



**Regular Board Meeting Agenda
via Zoom Teleconference
03/16/2021 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 6:04 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

1. Donna Rose, Ernesto Smith, Suzan Solomon, Isaiah Talley, Brian Walters

Board Members Smith, Solomon and Walters were present.

Board Members Rose and Talley were absent.

All Cabinet Members were present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no public comments.

C. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Adjourned to Closed Session at 6:05 P.M.

Board Members Rose and Talley arrived at 6:06 P.M.

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee- Possible Employment/Discipline/Dismissal/Release of an Employee

**2. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6: Labor Negotiations - Negotiator for the District
Amanda Montemayor, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources**

D. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

Board members returned to Public Session at 7:07 P.M.

E. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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

F. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Dee Jamison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

G. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Agenda approved.

M/S/C- (Talley/Solomon)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration of Approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2021

Minutes approved.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Rose)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Board members Solomon, Smith, and Superintendent Pelzel attended last night's SCV Trustee Association meeting where County representatives Stephanie English and Anders Corey joined in on discussions related to safety measures and reopening schools full-time in the fall;
- Superintendent Pelzel thanked Wm. S. Hart USD Superintendent Mike Kuhlman for collaborating with Henry Mayo to provide vaccinations for District staff; almost all District staff who wish to be vaccinated have had the opportunity to be vaccinated at this point in time.

J. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

K. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

L. PUBLIC INTEREST

1. Letter "H" Attendance Awards

Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Dee Jamison recognized 9 out of the 10 NSD sites for achieving their attendance goal in Month 7.

Board members congratulated students and staff for their efforts.

M. 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- (Talley/Solomon)

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 #20/21-14
Board President Walters thanked the Stevenson Ranch Elementary donor on behalf of the Board who provided facemasks for all students in the District.

4. Consent Calendar- Human Resources

- i. Consideration of Approving Personnel Report #20/21-17

5. Consent Calendar- Student Support Services

- i. Consideration of Approving Amendment to 2020-2021 Personal Services Contract (PSC) with Therapy Travelers

N. STAFF REPORTS**1. Staff Reports- Curriculum/Instructional Services**

- i. **Consideration of Approving Resolution #20/21-17: Recognition of the Importance and Impact of Art Education in the Newhall School District**

The District believes arts education is part of the core curriculum offered to its families. Board Member Solomon dedicated Resolution #20/21-17 to the families and staff of the Newhall School District. Board member Solomon read the Resolution.

Board members thanked Mrs. Solomon for composing Resolution #20/21-17.

Resolution approved with recommended amendments.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

2. Staff Reports- Business Services

- i. **Consideration of Accepting the FY 2019-2020 Newhall School District Audit Report and the Annual Financial Performance Audit for Measure E**

Scott Gustafsson of Eide Bailly presented the annual audit reports and reported no findings at this time.

Annual Audit Reports accepted.

M/S/C- (Rose/Talley)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

- ii. **Consideration of Approving Second Interim Budget Report for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021**
 Approved the Second Interim Budget Report for 2020-2021. Board members directed staff to research the use of one-time relief dollars for capital improvements like upgrading HVAC systems. Board President Walters thanked staff on behalf of the Board for providing budget transparency to its stakeholders.

Item approved.
 M/S/C- (Smith/Solomon)
 Vote: 5 - 0
 Roll call vote:
 Rose - Aye
 Smith - Aye
 Solomon - Aye
 Talley - Aye
 Walters - Aye

- iii. **Consideration of Approving Budget Guidelines for Development of FY 2021-2022**

Item approved.
 M/S/C- (Rose/Solomon)
 Vote: 5 - 0
 Roll call vote:
 Rose - Aye
 Smith - Aye
 Solomon - Aye
 Talley - Aye
 Walters - Aye

- iv. **Third Reading of the Architect Request for Qualification**

Superintendent Pelzel shared a prospective timeline once the RFQ is approved. Board members were also invited to attend a site visit with FivePoint next Tuesday, March 23rd.

Board members commended staff for a well-put proposal.

Item approved.
 M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)
 Vote: 5 - 0
 Roll call vote:
 Rose - Aye
 Smith - Aye
 Solomon - Aye
 Talley - Aye
 Walters - Aye

3. Staff Reports- Student Support Services

- i. **Consideration of Approving the Los Angeles County Plan for Expelled Pupils**

Item approved.
 M/S/C- (Solomon/Talley)
 Vote: 5 - 0
 Roll call vote:
 Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye
 Solomon - Aye
 Talley - Aye
 Walters - Aye

ii. **First Reading of Revised Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.31: Immunizations**

Policies approved and waived additional readings.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Rose)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

iii. **Consideration of Approving Personal Services Contract with Braille Abilities, LLC**

Contract approved with language amendments.

M/S/C- (Solomon/Smith)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

4. **Staff Reports-Administrative Services**

i. **Reopening Update**

Superintendent Pelzel updated the Board on the reopening of schools and COVID-19 County updates. The current case positivity rate is down to 4.1, maintaining the County in the Red Tier. The District is waiting to hear whether school districts would be permitted to allow 3 feet vs 6 feet of social distancing, which would allow for full-time in-person instruction for most classrooms in the new school year.

District staff have initiated discussions on current and new school year plans, including how to address learning loss. The District also plans to survey families and staff to determine whether to move forward with an online academy in 2021-2022.

Stevenson Ranch Elementary parent Suverna Mistry addressed the Board about discussing social interaction opportunities for children by allowing safe outside playtime. In response, Superintendent Pelzel explained the challenges involved with the guidelines currently in place.

In response to Board member questions, staff discussed plans to possibly purchase new classroom furniture to address space issues. Board members directed staff to move as quickly as possible, as it is likely several districts will have similar needs.

Board members also stressed the importance of the District conveying the message in its communications that it plans to move towards full-day instruction in the fall.

ii. Discussion and direction on providing an Online Academy option for NSD families in 2021-2022

As the District begins preparations for the 2021-2022 academic year, staff requested the Board provide direction on a remote learning option. Superintendent Pelzel proposed the two following options: the Home Study Program already offered to students on long-term leaves or a Distance Learning program similar to what is offered this year. In order to determine a need, the District will host informational meetings and survey families and staff.

Board members directed staff to be as transparent as possible with the two proposed options to avoid confusion. In addition, the District is to be clear that both models are secondary options to in-person learning.

iii. Discussion and Direction on 2020-2021 School Effectiveness Survey Questions and Timeline

Board members previously reviewed survey questions in October 2020. Revisions to questions for the current year will include language related to the Distance Learning and Hybrid models.

Board members discussed and deliberated at length amending the current questions so that they address the unique distance-learning model available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board members agreed the District should include the three distance learning academies as separate schools.

The School Effectiveness Survey is scheduled to go out to families in early May.

Approved the 2020-2021 School Effectiveness Survey questions with amendments.

M/S/C- (Talley/Smith)

Vote: 4-1

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Nay

Talley - Aye

Walters - Aye

iv. Consideration of Approving Resolution #20/21-16: Recognizing Women in History Month

Resolution #20/21-16 is historic for the Newhall School District as it is the first time the District recognizes the important, historical, and ongoing contributions of women in our society. Board Clerk Rose read the Resolution.

Item approved.

M/S/C- (Rose/Solomon)

Vote: 5 - 0

Roll call vote:

Rose - Aye

Smith - Aye

Solomon - Aye

Talley - Aye
Walters - Aye

- v. **Discussion on In-Person Governing Board Meetings**
Superintendent Pelzel shared with the Board the latest guidance requirements for in-person meetings. Up to 15 participants can meet in 1 room for a maximum of 2 hours. Individuals must wear facemasks at all times and cannot consume any food or water. Given the restrictions, Board members agreed to continue meeting virtually until further notice.
5. **Staff Reports- Human Resources**
- i. **Consideration of Approving Memo of Understanding (MOU) Between Newhall School District and the Newhall Teachers Association**
Superintendent Pelzel commended both negotiating teams for their efforts.
Item approved.
M/S/C- (Talley/Solomon)
Vote: 5 - 0
Roll call vote:
Rose - Aye
Smith - Aye
Solomon - Aye
Talley - Aye
Walters - Aye
 - ii. **Consideration of Approving Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Hart Induction Program and Newhall School District**
Item approved.
M/S/C- (Rose/Talley)
Vote: 5 - 0
Roll call vote:
Rose - Aye
Smith - Aye
Solomon - Aye
Talley - Aye
Walters - Aye

O. AGENDA ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

No recommendations at this time.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Walters adjourned the meeting at 10:11 P.M.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021. Closed Session begins at 6:00 P.M. Open Session begins at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom teleconference.



Board Clerk



Secretary