

Trustee Freeman commended our association presidents. He stated that he had been pleased with the level of collaboration, cooperation, and mutual respect among everybody in the District.

Trustee Nelissen congratulated the County of Riverside for getting down to the numbers that we are currently seeing. He stated that he hopes this is the turning point where we can put a lot of this behind us. He also asked that everyone stay vigilant in what they're doing. As we're on the cusp of opening schools to having bigger groups of kids back on campus, he asked that everyone bear with them as it is a learning process for everyone regarding moving forward. There are going to be a new set of rules that everyone will have to learn

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ORAL REPORTS (cont.)

essentially. Lastly, he asked that people be patient with them as the District and the Board do their best to move forward.

Trustee Stafford stated that it is great to see sports coming back and asked that people get vaccinated to keep the numbers going down. He also encouraged the Board to go out and visit school sites. Finally, he asked everyone to stay safe.

Trustee Araux stated that he was excited to learn Riverside County has moved into the red tier. This is exciting news for our community and students. He is also looking forward to hearing when inside sports will be allowed to play indoors now that we have moved into the next tier. He thanked Mr. Bennett for being proactive and for being on top of the daily updates regarding COVID. He also thanked both associations and their members for their collaborative approach based on respect and professionalism to address any concerns and potential differences, and always keep the students' best interest in mind. He also thanked the Board members for always making decisions in the best interest of the students. He requested that the District have a plan for graduation, either traditional, in-person, or drive-thru. Finally, he thanked all the District, Cabinet, administrators, teachers, classified staff, and parents for working together to support our students.

INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

10.1 INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Non-Agendized Items

The following public comments were received and read by Joseph Williams, Executive Director of Technology:

Paloma Valley Counseling Team submitted the following written statement:

Dear Board, Superintendent Bennet, and Cabinet,

For student centered reasons, the counselors of Paloma Valley High School are asking you to reconsider your decision to terminate counseling positions. Counselors have been on the front line as Paloma has experienced too many tragedies in recent years: a student death on the football field, a student-teacher altercation, two students murdered by a parent, and a beloved teacher's suicide.

This year our students have faced many uncertainties and challenges. As the new school year approaches, based upon student and parent interaction this year, we can only imagine the needs of these students as they try to return to some semblance of normalcy in the fall.

Last week during our District Counseling Meeting when we heard that the district had decided to eliminate counseling positions, naturally we were devastated and caught totally by surprise. Counselors work tirelessly answering parent phone calls and emails and trying to meet their needs virtually. As always your counselors work after hours, evenings and weekends to make sure students, parents, and staff are fully supported. How will we meet those needs next year with fewer counselors? Ironically, at the beginning of a recent District Counselor's meeting we were asked to focus on more of the social emotional health of our students and we

discussed the long-term effects that the pandemic will have. Looking at our district's Graduate profile of students leaving our campuses as Scholars, Goal-Setters, Creative and Critical Thinkers, Global Citizens and most importantly, Well-Rounded and Emotionally Intelligent citizens, it is obvious that this cannot be accomplished without school counselors. This message of providing the best support to our PUHSD families does not align with the news of eliminating counseling positions. We need to be proactive rather than reactive, constantly fighting fires. What better use for additional pandemic funding than to provide more support for students through their counselors, not by cutting counselors. If ever we needed to focus on "Students First", it is now.

Our Counselors are fully committed to the welfare of our students. We have met to discuss our reopening plans and are preparing for whatever we encounter. While surrounding districts are opening wellness centers, adding counselors and resources to welcome their students back, we have to scramble with a skeleton crew hoping we do not fall apart as we continue to give everything we have. Counselors want to provide support and address the social emotional concerns that so many parents post about on social media. We cannot go into the battlefield unarmed and shorthanded and expect a happy ending. Counselors have been informed that our district is overstaffed. Many teachers in areas where we are overstaffed have a PPS credential. Is there a way to place these teachers in a temporary counseling position? This will allow us to assess our student needs and provide support without cutting counseling positions. Will it take another tragedy or a lawsuit to realize that counselors are not just unnecessary frills?

We started this year with one less AP and one less counselor, yet we continued to move forward. Paloma Valley continues to be #1 in attendance at AP Readiness, and to excel in dual and concurrent enrollments. We are proud of those numbers, but even our most mature and brightest students have struggled emotionally and psychologically over the past year. Our ELL students are failing classes and fear becoming non-grad statistics. Education disrupts Poverty. Counselors are needed in that battle. Our goal is to provide hope and more opportunities, not fewer opportunities.

Before COVID, counselors were already seeing an ever increasing number of students in crisis. Now students will be returning to campus from a pandemic, having experienced unprecedented collective trauma. It will have been 17 months since our students stepped foot on their high school campus. With students trying to maneuver their way back to some sense of normalcy, if anything, we need more counselors. Paloma's counseling team sincerely requests that you reconsider your decision to cut our counseling programs and staff. School Counselors are the heart of the school; please don't cut away at that heart.

Student's health and well-being first; student's first; student's first.

Heritage High School Counseling Team submitted the following written statement:

Dear PUHSD School Board Members and Superintendent Grant Bennett,

The Heritage High School Counseling Team is committed to the students, parents, and staff of our school. We were notified that there is going to be a "reduction in force" of school counselors amongst the traditional high

schools. Four years ago, PHS, PVHS, and HHS were given an additional counseling position because the district and school board valued the work of the school counselor. This is not the time to lose 3 counselors throughout the district.

Governor Newsom has allocated money to school districts to help. Maybe in the future that money may be gone, but right here and right now we need to be focusing on supporting students and their families as we are coming out of a pandemic. School counselors are the first line of defense in helping students recover credits, creating intervention programs, and supporting social and emotional issues. We also want to continue to focus on moving students forward to be college and career ready. Cutting a counselor at each site will be detrimental to the success of students and families during this difficult time.

We have seen an increase in the need for social/emotional resources and support from our families during COVID. The PUHSD school communities have suffered tremendous loss and emotional turmoil. We are finding that the students are working to help support their families as well as dealing with family issues, including domestic violence, abuse, food/housing insecurities, and an increase in depression and anxiety. School counselors are on the front lines when it comes to student and family support. The district officials have directed us that the focus of the PUHSD school counselors will be to provide greater social/emotional support but at the same meeting announcing they are removing 3 counseling positions.

Losing the counselor who is in charge of all of the college and career initiatives will put all of those responsibilities back on the other counselors. We will lose a counselor but still be responsible to make sure our graduation rates, A-G rates, FAFSA numbers, MSJC Dual Enrollment, AP and etc. increase yearly. That is a tremendous amount of additional work that is required of the counselors with one less counselor.

We have to remember that we are coming out of a pandemic. Cutting counselors would be detrimental when 48% of the 9th, 56% of 10th, and 49% of the 11th grade students at HHS have failed three or more classes at the end of the Fall 2020 semester. The need for academic intervention and remediation is a necessity. While D and F rates are at an all time high, the need to help students recover lost credits is a direct responsibility of school counselors. Our graduation rates will be impacted if the students do not receive the support they need. Cutting a counselor at each site will directly impact our ability to support students with their grades and put in place the appropriate interventions needed to get students back on track.

Over the last 4 years there has been a 40% increase in our Special Education numbers (320 to 451 at Heritage). This number is expected to continue to rise across the district. School counselors must give input and participate in the meetings and assist with accommodations. If the sites lose one counselor it will be very difficult for the students to receive the "legal" support they are required.

Our English Learner population has been hit hard during the shutdown, the D/F rate was the highest amongst the special population with 1,399 D/F's out of the 459 EL students. Learning that our EL Academic English block will be taken away next year is yet another hit for this group. Our students benefit from the support that the academic English classes offer. Without these support classes more responsibility will fall on the EL counselor to support the students and parents to help with interventions.

In addition, Each site has also lost an Assistant Principal position. With Heritage High School going to 2 AP's the counseling department will have more responsibilities. Counselors already meet with students when they come back from a suspension to counsel them on their behavior choices and run mediations when there are conflicts between students. While counseling students and mediations are within our counseling duties, the counselors do not want to take on additional administration duties because of the loss of an AP at each site.

The HHS counselors are asking that you please reconsider cutting the 3 counselor positions across the school district and continue to invest in the role of the school counselors. We understand that Liberty needs to be staffed, but please backfill those positions at the school sites and re-evaluate funding for the school counselors after we have recovered from the devastation of the pandemic.

Perris High School Counseling Team submitted the following written statement:

Dear President Dr. Araux, Distinguished Trustees and PUHSD Cabinet,

The counselors from Perris High school are reaching out to you through public comments this evening in regards to your decision to not replace the school counselor who is transferring to Liberty High; this will negatively impact our Perris High students and community. We understand you are making very important decisions when it comes to the current budget report and funding allocations, but we also know you are the ones with the authority to make the critical decisions that will impact thousands of students once we return back on campus.

By Simply turning on the news you will hear that the national mental health is unprecedented and that is one of the driving forces in trying to get students back into public schools. The news also points out that communities such as the ones where Perris high school students and parents live are the most fragile. Our students are facing the most poverty, food insecurity, and higher than average COVID cases compared to students in surrounding areas such as Menifee and Murrieta. As school counselors, we have been addressing these needs and more during this pandemic school year. Unfortunately, PUHSD recently informed counselors they will not be replacing any lost counseling positions. We ask, have the students and parents been informed about this decision? This pandemic has devastated our community. When our families and students return to campus, they will expect to see the resources and assistance they need, and absolutely no less!

The directors from the student services department have presented to the school board the increasing amount of emotional and mental stress across the district, in particular the Pinacate Middle school campus. These issues don't dissolve when the students enter high school. They also presented data showing the increased D and F grades on the most recent semester grades for incoming juniors and seniors. Perris High will be heavily dependent on their counselors to solve these cases while balancing an increased number of student's emotional/mental well being. This is the reason we are asking for our counselors to be replaced, the work ahead will not be one of a typical school year.

The school district and board of education voted to make FAFSA a graduation requirement, and we have been a model district in the county to address college and career readiness. As a result, Perris high achieved a 30%

increase in the number of seniors securing financial aid for college. This type of impact in our community does not happen overnight, it takes years of intentional systematic planning and counseling support. As our financial aid numbers have increased, so has the offering of dual enrollment college sections at Perris high school. In 2018 we offered 4.5 sections of dual college classes, now in 2021 we offer 15 sections of Dual college classes. We would like this progress to continue, but as a district we need to be willing to have the support in place to aid this progress. At Perris high, counselors make the difference between a generation of poverty, to a lifetime of hope, access, and career opportunities. School counselors are essential in getting students through high school, and unless you are a school counselor in today's environment, most people have no idea what it takes to get students through the finish line and beyond. Therefore we are asking the district office and board of education to reconsider your decision of the three counseling positions lost across the district and to make future decisions after next school year.

Sky Lovingier, substitute submitted the following written statement:

"I just feel horrible all the time." "I can't do anything right." "I can't focus." "I have no motivation to do anything." "I have no hope." "Nothing matters anymore." "My Father died from Covid. My Mom is working three jobs." "I'm suffocating." "I feel like I'm falling apart." "I was adopted, but they started hurting me, so I got put in a foster home. I have been in 3 or 4 homes in the last few years." "My brother killed himself. I could have stopped him! I feel like it's all my fault!" "I can't stop crying- I cry ALL the time." "I can't feel anything." "It's too overwhelming!" "Cutting my legs makes me feel better." "I can't breath!" "I don't want to hurt anymore." "I want it all to end. I don't want to feel like this anymore!"

This is what our kids are experiencing. I have been a counseling substitute at Perris High School for three weeks, and I would imagine this doesn't scratch the surface of what our kids are enduring. These are all things students have told me. I was made aware of these feelings when calling about FAFSA, senior cohorts, or choosing classes for next year- otherwise these kids would have suffered in silence like thousands of other kids in the district. I did not experience the level of hopelessness, depression and desperation during my year long internship that I have in these few short weeks. I have realized that the magnitude of the trauma and mental health crises our kids are currently experiencing are unfathomable.

When I was in college becoming a teacher, one of my professors told us, "Always do the right thing for kids- no matter the consequences. Even if it means losing your job, be an advocate and a champion for kids. Too often we are all they have." I feel like this is one of those moments. I cannot, in good conscience, put my head in the sand and ignore the needs of these kids- I have to say something. Even if it means never finding a job in this district, I have an ethical duty to advocate for these kids, fight for equity and stand up against injustice. Cutting back on counselors, and increasing counselor load during the biggest mental health crisis in our life-times is criminal.

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recommends that as mental health professionals, School Counselors should have caseloads no larger than 250 students. Counselors at PUSHD currently have caseloads between 440-530 students. Perris High School has much greater needs than most, if not all, high schools in our area. Failure to bolster counseling services at this time, will increase these caseloads and their ability to provide services to all students. However, I have seen them, they will run themselves into the ground trying. They are already overworked; often working well into the night and on weekends. Their compassion and dedication to the well-being and success of their students is their driving force. I saw what it did to them knowing the adverse effects of the decisions concerning counseling. Their hearts break because they know how devastating this decision will be for their students and their families. Through hard work and effective implementation of programs, gaps have been closed at Perris High School, and others are beginning to close. Results that have taken years to achieve will be tossed away with the decrease in school counselors, and the removal of the College and Career position at each site. It is disturbing that this decision has come at a time when other districts are increasing the mental health support, wellness centers, and services provided to their students.

According to the CDC, increased stressors and lack of social support have increased child abuse and neglect. The total number of reported cases has dropped dramatically while the percentage of hospitalizations due to abuse has increased. There has been a 54% increase in alcohol sales in the US since the pandemic began. The World Health Organization warns us that this has exacerbated health concerns and abuse- especially among children. We are facing a mental health emergency! The ASCA has warned us to expect a "monsoon of mental health concerns." Experts are calling for an increase in mental health services, not a cutback in your front line mental health team. To knowingly contribute to the injury of another person is Criminal Malfeasance. We have been warned, excessively, about the current mental health emergency, and the one on the horizon. Our kids are currently experiencing death, trauma, abuse, hopelessness and are in crisis. We KNOW this. Our kids are suffering, and to turn a blind eye to that is wrong. In some cases, the decision you are making for kids is between life and death, a future of hope and prosperity or continued generational struggle and poverty, and you are deciding whether or not they will get the services they need and deserve. We know that when kids feel well, they do well. Our kids are not well, and will not be able to perform to the best of their abilities, academically and otherwise, if we do not address and treat their mental health needs. We need counselors with manageable caseloads more than ever. I imagine you all ran for your position on the school board to help kids, to help families, to help the community and to always fight for their success and well-being. Our kids are AMAZING! They will meet and exceed our expectations, but we have to give them the tools, access to services and abilities to do so. They are worth it, and so deserving. I hope you remember why you do what you do when making this decision, and the impact it will have on those you have committed to serve and advocate for.

Paul Clay, Heritage High School teacher submitted the following written statement:

Thank you again for this opportunity to address the Board of Trustees.

The Board has done a commendable job during these trying times, and this needs to be acknowledged. It seems that no matter which way you went on the issue of closing the schools during this time of COVID, that you were going to receive criticism from one group or the other. Nonetheless, you made the decision and stuck with it. In doing so I feel you may have saved hundreds of lives and potentially thousands more from the misery of this awful disease.

There are two issues I would like to address about our return to school. I am sure that the district has taken every reasonable measure to protect us, but there is one thing that I don't think you may be aware of. At Heritage, and perhaps other sites, our classrooms are like being inside Tupperware. Ventilation is non-existent. The air conditioning and heating are either on or off, either too hot or too cold at any time, and the controls in the classrooms don't work. Long before COVID the rooms were stuffy and, frankly, retained odors for a long time. While it is possible to improve the heating and air units, we are still going to be residing inside a giant thermos. What would really help our classrooms is windows that can open, as well as heating and air units that we can shut-off. I also used a wedge to prop my classroom door open so that students didn't have to touch the handles—very important in limiting the spread. In classrooms that have individual air conditioners, I also strongly recommend cleaning them and making sure the filters are maintained—this was a problem in the past.

Another issue is the rumors that are flying around about possibly ending On Campus Detention. Surrounding feeder districts are devising alternate methods of handling these situations. One thing I heard was that they plan on sending students to the office where CSEA staff will be supervising them. This won't work. Under the law students must be supervised by certificated employees, and besides, they may become a disruption to the office routine. While I think that perhaps an alternative to On Campus Detention is advisable, simply shuttling them to another room and calling it something different isn't a solution. I sincerely hope we are preparing something better.

Shira Smith. Heritage High School parent submitted the following written statement:

Good Afternoon School Board Members, Superintendent Bennett and others,

I first would like to thank you for suggesting that the principals of each school site put together a committee of parents to discuss ideas for the upcoming graduations in June for our seniors. As we all know our seniors, the Class of 2021 has been greatly disrupted by the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Although, they are all wonderful ideas I would like to suggest just one more thing to take into consideration. Today, Riverside county moved into the red tier as the numbers in the county and state have been decreasing quite rapidly. Would it be possible that we not make any quick decisions today, and table this discussion and vote possibly at the April school board meeting? I suggest this only based on how quickly and rapidly

restrictions change and there could be a possibility that in 4 weeks from now that we could have less restrictions than today, and this could broaden the possibility for a more traditional graduation.

Our seniors, in my opinion, have been through a lot this school year. They have watched as their memories of a fun senior year they worked so hard for all these years just diminish before their eyes. I would ask that the members of the school board and Mr. Bennett please reconsider and hold off on any definite plans and table this discussion for next month.

I know that there will still be families who are not comfortable with an in-person graduation ceremony this year, and of course their feelings should be considered as well. However, for those who are not in fear of being around large crowds of people we as a district should explore all possibilities of a more traditional graduation. I would ask that our school board possibly reach out to other districts south of us who are planning a more traditional graduation and inquire what safety precautions they will be putting in place.

After all, the class of 2021 as you said in your last board meeting have really been hit the hardest by all of the restrictions that have been put in place by the state. Therefore, let us all work together, school board members, superintendents, administrators at our school sites along with parents to seek options and put together some safe ideas for the closest traditional graduation ceremony that we can.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my suggestions.

CONSENT CALENDAR

11.1 CONSENT CALENDAR: Approval of Consent Calendar Items

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(David Nelissen)** moved, Member **(Elizabeth Vallejo)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the items listed under the Consent Calendar categories of General Functions, Curriculum, Building and Grounds, and Business."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5**, Nay: **0**. The motion **PASSED 5 – 0**.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

11.2 GENERAL FUNCTIONS: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting for February 10, 2021

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 10, 2021.

CONSENT CALENDAR (cont.)

<u>11.3 CURRICULUM:</u> Revised Academic English Courses: Academic English I; Academic English II; Academic English IV (meets A-G requirements)

The Board of Trustees adopted the revised Academic English courses: Academic English I; Academic English II; Academic English IV.

<u>11.4 CURRICULUM:</u> Ratification of Agreement With the Regents of the University of California for Implementation of the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement Program for Paloma Valley High School (revenue)

The Board of Trustees ratified the Agreement with the Regents of the University of California for implementation of the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement Program for Paloma Valley High School.

<u>11.5 CURRICULUM: Ratification of Agreement No. C1008161 With Riverside County Superintendent of Schools for Homeless Student Expense Reimbursement (revenue)</u>

The Board of Trustees ratified Agreement No. C1008161 with Riverside County Superintendent of Schools for homeless student expense reimbursement.

<u>11.6 CURRICULUM: Ratification of Agreement C1008182 With Riverside County Office of Education for</u> <u>Compensatory Services Reimbursement (revenue)</u>

The Board of Trustees ratified the Agreement C1008182 with Riverside County Office of Education for compensatory services reimbursement.

<u>11.7 CURRICULUM: Agreement IN60324 With Riverside County Superintendent of Schools for Professional</u> <u>Development to Improve the Measurement of Student Learning (funded through the Local Control and</u> <u>Accountability Plan Supplemental and Concentration Funds in the amount of \$15,000, not the General Fund)</u>

The Board of Trustees approved Agreement IN60324 with Riverside County Superintendent of Schools for professional development to improve the measurement of student learning.

<u>11.8 CURRICULUM: Agreement With AVID Center for Advancement Via Individual Determination College</u> <u>Readiness System Services and Products (funded through the Local Control Accountability Plan</u> <u>Supplemental and Concentration Funds in the amount of \$27,920, not the General Fund)</u>

The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement with AVID Center for Advancement Via Individual Determination College Readiness System Services and Products.

<u>11.9 BUILDING AND GROUNDS:</u> Agreement With Everest Environmental, Incorporated for Services Related to the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Paloma Valley High School Pool Project (funded through Various Facilities Funds in the amount of \$17,110, not the General Fund)</u>

CONSENT CALENDAR (cont.)

The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement with Everest Environmental, Incorporated for services related to the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Paloma Valley High School Pool Project.

<u>11.10 BUILDING AND GROUNDS:</u> Agreement With Everest Environmental, Incorporated for Services Related to the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Heritage High School Pool Project (funded through Various Facilities Funds in the amount of \$17,110, not the General Fund)

The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement with Everest Environmental, Incorporated for services related to the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Heritage High School Pool Project.

11.11 BUSINESS: Declaration of Surplus Property (no fiscal impact)

The Board of Trustees approved the declared listed District property as surplus.

11.12 BUSINESS: Report of Purchases - February 2021

The Board of Trustees approved the Report of Purchases for February 2021.

11.13 BUSINESS: Donations - Perris Union High School District

The Board of Trustees accepted the donation as presented.

ORAL REPORTS (Continued)

12.1 Distance Learning and COVID-19 Update

Robert Brough, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Julie Zierold, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Amil Alzubaidi, Director of Special Education, and Dr. Casaundra McNair provided an update to the Board of Trustees on Distance Learning and COVID-19 data.

ACTION ITEMS

<u>13.1 GENERAL FUNCTIONS: Resolution No. 12:20-21 - Trustee Compensation for Missed Meetings</u> (Freeman)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 12:20-21 - Trustee Compensation for Missed Meetings, allowing Trustee Randall Freeman to be compensated for the February 10, 2021, Regular Board Meeting."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4**, Nay: **0**, Abstain: **1**. The motion **PASSED 4 – 0 – 1**.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Abstain
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

<u>13.2 GENERAL FUNCTIONS: Resolution No. 15:20-21 - Resolution Authorizing Support of a Waiver Request</u> <u>on Statewide Assessments</u>

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** moved, Member **(Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 15:20-21 - Resolution Authorizing Support of a Waiver Request on Statewide Assessments."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 – 0.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

13.3 PERSONNEL: Certificated Personnel Action Items

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees ratify and/or approve the Certificated Personnel Action Items as presented."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 - 0.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

13.4 PERSONNEL: Classified Personnel Action Items

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Elizabeth Vallejo) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees ratify and/or approve the Certificated Personnel Action Items as presented."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5**, Nay: **0**. The motion **PASSED 5 – 0**.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

13.5 PERSONNEL: Agreement of Employment, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.)** moved, Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Employment Agreement for the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, for the period beginning February 16, 2021 through October 31, 2023."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 – 0.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

<u>13.6 CURRICULUM: Approval of Waiver of Additional Local Requirements and Reduction of Graduation</u> <u>Credits for Specific Seniors Impacted by COVID-19</u>

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (Dr. Randall Freeman) moved, Member (David Nelissen) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees select and approve the Waiver of Additional Local Requirements and Reduction of Graduation Credits for Specific Seniors Impacted by COVID-19."

Minimum Credit Requirements will be reduced to the following:

• Comprehensive High School Sites: 185 credits / Alternative Education Site(s): 130 credits

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **3**, Nay: **2**. The motion **PASSED 3 – 2**.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	No
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes

David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	No
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

<u>13.7 CURRICULUM:</u> Subscription With Bloomsbury Digital Resources for the Drama Online Collections (funded through the Federal CARES Act Learning Loss Mitigation Fund in the amount of \$145,566, not the General Fund)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.)** moved, Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees the Subscription with Bloomsbury Digital Resources for the Drama Online Collections."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 – 0.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

<u>13.8 BUILDING AND GROUNDS:</u> Agreement With #1 Son Plumbing for the Sewer Line Replacement Project at Paloma Valley High School (funded through the Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$40,500, not the General Fund)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Dr. Randall Freeman) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Agreement with #1 Son Plumbing for the Sewer Line Replacement Project at Paloma Valley High School."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 – 0.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

<u>13.9 BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Award of RFP #021121 to BKM Officeworks, LLC for Liberty High School</u> <u>Office Furniture (funded through Various Facilities Funds in the amount of \$160,000, not the General Fund)</u>

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Award of RFP #021121 to BKM Officeworks, LLC for Liberty High School office furniture."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5**, Nay: **0**. The motion **PASSED 5 – 0**.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

<u>13.10 BUILDING AND GROUNDS:</u> Resolution No. 14:20-21 - Resolution Authorizing Award and Piggybacking for Procurement of Furniture and Equipment for Liberty High School (no fiscal impact)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.) moved, Member (David Nelissen) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 14:20-21 - Resolution Authorizing Award and Piggybacking for Procurement of Furniture and Equipment for Liberty High School."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 – 0.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

<u>13.11 BUSINESS:</u> Resolution No. 13:20-21 - Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Perris Union High School District Authorizing Request for a Waiver From the State Board of Education Relative to Statutory General Obligation Bond Debt Limitations as Provided By Education Code Sections 15102 and 15268 (no fiscal impact)

The Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m. to receive comments regarding the request for a Waiver from the State Board of Education Relative to Statutory General Obligation Bond Debt Limitations as provided by Education Code Sections 15102 and 15268. There were no public comments received. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:55 p.m.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(David Nelissen)** moved, Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 13:20-21 – Resolution of the Board of

Trustees of the Perris Union High School District Authorizing Request for a Waiver from the State Board of Education Relative to Statutory General Obligation Bond Debt Limitations as Provided By Education Code Sections 15102 and 15268."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5**, Nay: **0**. The motion **PASSED 5 – 0**.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

13.12 BUSINESS: Revision of the Perris Union High School District COVID-19 Safety Plan (no fiscal impact)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.) moved, Member (Elizabeth Vallejo) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Revision of the Perris Union High School District COVID-19 Safety Plan."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 - 0.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

<u>13.13 BUSINESS: Approval of the 2020-21 Second Interim Financial Report With a Positive Certification of the Perris Union High School District's Financial Condition (no fiscal impact)</u>

Alisha Fogerty, Director of Fiscal Services, provided the Board of Trustees an update on the Second Interim report along with the District's financial condition for a Positive Certification.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (David Nelissen) moved, Member (Dr. Randall Freeman) seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Agreement with #1 Son Plumbing for the Sewer Line Replacement Project at Paloma Valley High School."

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5, Nay: 0. The motion PASSED 5 – 0.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes

Anthony T. Stafford, Sr. Yes Elizabeth Vallejo Yes

INFORMATION ITEMS

14.1 CURRICULUM: Revised English Courses: English I; English II; and English III Expository Reading and Writing (meets A-G requirements)

The Board of Trustees received, for its review and consideration, as part of the first reading the revised English courses: English I; English II; and English III Expository Reading and Writing.

14.2 CURRICULUM: Revised Course: Yearbook (meets A-G requirements)

The Board of Trustees received, for its review and consideration, as part of the first reading the revised course: Yearbook.

14.3 BUSINESS: Revolving Cash Report - February 2021

The Board of Trustees received, for its information, the Revolving Cash Report for February 2021.

14.4 BOARD POLICIES: Students (Series 5000)

The Board of Trustees received for its review and consideration, as part of the first reading: BP/AR 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention; BP 5141.5 - Mental Health; BP/AR 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process; and BP/AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment.

14.5 BOARD POLICIES: Instruction (Series 6000)

The Board of Trustees received for its review and consideration, as part of the first reading: BP/AR 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes; BP/AR 6020 - Parent Involvement; BP/AR 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances; and AR 6173.4 - Title VI Indian Education Programs.

CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

15.1 CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

It was not necessary to adjourn into Closed Session.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

16.1 RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

It was not necessary to reconvene the meeting.

OTHER ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

17.1 OTHER ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Bennett stated that the District is in a good place now regarding COVID numbers and we are moving forward with bringing more students back on campus, planning for traditional graduations, senior activities, and Senior Awards Night.

OTHER ITEMS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

18.1 OTHER ITEMS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Vallejo reiterated what Trustee Stafford stated earlier that people should get their COVID vaccine adding that she was getting her second dose tomorrow at Paloma Valley High School.

Trustee Nelissen requested that the District contact one of the parents who submitted a public comment to meet and go over some ideas/suggestions that they might have regarding senior activities since there might be fewer restrictions down the road. He stated that he would like seniors to get as much as possible regarding traditional graduation along with senior activities and events.

Trustee Stafford stated that he received his second dose of the COVID vaccine and suggested that people take the time to get it. He also stated that the ventilation issue that was brought up during Public Comments is being taken care of throughout the District. Both he, and Mr. Bennett, are aware of the ventilation issues that arise at Heritage and that it is difficult to keep those rooms ventilated. Lastly, he shared that he toured a couple of school sites with Trustee Vallejo and encouraged other board members to do the same.

Trustee Araux thanked all the staff members who have been working on expanding our cohorts to bring seniors back. He stated that the District is looking at options in regards to graduation and senior activities. He requested that parents and students be notified of what is taking place once a decision has been made. He also stated that teachers and classified staff have stepped up and have done a wonderful job supporting our students during this difficult time.

ADJOURNMENT

19.1 ADJOURNMENT: Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees for March 17, 2021

ADJOURNMENT (cont.)

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** moved, Member **(David Nelissen)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adjourn the March 17, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees" at 8:32 p.m.

Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. The motion **PASSED** 4 - 0 - 1.

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Absent
Elizabeth Vallejo	Yes

Grant Bennett, Superintendent

Dr. Jose Luis Araux, President

Dr. Randall Freeman, Clerk