



**Regular Board Meeting Agenda
via Zoom Teleconference
02/23/2021 06:00 PM**
Newhall School District
25375 Orchard Village Rd., #200
Valencia, CA 91355

Meeting Minutes

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Walters called the Regular meeting of the Governing Board to order at 6:03 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

1. Donna Rose, Ernesto Smith, Suzan Solomon, Isaiah Talley, Brian Walters
All Board Members were present.
All Cabinet Members were present.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no public comments.

D. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Adjourned to Closed Session at 6:03 P.M.

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9: Potential Litigation - Case #18/19-04, Conference with Legal Counsel
2. Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (one potential case – potential student due process filing for special education and related services). Consideration of approving a Final Settlement Agreement and General Release between Parents and the District
3. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: Labor Negotiations - Negotiator for the District Amanda Montemayor, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
4. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee- Possible Employment/Discipline/Dismissal/Release of an Employee
5. Superintendent Evaluation: Mid-Year Superintendent Goals Update

E. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

Board members returned to Public Session at 7:09 P.M.

F. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Board President Walters announced that in closed session, the Board took action to hold a Special Board meeting on Friday, Thursday 25th at 4:00 PM

M/S/C- (Solomon/Rose)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

Board President Walters also announced that in closed session, the Board took action to approve/ratify a Final Settlement Agreement and General Release between Parent and District, pursuant to which Parent has agreed to waive and release claims against the District, in consideration of the District's agreement to provide educational services and reimbursement of attorneys fees as specified in the Agreement not to exceed \$76,843.75 The roll call vote was as follows:

M/S/C- (Talley/Solomon)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Peachland Elementary parent Taylor Rasmussen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

H. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Agenda approved.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration of Approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2021

Minutes approved.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

2. Consideration of Approving the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 16, 2021

Minutes approved.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- School is back! Board and Cabinet members shared their experiences helping with arrival and dismissal on the first day of hybrid learning. By all accounts, it went very well!
- Board member Solomon read a book for Black History Month in Ms. Smith's 3rd grade class;
- Board member Solomon attended the L.A County School Trustees Association meeting where CSBA Legislative Advocate Erika Hoffman provided updates on SB 86;
- Board member Rose attended the Leading for Equity Supervisor Summit where NSD staff shared the great work happening in the District;
- Board President Walters shared his appreciation for the wellness support teachers are providing students throughout the District, especially for children in lower grades who are finally returning to school;
- Superintendent Pelzel participated in several media interviews covering the District's first day of in-person learning; media outlets included Telemundo, CBS, NBC, Daily Live News, and Korean Broadcasting System;
- Superintendent Pelzel thanked the District Office staff for taking time out of their schedules to support sites as they welcome students back;
- Assistant Superintendent, Dee Jamison, recognized teachers in the DLA academies for welcoming new students due to shifting in programming. Thank you to staff for making videos and phone calls, and sending emails;
- Board and Cabinet members wished Ms. Montemayor a happy birthday!

K. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

M. PUBLIC INTEREST

None.

N. CONSENT CALENDAR**1. Removal of Items From the Consent Calendar**

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

2. Consideration of Approving Items on the Consent Calendar

Consent Calendar approved

M/S/C- (Rose/Smith)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

3. Consent Calendar- Business Services

i. **Consideration of Approving Purchase Orders, B Warrants and Payroll Warrants**

ii. **Consideration of Approving Gift Report #20/21-13**

iii. **Consideration of Approving Salvage Report**

4. **Consent Calendar- Human Resources**
 - i. **Consideration of Approving Personnel Report #20/21-15**

O. STAFF REPORTS

1. Staff Reports- Student Support Services

- i. **Consideration of Approving the Panorama Education Service Order for SEL Screener System for NSD**

Board members commented that this system is a good base for giving psychologists and counselors data to work with children and their families.

Item approved.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

- ii. **Consideration of Approving 2020-2021 Personal Services Contract with LA Speech Pathology Services, Inc., for Independent Educational Evaluations as needed**

Item approved.

M/S/C- (Talley/Smith)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

- iii. **Consideration of Approving 2020-2021 Personal Services Contract with Progressive Steps, Inc., for services related to a recent settlement**

Item approved.

M/S/C- (Talley/Smith)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

2. Staff Reports- Curriculum/Instructional Services

- i. **Discussion and Update on Newhall Family Theatre**

Theatre Manager Tom Lund provided an update on the Newhall Family Theatre ("NFT") during the COVID-19 pandemic. As expected, the Theatre has been unable to host events or rental requests due to County restrictions, which has resulted in a loss of \$11,180 in unearned revenue.

The Theatre has adapted to a new reality by shifting to virtual online content,

including Talking Back Stage and Story Time with Sir Dude. Mr. Lund also assisted with creating the District's reopening guidelines video available on the website. Several news outlets have included portions of the video as part of their coverage.

Mr. Lund shared and answered questions from the Board on the Theatre's expenditures over the last year.

District Library Media Techs shared concerns over projects created through the NFT and the funding involved, specifically similar work that is within the Library Media Tech job description.

Board members clarified that the work coming out of the NFT like the Story Time project comes under Instructional Services and is meant to enhance resources for teachers, families and the arts through the grant funded by the City of Santa Clarita.

Board President Walters shared recommendations that can help boost public view of all content created through the NFT.

ii. Discussion on Concept of Junior Kindergarten

Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Dee Jamison shared history on how the concept of a Junior Kindergarten program came to be. The Junior Kindergarten program will be a unique, optional Kinder experience that will provide adjusted curriculum based on student need. In order to qualify, children would have to be born within July 1st - September 1st and would continue to a regular Kindergarten program the following year.

Board and Cabinet members held discussions on logistics related to staffing, funding and locations.

Board members were in favor of the program. Members agreed the District could potentially see 4 or more Junior Kindergarten classrooms in its first year, considering it is unique to the Santa Clarita Valley.

A motion was made to approve moving forward with the Junior Kindergarten program (working title) for the upcoming 2021/2022 year.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Rose)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

3. Staff Reports-Administrative Services

i. School Reopening Update and Timeline

Superintendent Pelzel provided updates on the AM/PM blended learning model. The District reopened for in-person learning beginning Monday, February 22nd, staggering grade level start dates as previously voted by the Board.

Mr. Pelzel also provided updates from L.A. County Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ferrer, including:

- Covid adjusted case rates are down from 20 to 12.3 from the previous week.
- Classroom in-person group sizes are only contingent upon 6 feet of social distancing with no maximum number.
- Hart District and Henry Mayo hospital have coordinated a "closed" pod setting to vaccinate all staff members within Hart and NSD Districts. Director of Human Resources Ken Hintz will be sharing out information to staff soon.

Mr. Pelzel also shared funding details and requirements related to Senate Bill 86.

ii. Consideration of Moving the Board Meeting Dates in March 2021 from the Second and Fourth Tuesday to the First and Third Tuesday

Item approved.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

P. AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

- Discussion on use of site playgrounds

Q. ADJOURN TO CONTINUATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Board members resumed Closed Session at 9:12 P.M. to discuss previously stated closed session items.

R. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Board Members returned to Public Session at 9:59 P.M.

S. REPORT OUT OF SECOND CLOSED SESSION

Board President Walters announced that the Board took no further in Closed Session

T. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Walters adjourned the meeting at 9:59 P.M.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2021. Closed Session begins at 6:00 P.M. Open Session begins at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom teleconference.



Board Clerk



Secretary