

**SHASTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Shasta County Office of Education

1644 Magnolia Ave.

Redding, CA 96001

**October 13, 2021**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

This meeting was held via teleconference and met the requirements of the Brown Act as allowed by the California Governor's Executive Order issued in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

**The meeting was accessible via a technology device, at:**

<http://bit.ly/SCOEBoard101321>

**Or by phone at:**

**Phone: 1-669-900-6833**

**Meeting ID: 871 0376 9113**

**Password: 550609**

**ADOPTED**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Mills at 1:35 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Barry, Vice President

Robert Brown

Rhonda Hull

Steve MacFarland

Laura Manuel

Denny Mills, President

Nick Webb

Carly Tawney

Adam Little-Varga

Members Absent

None

Administrators Present

Judy Flores, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools

Adam Hillman, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services

Mike Freeman, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services

Others Present

Carmen Bahr, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (Recording Secretary)

*(There may have been others in attendance. Those in attendance may have attended only a portion of the meeting.)*

Jessica Bigby

De'An Chambless

Nate Fairchild

Rebecca Lewis

Mary Lord

Katy Martin

Renee Menefee

Shelle Peterson  
Amy Robles

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mills passed on the Pledge since the meeting was via teleconference.

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ACTION:** Board Member MacFarland moved to approve the Agenda as submitted.  
Board Member Manuel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

**Shasta County Board of Education**

AYES: Barry, Brown, Hull, MacFarland, Manuel, Mills, Webb

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

**Student Board Members**

AYES: Little-Varga, Tawney

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

## 4. HEARING OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There was none.

## 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

### 5.1. Board

5.1.1. September 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

5.1.2. September 22, 2021 Board Planning Session Minutes

5.1.3. Excuse Board Member Webb's Absence at September 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting  
Due to Quarantine Deemed Acceptable to the Board per Board Bylaw Administrative  
Regulation 9250 and Education Code 1090

### 5.2. Administrative Services

5.2.1. Credentials and Oaths for Temporary Certificates

5.2.2. New, Retired, and Exited Employee Quarterly Report

5.2.3. Resolution Fixing Appropriations Limit per Gann Amendment

5.2.4. Vehicle Surplus

### 5.3. Instructional Services

5.3.1. Donation/Gift Acceptance-Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District

5.3.2. Donation/Gift Acceptance-Reach Higher Shasta

**ACTION:** Board Member MacFarland moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.  
Board Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

**Shasta County Board of Education**

AYES: Barry, Brown, Hull, MacFarland, Manuel, Mills, Webb

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

## **Student Board Members**

AYES: Little-Varga, Tawney

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

- 6. INFORMATION** – These informational items are of a routine nature or items for which no discussion is anticipated. Board Members may request that any item be given individual consideration.

### **6.1. Administrative Services**

- 6.1.1. General Fund Board Report
- 6.1.2. Shasta County Office of Education Unaudited Actuals (2020/2021)
- 6.1.3. Chrysalis Charter School Unaudited Actuals (2020/2021)
- 6.1.4. Northern Summit Academy Unaudited Actuals (2020/2021)
- 6.1.5. RSTEM Academy Charter School Unaudited Actuals (2020/2021)

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## **7. PRESENTATION**

- 7.1. RSTEM Academy Charter School Annual Report

John Husome, Principal of Redding STEM Academy (RSTEM), presented to the Board.

The current enrollment is 232 students, which is ten less than last year. There is a waitlist in most of the classrooms.

Mr. Husome provided a summary of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals. The highlights from the first goal included introducing the three new teachers that were hired in July, sharing the facility updates that included a new ramp to the playground for a student in a wheelchair, and curriculum aligned with California standards. They were able to open the science lab and Makerspace this year.

The second goal included a special focus on math with an emphasis on “reflex math” and fact families. They have an extensive math intervention program called Academy. Students are taught daily in small groups before school and assessed four times each year.

Mr. Husome shared how the third goal was challenging with COVID. This year they are able to have a soccer team, field trips, and hoping to have parent volunteers by February. Eighth grade students were able to help create the “Rocket Trail” – a trail system behind the school. They are planning to complete the second half of it this year.

A few other items that were shared included the major decisions that were made and policies established by the Charter School Board. Mr. Husome also provided a summary of the health and safety procedures that were changed. He mentioned that the reserves grew to \$1,673,394 and they are discussing how they should utilize it.

Board Member Manuel commented that she enjoyed attending graduation and felt the sense of community that exists between the staff, students, and families. She wondered how the Academy worked. Mr. Husome explained that it takes place four days a week for forty minutes. An invitation is sent to the parents explaining that they would like their student to attend and the reasons why. Students usually enjoy and want to attend. RSTEM has an early release day on Friday to make up for the extra teaching time in the morning.

Superintendent Flores expressed her appreciation for the report.

Mr. Husome appreciated the support received from the Shasta County Office of Education.

## **8. ACTION**

### **8.1. Instructional Services**

#### **8.1.1. ESSER III Expenditure Plan**

Mike Freeman, Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, reported on the ESSER III Expenditure Plan. There are a lot of relief funds available. ESSER requires a board approved expenditure plan.

Mr. Freeman shared the plan of how it was going to be spent, acknowledging that things are in a state of revision. Shasta County Office of Education will receive \$2,554,981 and have until 2024 to spend it. Project SHARE, Student Programs, and Community Partners and Districts will be consulted in the spending of funds.

Included in the plan are the specifics of how the money will be used. It also includes how and when the progress will be monitored.

Board President Mills inquired about the new teacher for Juvenile Hall. Mr. Freeman explained that they will teach at the River's Edge Academy where the studies and freedoms are different from the other two pods.

**ACTION:** Board Member Hull moved to approve item 8.1.1. as submitted.  
Board Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

#### **Shasta County Board of Education**

AYES: Barry, Brown, Hull, MacFarland, Manuel, Mills, Webb

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

#### **Student Board Members**

AYES: Little-Varga, Tawney

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

### **8.2. Board**

#### **8.2.1. Board Focus Areas 2021/2022**

President Mills reviewed the Board Focus Areas list: COVID Pandemic, Equity, Mental Health, Whiskeytown Environmental School (WES), and Early Childhood Services building milestones and programs (ECS) that were discussed at the Planning Meeting. She noted that WES, ECS, and COVID Pandemic are continuing from the previous year and a report will only be made when there is new information.

Board Member Manuel commented that the Pandemic, Equity, and Mental Health areas all seem intertwined.

Board Member MacFarland suggested that everyone should take a brief tour of River's Edge Academy to see all of the positive things that are taking place. Superintendent Flores agreed, but suggested waiting until COVID numbers were lower.

**ACTION:** Board Member Manuel moved to approve item 8.2.1. as submitted.  
Board Member Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

**Shasta County Board of Education**

AYES: Barry, Brown, Hull, MacFarland, Manuel, Mills, Webb

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

**Student Board Members**

AYES: Little-Varga, Tawney

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

8.2.2. New Board Policy 9012-Bylaw-Board Member Electronic Communications (First Read)

President Mills commented that this policy directly applies to board members.

**ACTION:** Board Member Hull moved to approve item 8.2.2. as submitted.  
Board Member MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

**Shasta County Board of Education**

AYES: Barry, Brown, Hull, MacFarland, Manuel, Mills, Webb

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

**Student Board Members**

AYES: Little-Varga, Tawney

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

8.2.3. Board consideration of in person or virtual meetings

Assembly Bill 361 allows for Public agency meetings to be conducted remotely based on certain criteria during a state of emergency. The criteria have to be evaluated every thirty days.

Superintendent Flores shared that a special meeting will need to take place between November and December since there are more than 30 days between the two scheduled meetings.

Board Member MacFarland prefers Zoom meetings because of his health and he does not do well with masking for long periods of time. Board Member Hull agreed that she also does not do well with masking for a long time.

Board Member Brown suggested that we air on the side of caution for at least another month.

**ACTION:** Board Member Webb moved to approve item 8.2.3. approving a virtual November Board meeting.  
Board Member Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously as follows:  
**Shasta County Board of Education**  
AYES: Barry, Brown, Hull, MacFarland, Manuel, Mills, Webb  
NOES:  
ABSTENTIONS:  
ABSENT:  
**Student Board Members**  
AYES: Little-Varga, Tawney  
NOES:  
ABSTENTIONS:  
ABSENT:

## 9. **STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

- Carly Tawney, Foothill High School

Carly Tawney shared how she had COVID and had been out of school on quarantine since October 4. She noted that Independent Study was difficult and that it will take a little while to catch up.

Ms. Tawney reported on a few of the challenges that Foothill is facing. A teacher was taken out of class and will not continue teaching because of non-compliance. There is a possible walkout on Monday. The boy's bathrooms have been locked since they were vandalized. Students vandalized them based on TikTok videos that were circulating.

The school counselors visited the senior history classes and provided the steps to plan for what to do after high school. They suggested things to consider for both Financial Aid and entering the workforce.

Foothill had a full Homecoming week that included a football game, color dance, and rally.

- Adam Little-Varga, Central Valley High School

Adam Little-Varga reported that they also had Homecoming. It included dress-up week, rally, football game, and a dance. The dance was one of the best attended in recent years.

Mr. Varga shared that they are working on several fundraisers that include candy grams, a cozy drive where students donate warm clothes and blankets, and a Key Club sponsored canned food drive. Key Club is also helping the Fawn Fire victims with a "Penny for a pie" fundraiser.

Central Valley is dealing with similar challenges of a possible walkout and the vandalism of the boy's restrooms.

President Mills called for a break at 2:55 p.m. Meeting resumed at 3:01 p.m.

## 10. **BOARD BUSINESS**

### 10.1. **Board Focus Areas**

- 10.1.1. Equity: Updates from the Shasta County American Indian Advisory work

Rebecca Lewis, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented to the Board. She acknowledged the importance of the lands that we were currently on, the traditional territory of the Dawpom Wintu people.

Ms. Lewis was appointed as a member to the California Department of Education American Indian Education Oversight Committee in July 2021. They have four primary areas of focus. It also provides an opportunity to hear about the issues across the state.

She shared with the Board about the work that has been happening in Shasta County through the American Indian Advisory. Assembly Bill 516 was signed into legislation allowing excused absences for students to attend cultural ceremonies. The Record Searchlight/redding.com and Shasta Scout have both written articles about the bill. This is a significant change for students as they are now able make up their work when they are out for cultural events. This bill came directly from input during a Shasta County American Indian Advisory meeting.

Superintendent Flores and Ms. Lewis were able to participate in the Equity Driven Continuous Improvement in partnership with West Ed. During a Panelist Session Rebecca was able to share about the work being done in the American Indian Advisory.

Ms. Lewis provided an American Indian Lesson Development update. The teams have reconvened, they are reviewing the lessons, and piloting them in classrooms. They are thinking through how this culturally sensitive curriculum can apply to other minority groups.

Kelly Rizzi, Director of School and District Support, is planning the American Indian Advisory trainings for this school year. The upcoming trainings include:

- Understanding Realities of American Indian Students and Families – October 13, 2021
- The Only Good Indian – November 17, 2021
- The Fireside Conversations – Coming in January 2022

Everyone is welcome to share these opportunities with those in your sphere of influence, both educators and community members.

## **10.2. Board Comments/Discussion/Reports/Correspondence**

There were no comments.

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Adam Hillman, Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services, shared the report from a demographer. There are no changes needed to our Trustee Areas. The initial part of the study cost \$5,000 and they are going to write a report to explain the results. There will be a County Committee meeting in November to share the specifics.

Board Member MacFarland asked if Area 1 and 2 are balanced close enough so action is not needed. Mr. Hillman stated that we fit well within the allowable ten percent variation.

Superintendent Flores has been collecting point-in-time data over the past seven weeks. Included is the last week of data that she shared with the school administrators.

### **Shasta County Public Health Data:**

- **8** K-12 schools have had the highest number of cases in the last 14 days.

- **101** students and staff from 43 K-12 and 2 offices have reported positive cases in the last 14 days.

#### Point-in-Time Data:

- Based on the “Point-in-time” data for October 12, 2021: (from charter schools and school districts representing **23,396** students)
  - **194** students were in modified quarantine (not including students in independent study programs)
    - October 12, 2021 = 194 (decrease of 79)
    - October 5, 2021 = 273
    - September 28 = 343
    - September 21 = 462
    - September 14 = 380
    - September 7 = 625
    - August 31 = 2018
  - **441** students were in quarantine at home (all schools):
    - October 12, 2021 = 441 (decrease of 77)
    - October 5, 2021 = 518
    - September 28 = 604
    - September 21 = 914
    - September 14 = 1588
    - September 7 = 1663
    - August 31 = 1143
  - **125** students were experiencing a positive case (all schools):
    - October 12, 2021 = 125 (increase of 13)
    - October 5, 2021 = 112
    - September 28 = 135
    - September 21 = 219
    - September 14 = 240
    - September 7 = 226
    - August 31 = 302
  - Combined, we had **566** students at home who are either quarantined or home with a positive case yesterday, October 12.
  - Yesterday, **39** school staff were at home on quarantine (not vaccinated) - all schools:
    - October 12, 2021 = 39 (increase of 1)
    - October 5, 2021 = 38
    - September 28 = 40
    - September 21 = 95
    - September 14 = 119
    - September 7 = 134
    - August 31 = 82
  - **22** school staff were experiencing a positive case (all schools):
    - October 12, 2021 = 22 (decrease of 1)
    - October 5, 2021 = 23
    - September 28 = 32
    - September 21 = 51
    - September 14 = 51
    - September 7 = 65
    - August 31 = 49



- Combined, we had **61** school staff at home who are either quarantined or home with a positive case yesterday, October 12.

This is a much slower decline than we have seen with the previous surges. This data was only being collected during the surge.

**Communication** – Superintendent Flores has been working with Shasta County Public Health, sharing data with the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, and providing video and email updates to staff.

**Capacity Building** –

- During the October Leadership Meeting there were a variety of members that led.
- Leadership Team members have the opportunity to lead the Aspiring Leaders book study discussion. There are 22 different staff members participating in the study from six different departments.

**12. MEETING FEEDBACK/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Board Member Manuel does not want to have acronyms on the cover sheets.

Board Member MacFarland encouraged everyone to see the programs taking place at Juvenile Hall.

**13. REMINDERS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Understanding Realities of American Indian Students and Families via Zoom – October 13, 2021, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- County Committee Meeting on District Reorganization – November 10, 2021, 1:15 p.m. via Teleconference

**14. NEXT MEETING** – November 10, 2021, 1:30 p.m. via Teleconference.

**15. ADJOURN**

President Mills adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

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