

Galt Joint Union Elementary School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Special Board Meeting
August 11, 2021

River Oaks Elementary School
905 Vintage Oak Avenue, Galt, CA 95632
Multi-Purpose Room

Zoom Webinar Link
Webinar ID: 896 4606 8097

Board Members Present

Thomas Silva
Wesley Cagle
Traci Skinner
Grace Malson
Casey Raboy

Administrators Present

Lois Yount	Jennifer Porter
Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano	Judy Hayes
Donna Mayo-Whitlock	Kuljeet Nijjar
Laura Papineau	Donna Gill
Stephanie Simonich	

- A. 6:00 p.m. – Closed Session:** River Oaks Elementary Room 39
- B. Present for Closed Session:** Lois Yount, Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Donna Mayo-Whitlock, Thomas Silva, Wesley Cagle, Traci Skinner, Grace Malson, Casey Raboy, Chris Keiner, Attorney at Law, Dannis Woliver Kelley
1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, Government Code §54957.6
- Employee Agency: (GEFA) Galt Elementary Faculty Association
 - Employee Agency: (CSEA) California School Employee Association
 - Non-Represented Employees
- C.** Closed Session Adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The open meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Thomas Silva, followed by the flag salute. He announced no action was taken in closed session.
- D.** Lois Yount shared the Board Meeting Protocol.

E. New Business

212.213 Board Consideration of Approval of Letter to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Governor Regarding K-12 Schools Public Health Guidance

CDPH Letter

Public Comment received via email and read aloud: Myra Gold, Jennifer Schmidt, Christina Witt, Veronica Kaufman, Kim Lizama, Kathy Loesch, Tony Woodward, Erica Brossward, Greg Davidson, Laura Corwin, Kim Grace, Linda Gonzalez, Baylee Grace

Public Comment: Heather Wetzel, Veronica Kaufman, Annette Kunze, Rosenda Lara, Lesa Tanous, Martha Vielma, Sheetal Pal, Rhonda Dela

Cruz, Olivia Arrebundo, Marci Arrebundo, Sara Murray, Annette Kunze on behalf of Kristi Ward

Grace Malson, Board Member, requested a future report on research and data on how face masks affect learning in the classroom.

Wesley Cagle, Board Member, sought clarification on the legal memorandum from EYRES Law Group, LLP, on behalf of the Schools Insurance Authority (SIA). He indicated the memo states the mask mandate is not discretionary for California K-12 districts. Therefore, local Boards of Education and the Superintendent do not have discretion about enforcing the mask mandate for students and staff. The Board and employees could be held liable.

Lois Yount, Superintendent, responded that this is a health mandate. If the District were not to follow the mandate, it could jeopardize the insurability of the District and its employees.

Chris Keiner, Attorney at Law, stated this memo is the position of SIA, CA Joint Powers Authority. They have indicated this is a mandate from the State of California. SIA will not hire or employ an attorney to defend a District that fails to comply with a governing statute or regulation. Secondly, if an employee or elected official does not enforce the face mask mandate, they could be sued by a parent or student if something goes wrong with a student. A District must follow legal code or lose insurance coverage.

Thomas Silva, Board President, conferred with the Board. He asked if the letter meets the Board's intent. Based on public comment, he is not sure the public fully understands the intent by asserting the need to establish local control of the school board and the reasoning behind that. The discussion thus far is based on the face mask mandate. He indicated, legally that has already been established. Also, morally and ethically, the Board has a responsibility to ensure the District follows the mandate.

Wesley Cagle stated that both sides have issues with the letter. If the public does not understand the intent of the letter, there needs to be more clarification.

Traci Skinner, Board Member, made a motion to Table Letter to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Governor Regarding K-12 Schools Public Health Guidance, seconded by Grace Malson and unanimously carried.

Traci Skinner asked Lois Yount to provide information on Back To School Night.

Ms. Yount reported the CDPH health guidelines recommend limiting large gatherings. The District considered the health risks and determined it would be best

to hold live virtual BTSN's at all the schools as the District cannot guarantee all adults would wear a mask in the classroom. Ms. Yount added, some beginning of the school year activities are considered essential and would continue. Preschool and kindergarten students will have a meet the teacher day. Also, McCaffrey middle school is still holding an orientation in person because it is the first time many students will be on a middle school campus. The event will be both indoors and outdoors. Additionally, Lake Canyon will have its annual meet and greet because it is an outdoor event.

Lois Yount stated that schools would inform parents when class lists are posted and allow them to enter the campus to find their child's classroom during a scheduled time before the start of school.

F. Public Comments

There was no additional public comment.

G. Pending Agenda Items

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

H. Adjournment 8:17 p.m.

Board Approved: August 25, 2021