

SHASTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Shasta County Office of Education

1644 Magnolia Ave.

Redding, CA 96001

Meeting Location:

Sierra Pacific Industries – Conference Room

19794 Riverside Ave., Anderson, CA 96007

March 4, 2020

Planning Session Meeting Minutes

ADOPTED

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Hull at 11:04 a.m.

Members Present

Kathy Barry

Robert Brown

Rhonda Hull, President

Steve MacFarland

Laura Manuel

Denny Mills, Vice-President

Bradley Ramsey, Student Board Member

Administrators Present

Judy Flores, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools

Adam Hillman, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services

Brien McCall, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services

Others Present

Robin Beeson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (Recording Secretary)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Board Member MacFarland moved to approve the Agenda as submitted. Vice-President Mills seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. HEARING OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

4. RECOGNITION

4.1. Elizabeth “Buffy” Tanner for her Service on the Shasta County Board of Education

Superintendent Flores shared that prior Board Member Tanner had a scheduling conflict and is unable to attend the meeting. It is hoped she will be able to attend the March 11, 2020 Board meeting for her recognition.

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

5.1. Mountain Valley Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Impact

Jodie VanOrnum, Senior Executive Director of Human Resources, shared that for years the County Office has hired staff to provide Designated Instructional Services (DIS) such as Psychologists, Nurses, and Speech and Language Therapists to special education students in its programs. Smaller districts who could not fulfill a full-time position would contract with the County Office to provide DIS for their students.

Clay Ross, Superintendent of Columbia School District, has worked to develop the Mountain Valley JPA and has enlisted 13 smaller districts within the county that comprise approximately 5,300 students to join the JPA that will provide a variety of DIS to its members. Information on the JPA was shared including the criteria to join, staffing plans, work the JPA Board has done to date and will be doing in the near future, and the initial work of the JPA Director that started in early March. It was noted the JPA will be its own entity and will not be under the County Office or SELPA. At this time, it is unknown if the JPA will impact the governance structure of SELPA in the future.

Superintendent Flores provided an overview of Extraordinary Cost Pool funding and how some districts lose out on the funds as they are not able to secure staff necessary to provide DIS making them ineligible for the funding. It is felt the JPA will help alleviate this issue allowing districts to qualify for the funding. Discussion took place regarding SELPA funding for Shasta County in comparison to other counties.

Senior Executive Director VanOrnum indicated as a few of the districts that will be transferring to the JPA contract with the County Office for DIS, there is the potential for County Office staff to be impacted. The County Office is not planning any changes to DIS staff for 2020/21 and will continue to employ Psychologists, Nurses, and Speech Pathologists. It was noted that the JPA has no interest in operating the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, and EXCEL Academy programs operated by the County Office.

Comment was made that the JPA cannot supplant existing staff, each district will need to try and fill vacant positions before contracting with the JPA, and in the long run, smaller districts will be better served.

5.2. School Attendance Review Board (SARB) Restructure Process

Superintendent Flores shared that she had a high school district superintendent share with her last year that they had a student who only attended 20 days within the first three months of school. The district followed the SARB process and the student and parent went to court where the only thing the judge could tell them was that the student needed to get to school in the next 30 days. The district superintendent expressed their frustration with the SARB process and asked Superintendent Flores for assistance.

As a result, a meeting was convened where Zephyr Kraphel, Child and Welfare Attendance Specialist, shared the model SARB process utilized in Tehama County. County Office as well as community and county agency representatives were invited to the meeting where discussions regarding restructuring the SARB process began. An overview of the purposes and objectives for the meeting was provided by Superintendent Flores. To date, the group has met three times with a fourth meeting scheduled for March 10, 2020.

Superintendent Flores provided an overview of the current SARB structure in Shasta County and how absenteeism data was utilized to help guide the restructure process discussions that included reviewing model SARB programs. She reviewed the various tiers that include prevention, early intervention, and intensive intervention. In addition, she commented on the importance of timing and messaging and the development of resources. Information on next steps for the group were shared.

It was noted that changing to a new SARB model will take some personnel to make it happen. Superintendent Flores indicated that there have been discussions amongst meeting participants to co-fund a position to move it forward. She stated if this happens, it will be included in the budget next year for the County Office's portion of the position.

5.3. Work with Native Americans

Superintendent Flores shared that the American Indian Advisory has been meeting monthly for the last year. It consists of a core group of education members focused Native Americans, an overview of the participants and their affiliation was provided. The group will expand to include a formal representative from every local tribe. A list of trainings that have been and will be offered and the focus was provided. Lessons are being developed for tribes at various grades, the goal is to pilot them next fall.

Other areas of focus include implementation of legislation to include excused absences for attending “cultural ceremonies” and an Independent Study option for less than five days. Superintendent Flores shared that she met with Senator Brien Dahle and Assemblywoman Megan Dahle and discussed with them the potential of sponsoring a bill. The conversation resulted in Assemblywoman Dahle putting forward on February 21, 2020 AB 3292: Pupil Excused Absences for Cultural Ceremonies, a fact sheet was handed out.

The Board was asked by Superintendent Flores if they are willing to support the legislation as a group and/or individually. Following discussion, there was census amongst the Board to support it as a group. As a result, there will be an action item on the March 11, 2020 Board agenda for this item. Superintendent Flores indicated she will also send information to Board Members on how they can support the legislation individually that they can share with others.

Superintendent Flores shared that a special graduation event is coordinated each year for Native American students at a local church. The County Office Professional Development Center is being considered for a venue in the future. In addition, signage is being drafted to be placed in buildings throughout the county that would identify what tribes previously occupied the land prior to the construction of the building and short videos are planned to go with various lessons that are being developed.

5.4. Whiskeytown Environmental School Update

Nate Fairchild, Program Director of Educational Programs, reported there has been a lot of interagency work taking place to determine the safety of the former location within the National Park Service (NPS) where Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES) was located.

The draft version of the safety report started back in August has been released by the NPS in Washington D.C., it is anticipated the final version will have some minor changes. A map was shared of the camp and surrounding areas that showed the danger/flood zones and safe areas, it was noted there are some areas that have not been evaluated. Program Director Fairchild pointed out current buildings that are not in safe areas and where they could be relocated to. Recommendations from the Geomorphic Debris Flow Hazard Assessment were reviewed. Comment was made that the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report done shortly after the Carr Fire had many feeling WES would not be able to return to its former location and that current reports are more positive.

Superintendent Flores indicated the question before the Board is if it is time to move forward with making the former WES site a priority for a potential future residential program. Discussion took place regarding how due diligence was done in regards to trying to find another location for the camp and it was not feasible as offers were for donated land that did not have the needed infrastructure which would require construction. The result would have been the County Office being responsible for the land, facilities, and program which is much different than the partnership with NPS where the County Office operated the program, did general maintenance of the facility, and paid for utilities while the NPS took care of the rest. It was noted that there were no agencies that came forward that offered an agreement similar to the one between the County Office and the NPS.

Program Director Fairchild responded to inquiries from the Board regarding funding to relocate some of the buildings. He indicated that Josh Hoines, NPS Superintendent, has not requested any funding as he

does not know next steps at this point. Once a request is made of Superintendent Hoines, he can move forward with requesting funding. It was noted the NPS likely will not pay for everything that would be on the County Office's wish list and there is interest from the community to help out.

An inquiry was made in regards to if schools have found other resources to replace the WES experience. Program Director Fairchild stated that they requested day programs which have been well received by attending schools, however, the attendance has been less than expected. Some schools did not go anywhere, while some went to Camp Unite that charges \$200 for less than three days where WES was a full week for \$255.

Discussion took place regarding concerns expressed previously about the trails at WES following the Carr Fire. It was noted that while the trails are not ideal, there is one in an area that was totally burned that is being used as a lesson for one of the day camps.

Superintendent Flores stated another consideration for the Board is there is still only one way in and out of the former WES site that is accessible by buses. It needs to be determined if this is still okay and if consideration needs to be given to make parents more aware of this situation. Comment was made that some schools only have one way in and out.

The Board was asked by Superintendent Flores if they are wanting to commit to making moving back to the former WES location a priority or if they are not ready yet. Discussion took place regarding the site being deemed as safe, having a mitigated plan based on weather that is communicated to parents, and concern that schools may have lost interest in attending. Comment was made that there have been reports that schools were not as happy with Camp Unite as they were WES. There was consensus amongst the Board to proceed with putting plans in place to move back to the former WES site.

Comment was made that there are funds set aside at the Shasta Regional Community Foundation to support WES. Superintendent Flores indicated an action item will be placed on the April Board agenda for the Board to formalize their commitment so that groups can proceed with fundraising if they choose. It was noted that it will be up to the community and NPS to step up. Program Director Fairchild indicated he will work on talking points that can be shared with groups to let them know of the Board's plans, he will share them with Superintendent Flores prior to disseminating.

5.5. Diagram of County Superintendent/County Board of Education Duties

Superintendent Flores provided a handout with a Venn diagram from the Sacramento County Office of Education reflecting the County Superintendent's responsibilities, County Board's responsibilities, and joint functions for both and noted some responsibilities for Shasta County are different. She asked if the Board thought it would be helpful to have a similar document. It was suggested to include information on what the Board and Superintendent do not have jurisdiction over. Superintendent Flores indicated she will draft a document, Board Members Brown and Manuel volunteered to review and provide input prior to the document coming to the Board for consideration.

5.6. Early Childhood Services Facilities Grant

A letter from the California Department of Education (CDE) with the outcome of the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program application that was submitted was handed out. Renee Menefee, Executive Director of Early Childhood Services, explained the scoring that reflected the County Office being eligible for funding. She referred to the Early Childhood Services (ECS) mission and noted how it ties into plans for an assessment center. An overview of the purpose of the program, planned use for funds, and a diagram of how various agencies would be co-located and how areas of the proposed facility would be utilized.

Joy Garcia, Program Director of Inclusive Early Education, indicated that the number of qualified applicants far exceed the amount of funding available, as such, it is unknown if the County Office will

be fully or partially funded. Within the grant, plans include purchasing the building located on Athens Avenue in Redding that was formerly occupied by Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) to house an assessment center. An overview was provided of other plans based on the amount of funding received. While CDE indicated they plan to provide notification on March 11, 2020 on funding amounts, this is uncertain as they have delayed other notifications.

Discussion took place regarding the Governor's plans to offer subsidized preschool and childcare programs under a new Early Childhood Development Department. It was noted the plan does not include State Preschool and there is no concern that it would affect the County Office's plans for an assessment center.

5.7. Mental Health Grant(s)

Superintendent Flores shared this item was included on the agenda as a place holder in the event information was released on two grant applications submitted to Health and Human Services. As no information has been received, it will be tabled to a future Board agenda.

6. OTHER COMMENTS

Assembly Bills – Fact sheets were handed out by Superintendent Flores on additional legislation Assemblywoman Megan Dahle has authored. An overview was provided of AB 2034 – Defining Frontier School Districts and AB 2651 – Necessary Small School Funding Apportionment Expansion. Following discussion it was agreed if Board Members were interested in supporting one or both of the bills individually they could do so by utilizing the contact information at the bottom of the handouts. It was noted the fact sheets were shared with district superintendents.

Board Vacancy – Two people to date requested an application for the Board vacancy. No completed applications have been received.

School Safety – Student Board Member Ramsey asked if there is a way to include addressing false fire alarms in school safety information included in Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP's) submitted by districts to the County Office. Superintendent Flores explained that some districts include school safety in their LCAP's as a way to show how they plan to utilize their funds while others do not include it in their LCAP. She indicated that all schools are required to have a School Safety Plan in place and including the information at the next training might be a better fit. Student Board Member Ramsey was asked to send an e-mail to Superintendent Flores with the information he is proposing that will be forwarded to Mike Freeman, Senior Executive Director of Instructional Services, as he coordinates the school safety training.

7. MEETING FEEDBACK/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Member Barry requested information on the Coronavirus and how schools are dealing with it. Superintendent Flores indicated that Public Health makes the decisions in regards to what needs to happen at the schools. They have been providing her information that she has been forwarding onto the district superintendents. A meeting has been scheduled for March 12, 2020 at the Professional Development Center where Public Health officials will address school staff including administrators and nurses.

8. REMINDERS/UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 6, 2020, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. – REPEAT Training: “Understanding the Realities of our Native American Students and Their Families at PDC in Shasta Hall (registration information was e-mailed to Board Members)
- March 10, 2020, 7:30-8:30 a.m. - Principal for a Day Breakfast at PDC in Shasta Hall
- March 11, 2020, Times Vary, Principal for a Day at School Sites (registration information was e-mailed to Board Members)
- March 11, 2020, 10:00-11:30 a.m. - SWAG Meeting (Safety Emphasis) at SCOE in Maple Room

- March 17, 2020, 8:00 a.m. Registration/9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - Annual Tobacco Use Prevention Education Training at McLaughlin Auditorium/Sequoia School (registration information was e-mailed to Board Members)

9. NEXT MEETING – March 11, 2020, 1:30 p.m. at Shasta County Office of Education, 1644 Magnolia Ave., Redding, CA 96001

10. ADJOURN

President Hull adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Flores, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools
Ex-Officio Secretary to the Board