

GALT JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

This meeting is held pursuant to Executive Order N-26-20 issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020.

Special Board Meeting
Zoom Teleconference

April 15, 2021
Webinar Meeting ID: 892 2427 1931

Board Members Present

Thomas Silva
Wesley Cagle
Traci Skinner
Grace Malson
Casey Raboy

Administrators Present

Karen Schauer	Ron Rammer
Lois Yount	Donna Gill
Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano	Laura Papineau
Donna Mayo-Whitlock	Kuljeet Nijjar

- A.** Thomas Silva announced items to be discussed in Closed Session.
- B.** Present for Closed Session: Thomas Silva, Traci Skinner, Grace Malson, Casey Raboy, Karen Schauer, Chris Keiner, Attorney at Law and David W. Gordon, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools
1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT, Government Code §54957
 - Superintendent
 2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, Government Code §54957.6
Agency Negotiator: Karen Schauer, Lois Yount, Donna Mayo-Whitlock, Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano
 - Employee Agency: (GEFA) Galt Elementary Faculty Association
 - Employee Agency: (CSEA) California School Employee Association
 - Non-Represented Employees
 3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS, Proposed School Site Within Simmerhorn Project and Related Projects, Government Code §54956.8
 - East Galt Infill Annexation/Simmerhorn Ranch Project
 - Summerfield at Twin Cities Project
 - Fairway Oaks Project
- C.** Closed Session Adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The open meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Thomas Silva. He announced no action taken in closed session followed by the flag salute.
- D.** Karen Schauer, Superintendent, shared the Teleconference Board Meeting Protocol.

E. New Business

202.186 Karen Schauer provided an overview of the action item. She stated that the District is in the second week of in-person learning and recognized families, students, and staff to follow new processes and procedures to get in-person learning off to a good start.

Volunteer
Summer
Program

Dr. Schauer stated that at the March 24, 2021 board meeting, the Board was updated on reopening efforts, including changes to social distancing requirements in classrooms. Next steps were shared that included scheduling a special board meeting regarding transitioning the learning model before the last day of school.

Dr. Schauer reported that schools just completed the first full week of blended learning after spring break. The District intends to fully transition to the traditional learning model 5 days per week when pandemic conditions and other factors permit. She indicated the District had been challenged with changing pandemic conditions, and resulting health guidance has impacted the transition progression.

Dr. Schauer shared challenges to consider if the District transitions from the AM/PM blended learning model to a Modified Traditional Model by early May. They include: 1) learning program transition would occur with only 5 to 7 weeks of school left, resulting in the creation of new school and family schedules, numerous services adjustments, new teacher and student assignments, and additional labor group consultations and agreements. 2) 84% of GJUESD students are attending school for in-person learning. The recent change to 3 feet distancing is limited to classroom settings. Additionally, there are teachers serving students concurrently in the classroom and distance learning. The District has tried hard to minimize changes between teachers and students, including at the middle school.

Lois Yount, Business Services Director, provided additional transportation information. She stated the AM/PM model allows the District to transport more students because there is a morning and afternoon schedule. There are a lot of students that rely on transportation. Currently, there are about 30 students on a waitlist. If the District transitions to a 5-day model, transportation would only be able to transport approximately 40% of the students transported in the past until restrictions are lifted. The largest school bus can accommodate 26 students.

Donna Whitlock, Educational Services Director, stated that when the District implemented the AM/PM blended model, some parents brought their children back to in-person learning who requested to remain in distance learning if a 5-day model is considered. She indicated some families are not comfortable with a full campus. The District would need to hire more distance

learning teachers. Currently, the District has approximately 200 students participating in distance learning, with teachers serving them concurrently with students attending in-person learning. It will make it more difficult to serve students concurrently. She added that it would be challenging to maintain current student/teacher assignments.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Curriculum Director, stated that there is a greater chance of addressing learning loss when there are fewer students in the classroom, both emotionally and academically.

Karen Schauer stated that most families are sending their students to school for the AM/PM model. Some districts have 30-40% students returning to on-campus learning. The GHSD is at about 60%. Part of the challenge right now is the social distance requirements.

Donna Whitlock stated the social distance requirement guidance of 3 ft from 6 ft applies just in the classroom and is just between students. Adults still need to maintain 6ft apart and outside of the classroom; students still need to be 6 ft apart. The cafeterias would not be able to accommodate all students.

Karen Schauer emphasized that transportation cannot support a full 5-day schedule for all students needing services.

Lois Yount restated that students have to be 3 ft apart on the bus, which is one student per seat for a total of 26 students on the largest busses.

Karen Schauer said given the current distancing requirements, teachers have indicated that teachers have smaller class sizes allowing teachers to provide more personalized learning. They also told they have observed a level of fatigue with children at school. The District is just getting back to the AM/PM model. Will moving to another model so quickly allow kids to be more successful?

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano added, we know that children are flexible. They have only received nine days in this new AM/PM model. The District should be aware of how much disruption children can take.

Karen Schauer stated that the District is looking at a June extended year program. The goal of the summer school program is to have 50-60% attendance. The model would be open to all students full-day, prioritizing students with high needs. She indicated staff is giving 150%. The thought of making another transition in early May while preparing a summer school program is challenging. There is a strong interest in supporting a summer program. It may be challenging to hold that interest if the District transitions to another learning model.

The recommendation is to approve that the District continue with the AM/PM blended model through June 4 and implement a voluntary summer school program through June 30.

Public Comments: Stephanie, Kristi Ward, Mallory, Shana Gibbons, Barbara Woods, Elaine Trull, and Jennifer addressed the Board.

Tom Silva, Board President, asked Lois to clarify the transportation challenge.

Lois Yount stated that there is a shortage of school bus drivers in California. The District has three buses that are not being used. The largest bus holds 26 students at 50% capacity. The District cannot move as many children as pre-pandemic. The actual capacity is more like 30-40% because some routes held three students per seat.

Wesley Cagle, Board Member, asked if pop-up tents could be used to eat meals.

Lois Yount indicated students could eat outside or in classrooms.

Traci Skinner, Board Member, asked if it is possible to survey to determine transportation needs? The District may see less demand if a full-day program is offered.

Lois Yount stated that considering the number of students transported before the pandemic, the District was transporting hundreds of students. Based on that history, the District would need to provide similar levels of transportation.

Traci Skinner indicated it seems like a lot of people are teleworking.

Lois Yount said a lack of transportation services would affect middle school students the most.

Traci Skinner asked if there is a possibility of bringing K-6 students back to full-time on-campus learning and not 6-8 since there appear to be more challenges with middle school.

Karen Schauer stated that could work but not sure how the District would address the staffing changes needed. Will current teachers that are teaching concurrently continue to serve their distance learning students? The District could not guarantee that the current teacher/student assignment would stay stable.

Traci Skinner indicated parents need to understand that everyone needs to be flexible. There may be sacrifices to getting kids to come back full-time in-person learning. She suggested

she does not want to lose momentum with seven weeks left in the school year.

Karen Schauer emphasized it takes the system to serve the children. Staff members are giving it everything they can. It's the aspect of what it would take to make it all go. It would not be a regular schedule. She indicated she is not aware of any district that has been able to go back to a regular schedule due to health guidance that has not gone away. GJUESD has been able to serve children with appropriate staffing levels. The District has also spoken to parents who did not comment tonight who have concerns about a 5-day model, and another change for one month of school.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano stated that some parents ask why the District is considering a 5-day learning model in the summer but not now. She indicated the District is serving over 80% of students on campus. If there were fewer students, the District might implement a 5-day model after spring break. She added that the District might want to consider quality over quantity to address learning needs better.

Tom Silva asked how students are responding. Are they fatigued as he has heard? The AM/PM model appears to be a positive experience.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano indicated the first week back was hard. The children were very quiet. Their desks are back in rows, and they have masks on. The second week, children seemed more engaged. Some of the little ones are still struggling. They need more time to get used to being back on campus.

Tom Silva asked what the focus of the summer plan is?

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano stated the District is still developing the focus areas. The plan will use MAP academic tests results to determine where children are and where they need to be based on grade-level standards.

Karen Schauer stated there are 94 teachers interested in supporting summer services.

Grace Malson, Board Member, indicated she read an article about youth going back to school and getting fatigued, and it gave guidelines on how to interact with your children. She said she had experienced this first hand. Youth are exhausted. It is fabulous that staff is vaccinated, but I am reminded that children are not vaccinated. Some students do have anxiety about getting sick.

Wesley Cagle states nothing is normal, but it is better than it was. He indicated he is personally not comfortable having a vote tonight as the District already has a transition model. He would like to see how things progress over the next week.

Traci Skinner indicated the same. She is not comfortable voting for the learning model but is supportive of the summer program.

Grace Malson made a motion to amend 202.186 to Approve Voluntary Summer School Program at Multiple School Locations Through June 30, 2021, and table action to Continue the four-day TK-8 AM/PM Blended Learning Model Through June 4.

F. Public Comments: No additional public comments

G. Pending Agenda Items

1. School District Properties
2. Low Performing Block Grant: Mathematics
3. Brown Act Updates

H. Adjournment 8:21 p.m.

Board Approved: April 28, 2021