

**Galt Joint Union Elementary School District
Board of Education**
“Building a Bright Future for All Learners”

Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2020
ZOOM Teleconference Link
Meeting ID: 959-4154 7260

6:00 p.m. Closed Session
7:00 p.m. Special Board Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96929975313>
Phone Participation: 408-638-0968

Board Members Present

Grace Malson
Thomas Silva
Wesley Cagle
Matthew Felix
John Gordon

Karen Schauer
Lois Yount
Donna Gill
Kuljeet Nijjar
Jennifer Porter

Administrators Present

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano
Donna Mayo-Whitlock
Judith Hayes
David Nelson
Tina Homdus

MINUTES

This meeting is being held pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 issued by
California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020

A. Grace Malson announced Items to be Discussed in Closed Session.

Closed Session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Grace Malson.

Present for closed session: Karen Schauer, Lois Yount, Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Donna Mayo-Whitlock, Grace Malson, Thomas Silva, Wesley Cagle, Matthew Felix, John Gordon

1. 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

B. Closed Session Adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

- C. Open Session was called to order at 7:35 p.m.** followed by the flag salute. Grace Malson announced no action taken in closed session.

Karen Schauer shared the board meeting protocols.

D. Communications

1. Karen Schauer, Superintendent, shared a communication from the Sacramento County Office of Education regarding the Safe Re-Opening of Sacramento County Schools as it relates to attendance, instructional time requirements and the Governor’s May Revise.

E. Reports

1. GJUESD 2020-21 Schools Re-Opening Progress and Next Steps

Karen Schauer, Superintendent, thanked everyone for their efforts to move the district forward. She indicated the district had tremendous participation in the survey regarding the delivery of our distance learning program and thoughts for the coming year. The district has a goal to safely reopening on August 13, 2020 and has begun work with labor unions.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Curriculum Director, reported on the survey findings and stakeholder input. She indicated the survey was launched in late May to parents, students, certificated staff and classified staff and closed on June 2nd. The goal of the survey is to obtain feedback on learning preference, top priorities, distance learning and to provide a platform to obtain comments, concerns or ideas. She indicated there were over 200 pages of comments and participation from all 3 stakeholder groups was very good with over 1200 parents participating.

Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano reported the learning preference from each stakeholder group:

- Parents: 60% want learning at school and 40% wanted other options
- Students: response was similar to parents
- Certificated: about 50% learning at school and 50% wanted other options
- Classified: response was similar as certificated

The top priority for each group is health and safety. The second priority is student growth. Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano added that some of the positive comments that were shared by teachers was the growth and innovation that they experienced. Parents enjoyed the flexibility of working at home and spending time with families. The challenges they shared included technology limitations and the amount of time children were spending on-line. Students enjoyed working at their own pace and seeing their friends via teleconference. They indicated that the challenge they experienced was not receiving help when needed. The students suggested less Zoom meetings, greater focus on math, and a more organized distance learning program.

Karen Schauer reported next steps associated with opening schools will be based on survey and other feedback along with safety. She indicated there has been tremendous team work, sharing and learning of all ages and people across the GJUESD education system. There have been challenges. Early reading and literacy is very challenging for a school system to implement in an effective way during school closure. It is difficult to teach a child to read on-line. There is also a lot of concern about safety.

The district wants to prioritize safety for staff and students and others that come to school sites. She added that safety in a larger sense includes the needs that some children may have that are addressed at school. Sometimes there are resources at school that are not available at home.

Dr. Schauer added that education is foundational to the economy. The feedback from parents who cannot work from home is that it will be difficult for them economically if their children cannot go to school. With safety considered first, the 3 learning options that the district is considering includes an everyday program

along with a home study program. The district is getting ready to do another survey to confirm interest in the tentative programs. The programs will be administered one trimester at a time depending on conditions, emphasizing that programs will be dependent on health, safety and resources. The program options are:

- Option A: Full-time Daily on School Campus Learning
- Option B: Part-time School Campus & Home Distance Learning
- Option C: Homeschool Program

Dr. Schauer provided an overview of each option.

Option A: Provide for daily on campus learning for core instruction and online learning and wellness activities that follows health guidance for social distancing and group gatherings. The tentative schedule is 8:30-1:00 p.m. daily. This allows the district to ensure added cleaning along with planning and collaboration time for teachers. It also supports a way to make the lunch program work.

Option B: A part-time school campus & home distance learning program for grades 4-8. Core instruction could be in the morning or afternoon with distance learning at home. Students would come to school every day but not all day. This option is not for TK-3 due to foundational learning time and strategies for early reading and mathematics that is important to establish.

Option C: An in-person or virtual instruction with a credentialed teacher. Parents or guardians serving as home learning coaches for distance learning. Students would have access to neighborhood school opportunities and resources.

Karen Schauer stated that the options are based on feedback. The district may find that there is interest in all 3 options or may not. The goal is to reopen on August 13.

She strongly encouraged parents to inform the district of which option they prefer through the follow up survey. In addition to program options, there are a number of things being worked on concerning safety.

Lois Yount, Business Services Director, reported on equipment and supplies the district needs to have in place in the classrooms to adhere to social distancing guidelines. She indicated the district will need to purchase desks and protective shields for TK-K classroom tables. The feedback from teachers was that they would like students to work at tables and not desks. She is also reviewing cleaning procedures, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) need and disinfecting equipment for staff. The district is also stocking up on cleaning supplies.

Public Comments: Parents in general were concerned about the use of face masks at school. This concern was shared through the Zoom meeting Chat feature.

Grace Malson, Board President, asked district leadership to share information regarding children use of masks.

Karen Schauer stated that the district has not made a decision on the use of masks. She indicated health guidance may require children wear masks or it may not. The district is not looking to require masks at this time. The district is in conversations with other districts to determine whether or not employees will need to wear a mask or shield. The district wants to ensure all employees have what they need, a mask or shield. Schools Insurance recommends wearing a mask when social distancing is not possible. The district reopening committee will discuss this matter.

Donna Mayo-Whitlock, Educational Services Director, reported that the district nurse informed her that they do not recommend masks for elementary age children. The state and county health departments may have different recommendations.

John Gordon, Board Member, stated that as the district looks at various guidance documents, Ed Source has compiled this information and there is concern with COVID-19 cases rising.

Karen Schauer stated that health conditions will drive what the district is able to do and when.

Grace Malson added that guidelines could change tomorrow or could change next week.

Public Comment

1. Sara Murray addressed the board regarding schools reopening.

John Gordon stated it is an ambitious plan that the district is considering. He really appreciates the district's intent in trying to be responsive to the community. Mr. Gordon felt the hybrid is an interesting concept however, he feels the human resources part may be challenging. Students in the program need to understand that their home school may not be their home school. Meaning if there are 15 students at one school and 3 at another interested in the program then a student's homeschool may change. If there really is a strong interest in Distance Learning, there needs to be an orientation for parents and students to understand the rigor and expectations of the program. What the district provided from March to June may not reflect that rigor.

Grace Malson supported the idea of an orientation depending on the percentage of parents that want to participate in a distance learning or homeschool program.

John Gordon stated there is concern from parents transitioning from one program to another regarding social distancing. Parents will really have to commit to the program that they select.

Wesley Cagle supported the idea of an orientation also. He indicated that he has been reading on social media about the disappointment parents felt regarding student report cards because there were no grades, just comments. Parents will need to understand that next year will be more intense, hopefully the district will provide grades and not comments.

Donna Mayo-Whitlock stated that if the district has interest, an informational meeting would be set then there would be an orientation. She indicated that the former home school teacher has shared documentation that the district used prior to the program being eliminated. Students in the program do receive grades, have regular core curriculum and required instructional minutes. The expectations are the same as you would see in the classroom.

Grace Malson asked if there is enough time to do a survey, compile results and schedule an orientation.

Karen Schauer responded that the interest survey information will be compiled at the end of June. With the power of Zoom there are different ways that the district can do outreach around the program option being considered. If there is enough interest the district will follow up with a registration process with a goal of opening on August 13 safely.

Thomas Silva provided his thoughts. He indicated the district needs to develop a strategic vision that ties all 3 options together. What is the commonality between the options. In terms of what each plan offers and doesn't offer so we can consider our end goals. The other question, how do we measure success and growth? When the district talks about testing or not testing and talks about learning loss, how do we measure that if we don't test. Is it significant or marginal? He added, there is a certain amount of importance in measuring whether or not something is working. We need to consider what a successful year looks like and find a way to measure it. How do we tie it all together?

John Gordon asked what the hybrid model would look like for middle school?

Karen Schauer shared that district staff has worked hard on this. School administrators want to reach out to staff about scheduling. There is a conceptual plan at this time.

Judith Hayes, Principal, addressed the board on behalf of Ron Rammer, Principal. She commented that Mr. Rammer has been strategically planning the middle school model. From what she understands they will take classrooms that would have normally housed 32-34 students and create an A, B model. Half of students would be in a classroom and the other half in another space doing distance learning. A team concept will be incorporated.

Karen Schauer stated this is a conceptual draft schedule as we take one day at a time to gather more feedback. She indicated the district is working with the unions. There is a lot of teamwork to make this work.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano stated the district does not have all the answers yet. There are transition questions knowing there are 800 children that could be on campus at one time. Planning is still at the beginning stages.

Karen Schauer added, the district is not ready to share schedules. The board's efforts are helping to think strategically to move forward.

Public comments

1. Members of the public via the teleconference Chat Box addressed the board regarding schools reopening.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano stated that under the circumstances the district tried to be consistent and fair across the district. Staff were learning from each other as quickly as possible. They did a phenomenal job with what they were given to work with. She thanked parents and staff for their support in helping children move forward. As some of our teachers mentioned, what the district does in the fall will look much different than what was provided the last few weeks. It will be structured and students will be held accountable through grades and attendance. The district will provide a complete program. During school closure the district provided an opportunity for children to learn not a program. The decision to hold children harmless for grades was a common decision among many school districts. The district could not measure the support students were getting and learning options were limited. She indicated that this disappointed students who turned in every assignment, understandably.

Public Comments

Grace Malson asked if the district would be able to offer ASES and SOAR afterschool programs.

Karen Schauer indicated there is some discussion in the state that those programs may be more flexible. The district is waiting for more information.

Donna Mayo-Whitlock added that if the district did offer afterschool programs we would need to follow same safety guidelines.

F. Recommended Actions/New Business

192.093 Public Hearing and Board Review of 2020-21 Budget

**Public
Hearing**

There was no public comment.

G. Pending Agenda Items

1. School District Properties
2. Low Performing Block grant: Mathematics
3. CSBA Social Media & Training for School Boards

H. Adjournment 9:23 p.m.

Board Approved: July 22, 2020