

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY DISTRICTS
NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

Convene Open Session

Board President Ranii called this Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance at Meeting

Sheila Coonerty	John Owen	Cindy Ranii	Deb Tracy-Proulx
Jeremy Shonick	Patricia Threet	Claudia Vestal	

Absent: Student Board Representative Sophie Nigh
Student Board Representative Xhu Lopez Guzman

Kris Munro, Superintendent
Dorothy Coito, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Molly Parks, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Jim Monreal, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Members of the Audience

Welcome and Format

Board President Ranii welcomed those in attendance and explained the format used for this Special Meeting of the Board of Education. President Ranii reviewed the meeting norms and meeting agreements for maintaining effective governance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

GSCFT President Casey Carlson stated that while the Union has been working closely with district leadership about expanding in-person instruction, there are still many concerns about health and safety. There is an overarching concern about the rising cases in Santa Cruz county and asked that these concerns of teachers be addressed.

Teachers from the Santa Cruz City School District expressed concerns about shifting to Hybrid Instruction. Reasons for these concerns included the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in Santa Cruz County, concern about health and safety for teachers, staff and students, and apprehension of having to change instructional models mid-year.

Parents from Santa Cruz City Schools addressed the board, stating their strong belief that schools need to reopen. Reasons for this included the decline in mental health of students and concern about the quality of education students are receiving in distance learning. Parents acknowledged concerns raised by teachers, but also encouraged the district to look to private schools and other school districts who have successfully opened for Hybrid Instruction.

An 11th grade student from Santa Cruz High School spoke to the board, sharing that many students want schools to reopen. He shared that in Europe, even with the increase of COVID cases, schools have remained open.

Dr. Tracy Maclay shared with the board that she works in a respiratory clinic and she and all her peers believe students should return to school for in-person instruction. Dr. Maclay acknowledged the fear caused by COVID but also stated that the trauma for students has dramatically increased since the switch to distance learning.

ITEMS TO BE TRANSACTED AND/OR DISCUSSED

3.1.1. New Business: Schedules for Hybrid Instruction

Since school closures in March 2020, the District has undergone an exacting planning process for expanded services that included input from teachers, classified staff, administration, families, and students. Strengths and challenges of proposed schedules were put into four different categories: Curriculum and Instruction, Health and Safety, Parent Input, and Teacher Input.

The Superintendent's Advisory Committee recommended a Hybrid Schedule with 2 days per week in person for the Elementary District. Surveys were given to both parents and staff to inform the committee decision. Parent preference was split between the two schedules and teacher preference also varied by site. The committee favored Schedule 1 because it was the best schedule for parents who are working, the longer school day and no midday pickups and drop offs help working families. Another reason the committee gave for the recommendation is that there is a 5 day break between students being on campus supports contact tracing and keeps teachers exposed to only one group of students per day, and cleaning and disinfecting could be done more thoroughly than with the other proposed schedule. The committee's recommendation was not unanimous with 75% of the participants preferring the recommended schedule and 25% preferring the other option. The Committee agreed that there are still concerns about the workload that this schedule will put on teachers, and that students will have three days of asynchronous learning, as well as fewer in person minutes. Curriculum staff are committed to helping find ways to mitigate these concerns.

The Superintendent's Advisory Committee recommended an In-Person & Zoom Hybrid Schedule for the Secondary District. After surveying stakeholders, it is the clear schedule preference of students, staff, and parents. Trustees asked questions and had discussion.

Public Comment: Elementary Teacher and Committee Member Kathy Chaput commended District leadership for conscientiously gathering feedback from stakeholders. She did share concerns about the consistency of student learning in the recommended Elementary Hybrid Schedule.

Public Comment: GSCFT President Casey Carlson stated that the Union supports adopting a Hybrid Instructional schedule and shared her hope that teachers' voices will be considered when voting. She also shared that the Elementary District Schedule will require additional negotiations between the District and the Union.

Public Comment: Elementary Parent Cecilia Shin advocated her support for the am/pm schedule, stating she believed it was the better choice for education.

Public Comment: Elementary School Teacher Beau Blanton advocated for the am/pm schedule, expressed his concern about the 2 day a week schedule for elementary.

Public Comment: High School Teacher Stacey Falls shared her concern with returning to Hybrid Instruction in either proposed schedule. She stated teachers already have an increased workload and believes this will increase in moving to Hybrid Instruction. She also expressed her concern with returning to in-person instruction.

Public Comment: High School Teacher Helena Bradford shared concern about the set-up of socially distanced classrooms in Hybrid Instruction. She also stated that teachers continue to improve at delivering instruction through distance learning.

Public Comment: Soquel High School teacher, Spencer Marshak, expressed concerns about the Hybrid Schedule, fearing it would result in less instructional time with students.

Public Comment: Elementary Teacher Tatiana Miller expressed her appreciation to the Board and the District and the focus of supporting learning and families in need.

Public Comment: Teacher Lisa French asked if the District can investigate expanding the small cohort model that has been implemented at sites.

Public Comment: Principal Clyde Curley shared his experience serving on the committee. He reported that the committee was split on the schedules, but 75% believed that the Elementary 2 day a week schedule was the best option to remain safe and serve students and families.

Public Comment: Elementary Parent Stacey Stringer acknowledged the childcare conflicts that arose with the am/pm schedule option, but she encouraged the District to look at options to help remedy this.

President Ranii proposed the board vote separately on the Elementary and Secondary schedule. The board agreed.

Secondary Hybrid Schedule

Trustee Tracy-Proulx motioned to approve Schedule 1 for the Secondary District. Trustee Vestal seconded the motion.

MSP(Tracy-Proulx/Vestal) 7-0, the motion to approve Schedule 1 for the Secondary District was approved.

Elementary Hybrid Schedule

Vice President Coonerty motioned to approve Schedule 2 for the Elementary District. Trustee Threet seconded the motion.

MSP(Coonerty/Threet) 2-5, the motion to approve Schedule 2 for the Elementary District did not pass.

Trustee Tracy-Proulx motioned to approve Schedule 1 for the Elementary District, with the amendment that the in-person instructional time for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten increase. Trustee Owen seconded this motion.

MSP(Tracy-Proulx/Owen) 6-1, the motion was approved.

Superintendent Munro thanked the board for approving Hybrid Schedules and requested direction from the Board to move forward in purchasing the technology items as outlined in tonight's report. These technology purchases have been budgeted for in the District's Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan. The Board provided unanimous direction.

5. Adjournment of Meeting

As there was no further business to come before the Board of Education, Board President Ranii adjourned this Special Meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Board Meeting Schedule Information

1. The Regular Meeting/Study Session on November 18, 2020, 6:00 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
2. The Special Meeting on December 2, 2020, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
3. The Regular Meeting on December 16, 2020, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
4. The Regular Meeting on January 13, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
5. The Regular Meeting/Study Session on January 27, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
6. The Regular Meeting on February 10, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
7. The Regular Meeting on February 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
8. The Regular Meeting on March 10, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
9. The Regular Meeting on March 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
10. The Regular Meeting on April 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
11. The Regular Meeting/Study Session on April 28, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
12. The Regular Meeting on May 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
13. The Regular Meeting/Study Session on May 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
14. The Regular Meeting on June 2, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.
15. The Regular Meeting on June 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m., will be held remotely via Zoom.

*For more details about this meeting, please visit our district website and listen to the meeting recording:
http://sccs.net/board_of_education

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Munro, Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Cynthia Ranii, President
Board of Education