



PERRIS UNION

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERRIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES July 8, 2020

ROLL CALL

Present:

Trustee Anthony T. Stafford, Sr., President
Trustee Dr. Jose Luis Araux, Vice President
Trustee Edward Garcia, Jr., Clerk
Trustee David Nelissen, Member
Trustee Dr. Randall Freeman, Member

Administrative Staff Present:

Grant Bennett, Superintendent; Candace Reines, Deputy Superintendent – Business Services; Kirk Skorpanich, Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources; Dr. Charles Newman, Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services; Joseph Williams, Executive Director – Technology; Alisha Fogerty, Director – Fiscal Services; and James Heckman, Assistant Director – Technology

Others Attending:

Anna Fetzner, Sarah Rico and others

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

The President of the Board of Trustees called the meeting to order at 4:02 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

- **4.2 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**

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Dr. Jose Luis Araux** moved, Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** 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 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: **4**, Nay: **0**, Absent: **1 (Edward Garcia, Jr.)** The motion **PASSED 4 - 0 - 1.**

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
Edward Garcia, Jr.	Absent
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5.1 RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Board Meeting Will Reconvene at Approximately 4:30 p.m.

The President of the Board of Trustees reconvened the meeting at 4:41 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVISION/ADOPTION/ ORDERING OF AGENDA

6.1 REVISION/ADOPTION/ORDERING OF AGENDA: July 8, 2020

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(David Nelissen)** moved, Member **(Dr. Jose Luis Araux)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve any revision/adoption/ordering of the Agenda of the Special Meeting of the Perris Union High School District Board of Trustees for July 8, 2020."

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

Dr. Jose Luis Araux	Yes
Dr. Randall Freeman	Yes
Edward Garcia, Jr.	Absent
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes

INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

There were no requests to address the Board of Trustees.

STUDY SESSION

8.1 STUDY SESSION: The Board of Trustees Will Conduct a Study Session Regarding Their Governance Roles

Grant Bennett, Superintendent, provided the Board of Trustees a presentation on the Board Governance Roles.

ACTION ITEMS

9.1 CURRICULUM: Approval of Instructional Models for the 2020-21 School Year Reopening Plans

Grant Bennett, Superintendent, and Cabinet provided the Board of Trustees a presentation on the Instructional Models for the 2020-21 School Year Reopening Plans.

Cabinet recommended the Distance Learning Model for the 2020-21 school year reopening plan.

ACTION ITEMS (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 approve the Instructional Models for the 2020-21 school year reopening plans."

AMENDED - Motion

Member **(Edward Garcia, Jr.)** moved, Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** seconded to approve the **AMENDED** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Distance Learning Model as the Instructional Model for the 2020-21 school year reopening plan and reassess at the 6 week grading period to see if we can transition to the Hybrid or Traditional Model."

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
Edward Garcia, Jr.	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes

The following comments were received by the Board of Trustees:

Trustee Araux thanked Superintendent Bennett and Cabinet for their presentation. He thanked all the staff members who actively participated to have their voices heard. He stated that the safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff is our priority. Trustee Araux requested an in depth plan at the upcoming special board meeting on how the district is going to provide services to Special Education and English Learner students so that they are successful.

Trustee Stafford stated that we need to change the way we do things at our schools in regards to sanitation and how we address the habits our students and staff have in regards to sanitation. He requested that the district look at sanitation as a priority.

Trustee Garcia stated that he wants the community to know that after all the brainstorming and information that was given to them he believes wholeheartedly that the decision that was made is morally and ethically right for staff and students. He stated that everyone's life is meaningful and valuable and the Board genuinely cares about everyone. Trustee Garcia also stated that he strongly believes that safety is number one. He mentioned that if anyone would like to reach out to them to please do so. Trustee Garcia stated that the Board likes to work with people not against them.

Trustee Freeman stated that he is glad that they made a unified decision on how to start the upcoming school year. He also mentioned that he is aware that you can not please everyone all the time.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

Trustee Nelissen stated that he appreciates all the comments, emails, and phone calls received questioning why they are making certain decisions and that it's perfectly in the rights of constituents to reach out to them. He mentioned that people should not think that they are not taking COVID-19 seriously. He reiterated that it was not the case. Trustee Nelissen stated that safety is their top priority and that he agrees that distance learning is the best option as of now. He mentioned that he agrees that the District should not be locked into distance learning for a specific amount of time as information changes daily and they should be flexible on re-evaluating the situation.

Trustee Araux stated that the district is deciding that it is not possible to provide in person instruction without putting students at risk. He requested that the district consult with legal counsel to obtain in writing that we are compliant with directives from the state even though we are not following AB77 recommendations of offering traditional school when we reopen for the 2020-21 school year.

Candace Reines, Deputy Superintendent stated that she agrees with Trustee Araux wholeheartedly that we need to be in compliance not with just AB77 but with everything. She stated that the district has been receiving more information and on July 2nd received additional clarification from School Services of California.

Trustee Araux requested updated AB77 information be forward to the Board of Trustees as it's received.

Dr. Charles Newman, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services stated it is not possible to hold a traditional learning model per the new CDC regulations.

Joseph Williams, Executive Director of Technology stated that we have extremely talented teachers and they are eager to teach distance learning. Dr. Newman, Julie Zierold, Charles Tippie, and TOSA's are going to be instrumental in working with teachers to offer meaningful and high quality instruction online.

Trustee Araux stated that he is expecting the District to give clear expectations to all staff and students of what is expected of them.

Superintendent Bennett stated that the District had a discussion with PSEA that there is going to be a mandatory three days a week synchronous learning and two days a week where students are learning individually.

Mr. Williams stated that the district is recommending that teachers offer synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Trustee Garcia asked if staff will continue to be on paid salary.

Ms. Reines stated that staff will continue to be paid their salary.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

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

Jason Miller, PSEA President submitted the following written statement:

"PSEA officially endorses a fully online model for school re-opening for the 2020-21 school year. This endorsement is for the safety of our members, other employees, administration, and the students that we serve."

Josh Rushing, CSEA Chapter President submitted the following written statement:

Thank you board president Stafford, board members and cabinet for the time to have my statement read this evening.

I wanted to share some information with you regarding the classified staff survey CSEA has conducted over the past 3 days and the models that we would like to see in place when it comes to returning to work this coming school year.

Over the past couple months I have heard that "Staff input" was taken as it pertained to the model that we would reopen schools. Even though I have never seen a survey get sent to classified staff, like the one sent to parents. To that effect CSEA chapter 469 has sent out a survey to our members to get their input.

The survey was sent out just 3 days ago and has 170 responses as of 3:17 pm today. For those of you that have surveyed employees, you know that amount of responses is almost unheard of. The results so far in the two different categories are as follows:

1.) Comfort in the traditional model presented to the board for returning to work (36-1 class sizes)?

- 66% are uncomfortable with returning in this fashion
- 34% can either live with it or are comfortable with returning in this format

2.) What model would you want to see the district use to return in the fall?

- 44% want to see a hybrid model
- 42% would like to see a distance model
- 13% would like to see traditional

I think it is important that these figures are shared with the board as well as the cabinet in the hopes that you take them into consideration when making a decision. Thank you for your time this evening and I hope you find

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

your way to approve a model that has the least amount of negative impact on the safety of students and staff alike, until the pandemic is mitigated to a point where we can all return safely.

Elizabeth Smith, Teacher at Paloma Valley High School submitted the following written statement:

Good afternoon,

As a mother, educator, and wife to a disabled Army veteran, I am greatly disappointed with the district's plan to resume with business as usual with the traditional plan.

It is unsafe. Students are sent to school sick on a normal day, during a pandemic this is sure to happen as well. Without proper safeguards, the district is just putting students, staff, and their family's health in jeopardy.

By hosting a virtual school board meeting to avoid exposure you demonstrate the district's concern for the virus. This group is significantly smaller than a classroom and a full board meeting with large community participation is significantly smaller than a school population. The fact that you are unwilling to have an in-person meeting to discuss reopening suggests that the district values the health and safety of the board and its families more than the thousands of students and hundreds of staff in their care.

This is an utter disappointment.

I ask you to reconsider your position for the safer, more economical solution of distance learning for the foreseeable future. It will keep students and staff safe instead of infecting them and their families. With proper guidelines and expectations, distance learning can be effective and far safer than the traditional school model.

Thank you for your time.

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

Yesterday, Kathy Hoffman, the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, bluntly stated in a press release "I cannot provide those assurances for the adults and students who are medically vulnerable in our school communities at this time." Can anybody make such guarantees here? She further indicates that yesterday's White House meeting did not consider the growing threat of COVID and the situation in which Arizona finds itself, not unlike the situation we find ourselves in here, Riverside County. Other school, Public Health, and executive administrators around the country have similarly sounded the alarm. We should be listening.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

I cannot stress enough the breadth and depth of this pandemic, and the dangers that await us if we resume in-class studies. Please, adopt the only course that makes any sense at all, and that is Distance Learning.

<https://www.azed.gov/communications/category/press-releases/>

Alicia Araux, Teacher at Heritage High School submitted the following written statement:

Good afternoon President Stafford, board members, superintendent and cabinet members,

My name is Alicia Araux and I have been a teacher in this district for fourteen years. I have worked at Perris High School, and Heritage High School. In addition, I have been a Perris Community member for over 20 years.

I am reaching out to you to share my views on the upcoming school year. I think most teachers were expecting to begin the school year in the traditional, normal way. These days, the normal is changing everyday. We are not living in normal times and it is imperative we keep our health and safety as a number one priority.

When schools closed on March 13th, the number of covid cases in Riverside county were a lot less than the ones today. The covid numbers are on the rise and that is scary for all. I miss my students and wish that we had the ability to have the safety precautions in place to return to our campus. Unfortunately, our reality is that we can't. It's not safe. It is impossible to expect that we can maintain social distancing in a classroom of 36 students. It is impossible to keep our classrooms and hallways sanitized. Can you guarantee our desks will be sanitized each day? Can you guarantee that we will have enough materials to ensure nothing is shared amongst students ? Can you guarantee the door where I stand each period to greet my students will be sanitized each day?

I understand this is an extremely difficult decision for you to make. I ask you to please consider reopening with a distance learning model and when it is safe, to revisit the issue to transition to maybe hybrid with the goal of the traditional model.

Thank you for listening .

Paula Aldama, Community Member submitted the following written statement:

9.1 Curriculum: for Heritage Highschool

*Will career path classes (Medical Interventions, 11th grade) be offered on distance learning.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

*Would the kids be able to switch to traditional classes if the curriculum is too hard to do at home with distance learning? Would they be able to go to the same school?

*Would AP classes be offered on distance learning? Would they still be able to take the end of the year AP test?

*Will each teacher be required to make an instructional video on their subject?

Darcy Castro, Parent submitted the following written statement:

Why is the school not doing a hybrid model when most other districts including LA County are giving this option. My son is a Senior. He only has a few classes which he can do at home however he does have an auto which is hands on and the only class he would need to attend. Also, he is enrolled to do work study in auto, will this be allowed? This is vital to his life and his career path.

Julia Peacock, Teacher at Perris High School submitted the following written statement:

My name is Julia Peacock and I'm a teacher at Perris High.

With the increase of cases of COVID-19 in California and hospitals in Riverside County reporting that they are reaching surge capacity, it is unsafe to return to physical classes in the fall. Distance learning is the safest option until the virus is under control or we have a lifesaving treatment and vaccine. My life and the lives of every one of our stakeholders and our families depend on this.

I shouldn't have to remind you that over 3 million Americans have become infected with the disease. Over 130,000 of them have died and the numbers continue to rise exponentially.

I shouldn't have to remind you that because this virus is so new, the long term effects—decreased lung capacity, fever, fatigue, kidney damage, blood clotting, how children react—are unknown. Doctors are reporting disastrous damage to victims' internal organs.

I shouldn't have to remind you that the American Academy of Pediatrics based most of their return to school advice on children 12 and under using the research of daycare facilities where children are mostly outside and in small, homogenous groups of less than 10.

I shouldn't have to remind you that our classrooms are not large enough to practice social distancing with more than about 10 teenagers in the room and our weather is not cool enough to hold classes outside.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

I shouldn't have to remind you that there is no reputable medical professional in the world who believes masks should not be worn at all times and that I will not work with or teach anyone who refuses to wear a mask regardless of what anyone from the district says to the press.

I shouldn't have to remind you that our students are not just ADA dollars or numbers on a spreadsheet, and that every decision you make must take their health, their safety, and their lives into account. If you can't do this, you're in the wrong place.

I shouldn't have to remind you how underhanded it was for district officials to announce in PRC that hybrid was going to be the likely model for fall then blindsided everyone on social media during the summer with "traditional class sizes."

I shouldn't have to remind you that one death in our district because we opened schools too early will be your fault and one from which we will never recover. Can you emotionally and financially afford to have that kind of blood on your hands? And which of us is expendable?

I shouldn't have to remind you that you cannot make me sign a waiver to hold you harmless should I become infected in the line of doing my job.

I shouldn't have to remind you that after voting our county "mask optional," the county board of supervisors had to return to virtual meetings because two of their own staff members contracted the virus.

But I guess I do have to remind you that while you hold the fate, the health, the safety, and the lives of well over 10,000 people in your hands with the decisions you make over the next few days and weeks, that many of you are doing all of this in the comfort of your own homes behind computer screens or at least wearing masks because gathering with people you don't live with is DANGEROUS AND DEADLY during a global pandemic. You won't sit in a room with each other but you'll send thousands of children, teachers, and support staff back to their classrooms in just over three weeks?

This hypocrisy is not lost on any of us who now realize that our district administrators believe we are expendable. We're not.

Vickey Mueller, Teacher at Pinacate Middle School submitted the following written statement:

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

To Whom It May Concern,

My hope is that there is deep consideration for all teachers, staff, and students in the decision to re-open schools. It is interesting that the board meeting is being held virtually due to concerns of social distancing, yet the district has no problem proposing full classroom contact at 36:1 by people that have limited contact with the public.

I am deeply concerned with statements made by Candice Reines that there will not be a requirement for students to wear masks, as a person with underlying health issues this is frightening. Additionally, publicly there is no plan to implement the 6-foot distancing guidelines as mandated by the state of California and CDC guidelines.

I am baffled by the change in direction by the district to drop the hybrid model instruction. With the increase of cases and numbers of asymptomatic carriers, any student, teacher, administrator, or support personnel with underlying health conditions and their families will be at risk.

I would like to present the following questions and concerns to the Board, Cabinet, and Administrators as you consider full reopening schools.

1. If Distance Learning is available for some students: Are the teacher's health conditions and concerns a priority in consideration by the district? How will teachers be chosen? Does seniority with the district play into teacher selection?
2. What will be the requirements and protocol for requesting to teach distance learning? How will students be prepared for new health and safety procedures?
What is the plan to teach and prepare students before school starts to follow distancing guidelines? What will you do if students and families refuse to follow recommended guidelines?
3. What will happen in the event a student becomes ill, has tested positive, or in any way may have contracted, or is at risk of spreading the virus?
How soon will teachers be notified if a student in their classroom, or on campus, has contracted the virus, or has a family member who is quarantined or has contracted the virus? If a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19. Will testing for teachers or staff members be provided?
4. How will staff quarantine be handled? Will this come from sick days? Or will it be paid, administration leave?
5. What happens if a staff member becomes ill due to contact from a student or other staff member will this be covered by Worker's Compensation?
6. How will we manage student materials? Will the district provide materials for students?
- 7 How will PE, lunch, Passing periods, Bathroom, and Drinking Fountains be Monitored? PE - how will locker rooms be monitored?

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

Lunch - How will lines and seating be handled?

Bathroom - Who will be responsible for monitoring handwashing?

8. How will horseplay, hugging, and other physical contact be addressed?

What will student movement look like in the halls, walkways to and from class?

9. How will dismissal be handled? Will there be arrows, marks on the ground to separate students as they enter classrooms?

10. Will there be someone who: monitors staff, students as they enter campus for temperatures? asks students and staff regarding COVID + contact? Asks students if they have taken Tylenol or aspirin prior to coming to school?

11. Who will be responsible for: Cleaning touch surfaces throughout the day?

Cleaning desks, chairs, other surfaces in the classroom as students change classes? Cleaning student and staff bathrooms as they are used?

12. Will the district manage the airflow in classrooms?

13. How will classrooms with no windows, and classrooms where the air is only recirculated be addressed?

14. How will we know? If our classrooms have been disinfected properly, will we be provided a checklist? If the bathrooms have been cleaned after use? Will we be provided a checklist?

*Prior to today's board meeting, I have already provided a list of questions to the cabinet and the board regarding reopening plans. I still have not received any response to those questions.

Again, I would like to voice my concerns regarding the full re-opening of the schools.

Blake Burnett, Teacher submitted the following written statement:

Due to the compromised immune systems and known health concerns for myself (surgery and cancer treatment within the last year, 3 major surgeries within the last two years) and my husband (nth stage [complete] kidney failure and dialysis), I have taken the utmost care and greatest precautions at all times during this pandemic. I am also concerned, in general, for the health and safety of my family (young and old), and that of our students and their families (compromised immune systems, extended family health concerns, multigenerational family home settings where greater disease risk is in the immediate household, etc.).

Following are many of the concerns I have and answers I need regarding the opening of our school site and district for the upcoming school year, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. Will I be eligible for teaching through distance learning?

1. Are teacher health conditions and concerns a priority in consideration for distance learning?
2. How will distance learning teachers be chosen?

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

3. Does seniority with the district play into teacher selection?
 4. What will be the requirements and protocol for requesting to teach distance learning?
- B. How will students, staff, and teachers be prepared for being safety aware and responsible in school settings?
1. How will the district teach and prepare students (and their families) for their responsibilities to their families, classmates, teachers, and others, as far as their general awareness and the spread of disease?
 2. What about students and families, or even staff, who refuse to follow recommended and mandated health and safety protocol and procedures?
 3. What will happen in the event a student or staff member becomes ill, has tested positive, or in any way may have contracted, or is at risk of spreading the virus?
 4. How soon will teachers be notified if a student in their classroom, or on campus, has contracted the virus, or has a family member who is quarantined or has contracted the virus?
 5. Will students be required to wear masks (on campus, in the classroom, during physical activities, outside the classroom but on campus, etc.)?
 6. What do we do when students take off masks, forget masks, refuse to wear masks, trade masks, etc?
 7. Will students be removed from class, and are there administrative actions or measures beyond the classroom that will aid in making sure students are adhering to guidelines, rules, and mandates?
- C. What will our classrooms look like?
1. How many students will be in each classroom and what will be the physical distancing requirements?
 2. Will we (staff and students) be following state mandates and recommendations (masks and 6 foot minimum distance between individuals)?
 3. How will we separate students who sit at tables, rather than desks?
 4. What in general will be done, physically, to prevent the spread of disease in the classroom (airborne or physical contact)?
- D. Will students be expected or allowed to bring any materials from home, or will these be provided by the district?
- E. Who will be monitoring and controlling student behavior in and out of the classroom and what will be the consequences of willful disruption or ignoring of guidelines and mandates?
1. What about student contact such as horseplay, hugging, other physical contact, passing in the halls, PE, and during lunch?

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

2. What about students using the restroom, drinking fountains, and accessing different areas of the campus?
3. What will student movement look like during passing periods (unidirectional through the halls, staggered movement and dismissal times, etc.)?

F. How and when will our classrooms and the campus be cleaned and sanitized?

1. Will cleaning and sanitization occur regularly throughout the day everyday and by whom?
2. What exactly will be included in routine cleaning (desktops, chairs, countertops, door handles, floors, etc.)?
3. Will custodians' explicit checklists and expectations be provided to teachers and staff?

G. What PPE and sanitization materials and supplies will be provided to teachers for their classrooms and students?

1. Is there a budget in place for masks, hand sanitizer, extra cleaning and sanitization supplies?
2. Who will provide these, where and when will they be made available, what will be the protocol for making sure these are in place and available to all staff at all times?

H. What will be the student expectations for learning, classwork participation, turning in assignments, and grades?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daria Cross, Teacher submitted the following written statement:

I'd like to begin by thanking the Board for their efforts in these unprecedented times. Your decisions on whether and how PUHSD will open the school year have taken on a significance none of us in education could have anticipated. I am confident that each of you has the best interests of students and families in our district at heart. I'd also like to thank Superintendent Bennett for notifying us of this Special Board Meeting. I appreciate his commitment to including the voices of all stakeholders in this critical decision-making process.

With the school year slated to open in less than a month, and with COVID-19 cases rising exponentially, the choices we make as educators have a singular and direct impact on how we weather this crisis as a nation.

There can be no denying the pressure educators are under to reopen schools in the fall. We are witnessing the politicization of a global pandemic. Public health is NOT a political issue, however. This is about our rights, as students and staff, to be safe on campus.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

There are myriad practical contingencies, questions, and concerns which need to be addressed. Here is a partial list:

- Our student population is one that is disproportionately affected by COVID-9. As a result, the families of students and staff in the PUHSD are at higher risk than some surrounding districts. How is that being taken into consideration?

- The classroom environment is inadequate to allow for the current CDC and AAP recommendations for a safe reopening of schools. Ventilation, cleaning and decontamination, the recommended 6 ft. of space... even if reduced to 3 ft, do not allow for a return to 100% traditional, on-campus learning models.

- We don't have enough school nurses, custodial staff, and campus supervisors to facilitate physical distancing protocols at lunch and between classes, substitute teachers when staff have symptoms - and given the uncertainty and ever expanding CDC listing of COVID-19 symptoms teachers will need to self-quarantine at the first sign of illness.

- How will sick leave be addressed? Teachers must be confident that we can take time off without fear of exhausting sick leave and being docked pay. Sub plans are difficult under the best of circumstances. The district should consider that many symptomatic teachers will have a natural inclination to stay in the classroom, which could put everyone at greater risk.

- People are finding that their Covid Testing appointments are being cancelled due to a shortage of testing kits in the region. This is without the additional exposure of tens of thousands of teachers and staff returning to campuses.

- Would students be better served by an investment in training, resources, and the development of a rigorous and robust Distance Learning curriculum for the inevitability of online instruction?

- What is the threshold for closing individual classrooms, buildings, or entire campuses in the event of positive cases? What guidance will these determinations be based upon? The CDC appears to be shifting guidance in response to pressure from the Trump administration. In that vacuum, which guidance will the district adopt?

I urge the Board to continue to keep the health and safety of students, staff, and the wider community at the forefront of any decisions regarding re-opening. Please continue to follow public health and safety guidelines. Do not bow to political pressure from an administration which has proven to be dangerously incompetent in the face of this pandemic.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

Michael Wilson, Teacher at Paloma Valley High School submitted the following written statement:

I've noticed in life the things I "want" to do and the things I "have" to do are often at odds with each other. As a teacher at Paloma, I *want* to be in the classroom. Kids learn better there and it's easier to teach that way too. Unfortunately the circumstances require a different direction. Putting 36 kids in a small classroom space and shuffling them to 7 periods a day exposes each student and teacher to over 250 people every single day. There is a reason schools were the first part of the economy to shut down. Schools are the number one breeding ground for any pathogen. Our numbers are increasing with the school's closed. If we reopen them, the numbers will skyrocket which may cause government officials to shutter the economy again. This thing has already killed over 130,000 Americans and it's only getting worse. Many question the validity of the numbers, perhaps you may be among them. But that doesn't matter because these are the official government numbers and therefore must serve as the basis for our decision making.

It would be irresponsible to reopen the schools at this time. This job isn't supposed to be dangerous. I have multiple pre-existing conditions which greatly increase my chances of a negative outcome from covid. I shouldn't have to choose between my job and potential death/disability. I've heard people compare teaching to other front-line jobs. But the sheer number of students that we come in contact with in the confined space of our classrooms, the fact that they are children who don't know how to social distance and wear a mask, all makes this far more dangerous than a traditional job.

And what of the students who will bring this home to their parents? Our district has over 10,000 students. If each one of them have 1 or 2 guardians and this disease is allowed to run its course through our schools, that could result in 15,000 parent infections. If they die at the current mortality rate of 1.5%, that means as many as 225 parents could die in our district alone. That's a horrible impact on our students and the community as a whole.

On July 1st, the district made their initial announcement to reopen with a traditional model. This was the same day the governor closed restaurant dining rooms and beaches again. Even this meeting is being held virtually because of the dangers of gathering people together. This tells us things are getting worse, not better. If it's unsafe to eat a burger at applebees, then it is certainly unsafe to send 10,000 children back to school. The decisions we make today don't have to be permanent. Let's stay at home for now and ride out the curve. We can always reevaluate again at the semester or another time.

Noelle Ruiz, Teacher submitted the following written statement:

With the number of cases rising every single day in the past month in Riverside county. Why aren't you putting more effort into ensuring the safety of your staff members and students? Why aren't you mandating social

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

distancing & masks in classrooms? Why aren't you promising to provide PPE and sanitizers to your staff & students? Temecula & Val Verde (among others, I'm sure) have already come to an agreement to do this for their staff & students. You sent out a previous email saying that the hybrid model was the one that was most likely going to be put into place - what happened to this? This would have allowed for the social distancing many of us need to feel safe. What is the protocol if a teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Do all of their 180+ students also have to quarantine for 14 days? What about the rest of the people that those students come into contact with during the course of a typical day? The students are being allowed to choose distance learning. Are you also allowing your staff members to choose? You do have teachers on your staff who are immunocompromised or live with an immunocompromised person, in case you didn't know. Many of our students also live with elderly grandparents, who are more at risk of contracting COVID19 and subsequently dying.

Denise Tellez, Parent submitted the following written statement:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today regarding returning to school in the fall.

My name is Denise Téllez and I am a parent of a Perris High School student, an Innovative Horizon student and I am also an educator with the Moreno Valley Unified School District.

My two sons have been outside of school and I have been teaching via Distance Learning from home since March. My boys need to return to school, to see their educators and friends in person, and to learn in the classroom and not through a computer screen. It is important for their development, social and emotional well being and mental health. In addition, with two working parents, it may become increasingly difficult to do our jobs with the boys at home.

HOWEVER, what my children need even more is to stay physically healthy and to do their part to keep others physically healthy. While not being at school could be detrimental to their development and mental health, the possibility of students and educators inadvertently infecting each other and possibly causing illness or death is infinitely worse! Being at home and learning from home is temporary and 100% Distance Learning is what the district must do to keep staff and students safe. Because of this, we must start the school year going full virtual while giving every student the opportunity to regularly meet individually with their teachers online.

Speaking of the staff, I urge the districts to include the Perris Teachers Association and Perris Elementary Association in all discussions regarding what this upcoming school year will look like and to look at the CDC requirements to keep everyone safe. No one understands our children, our schools, and what it will take to reopen schools safely more than the people that teach our kids. Listen to your educators. With each day, more

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

and more districts are going full virtual for the Fall. It is better and wiser to start the year with caution and gradually return than to risk people's health and safety as the main option and then have to backtrack.

To the speakers/people who say that death rates are still low: Yes, death rates will remain low IF there is capacity in hospitals. But if we go back to schools now, cases will continue to increase, we will exceed capacity, and people will die. I encourage both districts to take the lead and make the right choice now – 100% distance learning in the fall.

Thank you.

Monica Torez, Teacher submitted the following written statement:

I do not feel comfortable putting myself, my family and my loved ones at risk and would like to teach virtually. My students are high risk and they can easily fall sick and I would NOT feel like a just and caring person/educator if I were to ask them to come out of the safety of their homes and put all of our lives at risk. Especially when I could give them the same education they need virtually. I think that it's important to keep in mind that this PANDEMIC is temporary (even if it lasts 2 years or longer- there's an end) and the more serious and safely we handle this matter the sooner it will be over and the sooner we can return to life as usual (at home and at school). Where we go wrong is right here! RIGHT NOW! By making students and staff go to school when it's not yet safe. If we keep doing.....forcing things to be better when they just are not..... we will never get back to normal or our "getting back to normal" will continuously be postponed. Not much will change in a month and we're doing this board meeting virtually because it's not safe to meet in person- however you are asking our students and ourselves to MEET IN PERSON IN THE CLASSROOM? Despite it being part time.....In what world does this make any sense?

Paul submitted the following written statement:

Another consideration in deliberating the question of in-class teaching: how are you going to get the students in class? It is almost a certainty that many will stay home. Your attendance numbers will plummet, and then we'll have to implement distance learning, anyway. DISTANCE LEARNING NOW!

Resa Rosenstein, Teacher at Paloma Valley High School submitted the following written statement:

On Tuesday, in testimony to the Israeli parliament, Dr. Udi Kliner, Sadetzki's deputy, reported that schools—not restaurants or gyms—turned out to be the country's worst mega-infectors.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

(Again, this should be of interest to Americans who have been told by a presidential tweet in all caps that "SCHOOLS MUST OPEN IN THE FALL!!!")

Times of Israel article:

Israel's Cautionary Tale

From Times of Israel article:

Israel school epidemic. "Two weeks after Israel fully reopened schools, a COVID-19 outbreak sweeping through classrooms — including at least 130 cases at a single school — has led officials to close dozens of schools where students & staff were infected."

Ashleigh Haydock submitted the following written statement:

I would like to know about freshman orientation, legacy launch, etc. this year. I would like an update on sports. I see cheer and volleyball on the calendar. Do you have a plan for that yet?

Noelle Cammon submitted the following written statement:

Greetings Board Members and Members of our community,

I'd very much like the Board to address the concerns of teachers and support staff during this meeting. How is the safety of teachers being considered during this process? Also, what criteria has been established for closing the schools to in person instruction. How many COVID cases? How many deaths? What's the number that would justify the schools closing for in person instruction? We really need to be meticulous and thoughtful about as many scenarios as possible. I would ask that before you consider the reopening plan, you make decisions on the hard questions first. We are actually talking about life or death here. Thank you.

Joe Ellett, Teacher submitted the following written statement:

I have been teaching in the district for 17 years and also have two students currently enrolled at Paloma Valley High School.

With everything that I have read, it seems like we need to wear masks and social distance to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Only a fully online learning plan or a hybrid plan seem to be workable with the current state of the pandemic. So, I was very disappointed to see that the hybrid option was no longer available. I will not

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

feel comfortable with 36 students in my classroom this fall—with that number of students in the room, each person can typically reach out and touch at least 5 other students without getting out of their seat.

My children will be requesting the fully online plan. We hope that the district will put in place and clearly communicate a plan that will keep students and teachers safe.

Chalice Zimmerman submitted the following written statement:

When will we know about high school athletes re-starting?

Erin Winston, Teacher submitted the following written statement:

Why would you decide the fate of our future without even the courtesy of discussing it with us? You can't even sit in the same room to make that decision and yet I'm supposed to be in a classroom with almost 40 people or in a locker room with 200+ people in close quarters, without a step by step plan/guide on how you will keep me unaffected. I'm sadly not surprised you would risk our lives and protect yours, as you sit in an office, behind a computer screen.

Julia Marie submitted the following written statement:

How will you be protecting students in schools? What will you do if a student no longer feels comfortable going on campus and needs to switch to distance?

Cortney Powers submitted the following written statement:

Please consider the social emotional health of employees and students as people are being asked to enter into potentially hazardous classrooms and environments. My family is fearful of me having to walk into a classroom and come home infected or infecting others.

Shannon Romero submitted the following written statement:

What is the district doing to protect teachers or staff with compromised immune systems?

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

Xavier Padilla, Counselor submitted the following written statement:

Dear Board Members. First and foremost. I know that COVID has really changed things and I am hopeful that the board finds the best solution possible that involves the safety and health of all our students and staff that are part of the PUHSD Family. I have two questions:

#1 - Since Traditional School is now an option for our families and from the last board meeting it was stated that classrooms COULD go up to 36 to 1 - what assurances will the district provide to their students and staff that the utmost care will occur to make sure that students and staff are taken care of. I find it very hard to believe that we can have six feet of distancing and proper disinfecting of each classroom when schools starts at 20 to 1, let alone 36 to 1. Example - when period one ends, there are only six minutes for an entire class to leave the room and get to their next class. As a new set of students come in. Who will clean EACH DESK and EACH CHAIR that was formerly occupied by another student. We can't assume that the desk and chair/seating is safe after an occupant has been there for 50 minutes. Who is going to clean all those desks and chairs when each period ends. If you are going to require the teachers to do it every passing period - what safeguards are you providing them and is it justified that you require that the teachers do it every period. Teachers are not certified to properly disinfect entire classrooms. I just don't see how we can keep our students and staff safe with such large numbers from being infected.

#2 - Perris High School is going through construction, and our walking areas and entire school has gotten smaller. As a counselor, I along with my counselor counterparts have all been moved into one Science Classroom. My new office does not allow for six feet of distancing. How will the district make sure all staff that are in this situation, be safe guarded when they cannot keep the recommended clearance. I will be going to work and though I am healthy, my wife has a weak immune system. She isn't diagnosed with a weak immune system, but being married to her for 24 years - whenever she gets the COMMON FLU or COLD it takes her forever to recover and I've had to take her to emergency on a few occasions when it was just the COMMON FLU. If I get COVID and I am not aware that I have contracted it, I fear for MY WIFE and what I could be bringing home. How can you assure me and all my other colleagues and students, that are in this same situation, that we will be okay?

#3 - Since you will be requiring staff to return to work with a large population when will you provide us the testing for COVID to make sure that when we return, we are not a carrier and how often should the staff be tested, if you are requiring everyone to return to a campus populated by over 1,000 students and staff - possibly 2,000 or more students and staff?

Thank you for your time and once more, I know that this is a difficult time for everyone and it's imperative that we all keep the communication open and that we be as transparent as much as possible.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

Stephanie Zinzun submitted the following written statement:

- Why was the hybrid option removed?
- When we go back, since there will be both traditional and online, I will be expected to do double the work. Will I get paid extra or will I be given extra prep periods to prepare?
- If I get COVID and have to be out for 14 days, how is my sub going to be paid?
- If I get sick at school, regardless of how long I am out, is that part of workman's comp, considering the District knows I am in danger?
- Why are face masks going to be an option, depending on the state guidelines if case numbers are going up?

Marisa Billions submitted the following written statement:

I'm concerned about the full reopening of the school to traditional business. It is impossible to social distance 36 teenagers in a standard classroom, not to mention the proper sanitizing between classes, and enforcing the mask wearing as well. We cancelled school when there were only a handful of cases in March. Now we are spiking at an alarming rate, with over 40 new cases in Menifee alone in the last two days. The state of California had its highest number of infections recorded just yesterday. I'm confused as to how there is justification for full reopen now. You are having this meeting virtually, from the safety of your own homes. How is it you expect us to go into the classrooms in less than a month, safely? It is also rumored that there will be a no mask policy which goes against state guidelines. How can you possibly keep anyone safe that way? What will be the plans for frequent quarantines and potential infection? We should not be penalized for the increased risk and hazard to our health and safety and that of our families. How will it be handled if a teacher or student tests positive? Will everyone in contact have to be quarantined for two week minimums?

CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

10.1 CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

It was necessary to adjourn to the continuation of Closed Session at 5:56 p.m.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

11.1 RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

The regular Board Meeting was reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

12.1 ADJOURNMENT: Special Meeting July 8, 2020

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Dr. Randall Freeman)** moved, Member **(Dr. Jose Luis Araux)** seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion, "It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adjourn the July 8, 2020, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees" at 8:09 p.m.

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
Edward Garcia, Jr.	Yes
David Nelissen	Yes
Anthony T. Stafford, Sr.	Yes

Grant Bennett, Superintendent

Anthony T. Stafford, Sr., President

Edward Garcia, Jr., Clerk