

SHASTA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Shasta County Office of Education
1644 Magnolia Ave.
Redding, CA 96001

September 23, 2020 Planning Session 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 "shelter-in-place" requirements based on the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

The meeting was accessible via a technology device, at:

<http://bit.ly/SCOEBoardPlanning092320>

And by phone at:

Phone: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 893 0228 9288
Password: 104098

ADOPTED

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Call to order by President Hull at 9:00 A.M.

Members Present

Kathy Barry
Robert Brown
Rhonda Hull, President
Steve MacFarland
Laura Manuel
Denny Mills, Vice-President
Jennifer Snider
Kaitlin Killion, Student Board Member
Leah Perez, Student Board Member

Members Absent

None

Administrators Present

Judy Flores, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools
Adam Hillman, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services
Brien McCall, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services

Others Present

Erica Flores, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (Recording Secretary)
(Others may have attended. Those in attendance may have attended only a portion of the meeting.)
Jodie VanOrnum
De'An Chambless
Dan Ostrowski
Janessa Hartmann
Renee Menefee
Kathryn Martin
Kurt Swanson
Mary Lord
Joy Garcia

April Matthews
Wendy Hall
Cindy Dill

2. TELECONFERENCE PROTOCOLS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Board Member MacFarland moved to approve the Agenda as submitted.
Board Member Snider seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote as follows:

Shasta County Board of Education

AYES: Barry, Brown, Hull, MacFarland, Manuel, Snider

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT: Mills

4. HEARING OF PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

5.1. Impact of COVID-19 on the Reopening of Shasta County Schools

Janessa Hartmann, Analyst with Shasta County Public Health, presented to the Board.

Public Health has been working to support schools by answering questions and assisting with reopening plans. In June, the Shasta County Planning Guide was released to families, with new updates in August and September.

Protocols are in place for if an individual on a school campus gets sick or tests positive for COVID. All schools have a primary and secondary COVID liaison. When a confirmed case occurs on a school campus, Shasta County Public Health works directly with one of the school liaisons to identify the timeline and identify close contacts. Close contacts are individuals who have come within 6 feet of the confirmed case for more than 15 minutes. Close contacts are sent home to self-quarantine. Quarantine means they stay home, monitor their symptoms, and only leave to receive medical care. They do not return to school until the return date given by the school. Students and staff not identified as close contacts may continue attending school.

Public Health has worked on prioritizing testing for school staff. School staff and teachers are encouraged to test every two months.

Schools are adjusting to the changes very well. They are doing a great job with cleaning and sanitizing. With the confirmed cases on campuses so far, they have worked quickly to identify close contacts and have communicated the necessary information to families in a timely manner. As a result, there has been no transmission on a school site from COVID cases.

Questions:

Vice President Mills asked how they know what the contagious period is.

Ms. Hartmann responded that it depends on if there are symptoms present. If the individual is symptomatic, the contagious period is considered to be two days before onset. If the individual is asymptomatic, the contagious period is considered to be two days before the test was taken.

Board Member Snider asked if they have seen resistance from families not wanting to self-quarantine.

Ms. Hartmann responded that they have not seen resistance. She said when the information is distributed by the school, it is generally well received.

Board Member Brown asked where the definition of “close contact” originated.

Ms. Hartmann responded that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention defined what a close contact is.

President Hull asked whether students will be tested.

Ms. Hartmann responded that parents are encouraged to test their kids, but it is not required. Testing is not done on school campuses.

Vice President Mills asked who has the final say whether or not to close a school.

Ms. Hartmann responded that guidance from the California Department of Public Health states if 5% or more of individuals from a school campus test positive, the school must be closed. If school districts want to close with a lower percentage, they may, but that’s the highest percentage allowed.

5.2. Update on Supporting Student Attendance Model for 2020-21

Wendy Hall, Director of Education Programs, presented to the Board

Ms. Hall shared the School Attendance model implemented this year, which shows the progression of intervention. She said the goal of this support is to improve attendance early in the process and avoid the more intensive interventions. Schools focus on maintaining good relationships with families through positive messaging, and they work to alleviate the hindrances of good attendance by connecting families with resources.

On July 31, 44 Student Attendance Review Teams (SART) from Shasta County school districts participated in Initial Site Team Training. Of those teams, 32 were from elementary schools, and 12 were from high schools. This is a very encouraging number as they work toward a system-wide change. School site teams that were unable to attend the training will be trained individually. The feedback from the training was positive, with many responding they felt more hopeful about addressing attendance issues in the coming year.

An immediate concern is how to intervene when a student has gone missing and the team cannot connect with the student and or family this school year. The goal is to stay as low as possible on the intervention tier, while still making sure students are safe and engaged. Once it has been determined that the student has not been enrolled at another school or a private school, but is enrolled and not showing up, Help Me Grow is contacted.

So far this school year, 114 students have been referred to Help Me Grow. Of those students, 4 have been referred to Multidisciplinary Teams.

School Attendance Review Board attendance letters continue to be sent out to families. Data shows that first letters are critical in keeping kids from falling through the cracks. The wording and tone of the letters is very important. First letters that have positive wording and that are written in wording that is easy to understand have been shown to have a greater than 40% impact.

Questions:

Board Member Snider asked for clarification on the Help Me Grow Connections chart. She asked for examples of what kinds of services are offered under the Advocacy portion.

Joy Garcia and April Matthews explained that it has to do with tackling bigger picture issues that serve as barriers to school attendance long term. One example was helping a family obtain a credit report so they could move forward with renting an apartment.

Board Member Manuel praised the positive rather than punitive approach. She asked if there is one-on-one mentoring available.

Ms. Hall answered that there is one-on-one mentoring available 2-3 hours per week for ninth graders through Hope City. Currently mentors are being trained in social-emotional relationship building and small group mentoring will be available starting October 22.

Vice President Mills asked about the funding source for the program.

Ms. Garcia responded that they are looking for sustainable funding. Through mental health clinicians, we are able to bill MediCal for services rendered.

Mr. Hillman added that \$33,000 per year for three years is allocated by the Shasta County Board of Education to support this program as identified in the ending fund balance.

5.3. Early Childhood Services Hilltop Building Project

Renee Menefee, Kurt Swanson, and Dan Ostrowski reported on the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program.

SCOE received a Grant Award Notification for \$8 million. \$4.8 million will be spent on building.

Bruce Demallie has been selected as the project manager. He is known for keeping costs under control. The next steps are obtaining construction documents from architects, encroachment permits, and planning for how to tie the new building into the current building. The project will then go out to bid.

5.4. Shasta Regional Community Foundation Student Benefit Fund

De'An Chambless, Senior Executive Director of Business Services, reported.

Every September SCOE receives statements from Shasta Regional Community Foundation regarding the Student Benefit Fund. This fund is from the proceeds of Camp Latieze. Each year, the earnings that accumulate are used toward grants for Science programs, specifically Whiskeytown Environmental School and the Schreder Planetarium.

This year, funds available to spend total \$53,918. This represents \$5,966 unspent from previous years and \$47,952 available for 2020/21.

5.5. SCOE Board Vision Statement

Superintendent Flores explained the difference between a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement. She also shared visioning details from the 2019 Administrative Council retreat, as well as a draft vision statement to consider.

The Board had discussion and decided that Board members Snider, Manuel, and Brown will work to shorten the draft shared by Superintendent Flores and bring back to a future board meeting.

5.6. Board Focus Areas for 2020-21

Ms. Flores shared the last three years' Board Focus Areas.

The Board had discussion and decided on the following Board Focus Areas for the 2020-21 school year:

- 1) COVID Updates and Impacts
- 2) Whiskeytown Environmental School
- 3) Early Childhood Services Facility Update

6. **ACTION**

6.1. **Instructional Services**

6.1.1. **Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan**

Mary Lord, Executive Director of Student Programs, reported. This agenda item was discussed at a Public Hearing at the September 9 Board meeting.

This report will be submitted in lieu of the LCAP this year. The focus of the report is to show how we are supporting students and meeting their needs during COVID. It reports on how we are serving our students virtually and in hybrid learning models. It specifically addresses how we are reaching foster, homeless, and impoverished youth.

ACTION: Board Member Snider moved to approve item 6.1.1 as submitted.
Board Member MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shasta County Board of Education

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

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

6.1.2. **Dashboard Alternative School Status Application**

Mary Lord explained that this is an alternative accountability tool used for qualifying schools. SCOE's Independent Study schools qualify for this status because 89% of students are credit deficient.

ACTION: Board Member Mills moved to approve item 6.1.2 as submitted.
Board Member MacFarland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shasta County Board of Education

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

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

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

Vice President Mills asked for an update midway through the school year from Ms. Hall and her team regarding school attendance.

8. **REMINDERS/UPCOMING EVENTS**

Superintendent Flores invited the Board to participate in the upcoming Appreciative Interviews.

9. **NEXT MEETING** – Regular Board Meeting: October 14, 2020 1:30 p.m. Via Teleconference

10. **ADJOURN**

President Hull adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

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