

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, March 10, 2021**

*Adopted*

**Members Present via Zoom Webinar:** Beth Albiani, President; Crystal Martinez-Alire, Clerk; Nancy Chaires Espinoza, Carmine Forcina, Gina Jamerson, Anthony Perez, Sean Yang

**Others Present via Zoom Webinar:** Christopher R. Hoffman, Superintendent; Robert Pierce and Mark Cerutti, Deputy Superintendents; David Reilly, Associate Superintendent; Bindy Grewal and Craig Murray, Assistant Superintendents; Shannon Hayes, Chief Financial Officer; Steve Mate, Chief Technology Officer, Xanthi Pinkerton, Director of Communications

**CLOSED SESSION VIA ZOOM:** The meeting was called to order by Ms. Albiani at 8:00 a.m. to address item 1 on the closed session portion of the agenda.

**I. Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint**

**OPEN SESSION VIA ZOOM:** Ms. Albiani called the special board meeting to order via Zoom at 8:00 a.m. and announced that the Board met in closed session via zoom and the following actions were taken.

**Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Complaint**

The Board took action to approve the release of long-term substitute and temporary certificated employees pursuant Education Code Section 44954 by a unanimous vote. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

The Board took action to approve the placement of a classified employee on a compulsory leave of absence by a unanimous vote. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

Ms. Albiani provided a welcome to Elk Grove Unified School District’s virtual board meeting through the Zoom Webinar platform.

Ms. Albiani informed everyone that Legislative Bodies including School Districts are now permitted to hold board meetings telephonically or by other electronic means because on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20, suspending certain provisions of the California Ralph M. Brown Act. In addition, consistent with the March 19, 2020 Statewide Shelter in Place Order issued by the Governor, Executive Order N-33-20, the Sacramento County Shelter at Home Orders issued on March 19, 2020 and April 7, 2020, and the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC’s) social distancing guidelines which discourage public gatherings, this Board meeting was conducted via the Zoom Webinar platform.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance** – Beth Albiani, Board President, led the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Opening & Review of the Day** – Superintendent Hoffman thanked the Board for participating and provided an overview of the day.
- III. Regional Feeder Pattern Board Presentation – Florin Region** – Ms. Albiani called on Ms. Soriano to read public comments, submitted through the District’s Public Comment form, related to this item; there were none.

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Administrators from schools in the Florin Region provided an update on the work being done at their sites and the support they are providing students, community members and staff during distance learning.

Board Members provided feedback and commended staff for the work being done to support students, families and staff.

*Ms. Albiani call for a break at 10:15 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:30 a.m.*

**IV. Regional Feeder Pattern Board Presentation – Franklin Region** - Ms. Albiani called on Ms. Soriano to read public comments, submitted through the District’s Public Comment form, related to this item; there were none.

Administrators from schools in the Florin Region provided an update on the work being done at their sites and the support they are providing students, community members and staff during distance learning.

Board Members provided feedback and commended staff for their work.

*Ms. Albiani called for a lunch break at 12:01 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 12:30 p.m.*

*Ms. Jamerson left the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and returned at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Yang joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m.*

**V. Report on Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program** - Ms. Albiani called on Ms. Soriano to read public comments, submitted through the District’s Public Comment form, related to this item; there were none.

David Reilly and staff presented the Board with a report showing the progress towards the implementation of the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program grant. The purpose of the grant is to promote inclusive learning environments for the preschool population. The grant funding is intended to develop the Learning Together Preschool Center – a preschool site where students can be education together in integrated centers.

The Learning Together Preschool Center will be located at the prior Franklin Elementary School and is being redesigned, modified and updated to meet the needs of the District’s youngest learners. The Learning Together Preschool Center will educate preschool students in general education and those with special education services in an inclusive setting. The Center will serve 24 existing preschool programs located within the southwestern area of the Elk Grove Unified School District boundaries who will transition from their current elementary school campuses to the Learning Together Preschool Center. Transitioning sites will include: Castello, Donner, Ehrhardt, Elliot Ranch, Feickert, Foulks Ranch, Franklin, Hein, McKee and Stone Lake Elementary Schools.

Next steps and considerations:

- Special Education and Elementary Education will continue to collaborate and work with the Facilities and Planning Department in realizing this vision and implementing the grant
- Special Education and Elementary Education will continue to collaborate and work with Human Resources in proposing a plan for the administration of the site and the PreK Program as a whole
- Targeted date for completion of the new site and opening of the program is July 2022

Board members provided feedback and thanked staff for the report.

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**VI. Consent Agenda** - Ms. Albiani called on Ms. Soriano to read public comments submitted through the District's Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none.

Motion No. 105, 2020-21 – Motion by Ms. Chaires Espinoza, seconded by Dr. Martinez-Alire and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that items 1 through 3 on the consent agenda be approved. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

- 1. Approval to Purchase Data Transport Services for Cosumnes River Elementary from Comcast** – Approved a 3-year agreement for Data Transport Services with Comcast for service to Cosumnes River Elementary School and authorize staff to sign the appropriate documents.
- 2. Approval to Purchase Chromebooks and Services** – Authorized staff to purchase 15,000 Chromebooks, and configuration services utilizing the Sourcewell (formerly National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)) contract #081419 awarded to CDW-G.
- 3. Approval to Purchase Configuration and Deployment Services for Laptops** – Authorized staff to purchase configuration and deployment services for previously purchase laptops utilizing the Sourcewell (formerly National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)) contract #081419-CDW awarded to CDW-G.

**VII. Action Items**

- 1. Resolution for 2021 International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** - Ms. Albiani called on Ms. Soriano to read the public comments submitted through the District's Public Comment Form related to this item. Public comments related to this item are attached.

Motion No. 106, 2020-21 - Motion by Ms. Chaires Espinoza, seconded by Mr. Perez and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that Resolution No. 53, recognizing March 21, 2021, as the International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, be adopted. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Chaires Espinoza, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – None*

*Ms. Chaires Espinoza left the meeting at 2:24 p.m.*

- 2. Second Interim Report** - Ms. Albiani called on Ms. Soriano to read public comments submitted through the District's Comment Form related to this item; there were none.

Motion No. 107, 2020-21 - Motion by Mr. Forcina, seconded by Mr. Perez and carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all board members present that the 2020-21 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Financial Report be approved. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes – Albiani, Forcina, Jamerson, Martinez-Alire, Perez and Yang; Nays – None; Absent – Chaires Espinoza*  
Board members provided feedback and thanked Ms. Hayes for the report.

*Ms. Albiani called for a break at 2:30 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 2:38 p.m.*

- 3. 2021-22 Proposed Board Priorities** - Ms. Albiani called on Ms. Soriano to read public comments submitted through the District's Public Comment Form related to this item; there were none.



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- Option 3 – Form submission prior to meeting – Individuals un-muted to address the board in own voice or written comments read by staff (3/23/21)
- Option 4 – Recorded Voice (4/6/21)
- Option 5 – In-Person, individuals un-muted via Zoom (4/6/21)

Ms. Albiani stated that there would not be a vote but rather a discussion about what the Board agrees to.

The Board held a discussion about the options that they would prefer for the upcoming board meetings on March 23, 2021 and April 6, 2021. After listening to each board member's comment, Ms. Albiani confirmed that the Board agreed to have Option 3 for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting and Option 5 for the April 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting, which gives an in-person choice to continue to use Zoom and a read-aloud option.

**IX. Adjournment – 4:10 p.m.**

Submitted by: Christopher R. Hoffman, Superintendent

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_



Beth Albiani, Board President

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**ATTACHMENT: Public Comments submitted in writing to be read by staff**

First Name	Last Name	Public Comments of Persons Desiring to Address the Board	
Anonymous		D.VII.1. Resolution for 2021 International Day of Elimination of Racial-Discrimination With regards to the resolution for 2021 International Day of Elimination of Racial-Discrimination and considering that schools will be reopening soon, I encourage the board to take further action against racial discrimination in our district. It is well known and reported that Black and Latinx students are disproportionately arrested and disciplined at higher rates than their peers and the presence of police on campus has a lot to do with this. For black and brown students, being arrested by school police is often their introduction to the criminal justice system which perpetuates the school-to-prison pipeline. It is time for EGUSD to end their contract with SacPD and Sac Sherrif and instead invest those funds in supporting and promoting the social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health of students which is equally important in promoting school safety and promoting safe, supportive, and effective schools.	VII.1 - Resolution
Anonymous		With the violent aggression and harassment against Asian/Asian Pacific Islanders happening around the country, what the EGUSD board can do to ease the worries and fear of parents and kids?	VII.1 - Resolution
Dominick	Williams	Voting to recognize March 21st as the International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is meaningless when we continue to partner with the Elk Grove Police Department to police our schools. My name is Dominick Williams. I grew up in Sacramento and went to all EGUSD schools: Union House, Samuel Jackman, then Valley High. I was a successful student, being the first in my family to attend a university and one of two students in my entire graduating high school class to attend the University of California, Berkeley. I now work in the California Assembly and am applying to law school. I love my community. At Valley High School, I advocated to district administration to bring funding to Valley High to promote a safe and unified campus climate. While at university, I spent my breaks as a volunteer tutor and spoke to Valley High students about the college-going process. After college, I brought in and taught young volunteers how to organize and be skilled self-advocates. I deeply care for the neighborhoods that this school district serves. Therefore, it pains me to see this symbolic vote on Agenda Item D.VII.1., while EGUSD is still partnered with an institution built from, and with roots in, racial discrimination and violence. Community members can attest to the racial discrimination and brutality that emanates from EGPD when interacting with the public. I have my own story of being racially profiled while driving my father's car. But aside from anecdotes, there is a national movement recognizing the necessary degree of separation that must occur between our schools and our police departments. Students surveyed across the country, we are finding out, feel less safe with police officers on their campuses. We relegate our youth to identities of criminality when bad behavior is met with police discipline rather than school counselors or social workers that can more carefully assess the problem and react to it. They are better equipped and better trained than officers in these situations. If we are to continue with this vote, we cannot uphold and abet the school-to-prison pipeline. We cannot allow students of color to feel less safe. I challenge this board to work with all members of the community to make this vote more meaningful and truly address racial discrimination by ensuring the safety of all our students. I look forward to working with you.	VII.1 - Resolution
Hifzeen Homaira	Ali	D.VII.1. Resolution for 2021 International Day of Elimination of Racial-Discrimination With regards to the resolution for 2021 International Day of Elimination of Racial-Discrimination and considering that schools will be reopening soon, I encourage the board to take further action against racial discrimination in our district. It is well known and reported that Black and Latinx students are disproportionately arrested and disciplined at higher rates than their peers and the presence of police on campus has a lot to do with this. For black and brown students, being arrested by school police is often their introduction to the criminal justice system which perpetuates the school-to-prison pipeline. It is time for EGUSD to end their contract with SacPD and Sac Sherrif and instead invest those funds in supporting and promoting the social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health of students which is equally important in promoting school safety and promoting supportive, and effective schools.	VII.1 - Resolution

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Sarah	Ayin	<p>My name is Sarah Ayin and I am a community member living in the Elk Grove Unified School District. I applaud EGUSD for its vote to recognize March 21st as the International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. However, this vote on agenda item D.VII.1. will remain simply symbolic if we do not also act, and we must re-evaluate our relationship with Elk Grove Police Department and Sacramento County Sheriff's Department if we are truly committed to eliminating racial discrimination</p> <p>As someone who has graduated Valley High School and currently has a family member attending, I find the presence of officers highly unnecessary. EGUSD is falsely relying on these departments to be trained in handling diverse populations and the different needs of each community, but have proven that they are not properly equipped. The money spent on contracting these departments are better used through counseling services and community liaisons. For us, Ending Racial Discrimination looks like stopping the school-to-prison pipeline through meaningful action.</p> <p>The Elk Grove Police Department and Sacramento County Sheriff's Department as an institution should not be involved in disciplining our community's children in our schools. With our national reckoning of policing and police abuse, from the deaths of George Floyd last Summer to the death of Stephon Clark a few years back, I as a community member want this school district to include me and my community in re-evaluating our district's relationship with both departments and take steps to phasing out unnecessary interactions with our community's kids. I call on EGUSD to not just take this vote, but also ACT to root out racial discrimination seriously and sincerely.</p>	VII.1 - Resolution
Susan		Please listen to your stakeholders and allow LIVE public comments during board meetings. you're making decisions that will affect our children for the rest of their lives. Allow us to voice our concerns!	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Katie		ALL stakeholders need their voice back. Please add the ability for live telephonic comment during board sessions (like SO MANY OTHER school districts ALREADY do). For a year now, EGUSD has interpreted public meeting changes made due to COVID as permissible to not allow stakeholders to speak live. This is not ok. You can easily allow for opening the mic of participants who wish to comment live with a screen timer set at 2 to 3 minutes.	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Kristina	Marrone	Parents must have a voice, literally, in future board meetings! Public comments that we write in are easily ignored, miscommunicated and misrepresented. I am a parent of two students who are going back on the concurrent model. It is NOT ADEQUATE!! However, since it's all we can get (and I can't afford private school) we're stuck. We want 5 days a week in the Fall - NO EXCUSES.	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Susan	Swenson	<p>Good morning members of the Board,</p> <p>I certainly wish I was saying that to you right now, instead of you all hearing my comment being read aloud by someone else. BUT HERE WE ARE. And I for one never thought I'd be in such a place. To have to ask our board – the officials we elected to represent our school community to let ALL voices be heard during board meetings. BUT HERE WE ARE. There should be no reason that our voices have been MUTED since board sessions went virtual last March. COVID-19 changed the platform from in person to remote meetings. Executive orders were never written that said you should (or could) limit the public's voice. You made that choice consciously. Other districts in our area have allowed for live, telephonic commenting since the beginning – Folsom Cordova, San Juan, Sacramento City and Placer County school districts to name a few. BUT HERE WE ARE. I never thought I'd see the actions taken when reading written testimony. Comments – if read during ZOOM sessions – are too often read with little to no emotion or inflection. They are often read without cadence, and frequently with syntax errors, likely the result from reading too fast from a computer screen. BUT HERE WE ARE. These are all problems eliminated with LIVE commenting. Moderating open mics with a screen timer to hear us, your constituents. To listen to our thoughts, our asks, our ideas. Even when you have to hear the emotions that accompany live input. Unmute our mics and allow us to speak. THAT'S WHERE WE SHOULD BE. Please, let's be there by the next meeting. It's the right thing to do. I can't imagine one argument against limiting constituents' voices. Thank you.</p>	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Anonymous		Please add the ability for live telephonic interactions during the meetings to include all stakeholders including parents	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Anonymous		We would like to be able to comment live during the meetings to share our thoughts and ideas so please turn on this function	VIII. Public Comment Presentation

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Anonymous		Other school districts have been including the ability for live comments and interactions to share ideas and feedbacks between board members and parents. This should be implemented so we can discuss how we can move forward with planning for the future	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
J	A	I think that it is critical that parents and other stakeholders are able to be heard- not just in writing. While Xanthi has done a phenomenal job reading an enormous amount of public comments, the heart, pain, and voice of the writer is not always heard by the board. There are many parents who are begging for a 5 day a week option. Our children are suffering! Parents who are seeking guidance for the next school year want to be heard. (Are we going to continue this asinine schedule? When will we know?) We still need 5 days of actual in person learning (not zoom) like neighboring districts. If our voices were actually heard, you might have higher enrollment. The lack of communication about this ridiculous hybrid schedule was incredibly confusing and probably why In Person/concurrent numbers are low. We want the 2 choices: 5 days/week or Virtual academy. We want the ability to hear our tone during public comments. Please fully open our schools now!	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Anonymous		Hello members of the Board, We understand that covid has changed the platform for the meetings but it should still allow for live real time dialogues instead of being limited to hear the selected submitted comments. As parents we should be able to voice our concerns and ideas in a meaningful way, not a one way discussion since the decisions and plans involve our children too. So please, allow for the live telephonic comments so we can all work together for the betterment of our students and teachers. Thank you	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
EGUSD Parent Coalition		Superintendent Hoffman and Board of Trustees, <b>HEAR OUR VOICES!</b> The executive order suspending the Brown Act "requires local legislative bodies to provide some means of electronically observing and commenting upon the proceedings, and also to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as possible to the provisions of the Brown Act." The submission and reading of public comments by a district employee does NOT adhere "as closely as possible" to the intent of allowing stakeholder voices to be HEARD by our elected officials. In fact, the California state legislature is now taking live in-person comments. <b>HEAR OUR VOICES!</b> Last Sunday marked the one-year anniversary of the district shutting our schools. We have learned so much in this year about adaptation and resiliency in the time of distance learning. With that, the time is NOW to acknowledge and recognize that the long-term effects of keeping children from a full return for a 5-day week in person instructional model is detrimental to their mental health, social well being and ability to catch up with their learning. <b>HEAR OUR VOICES!</b> In a letter by the CA chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 and School Partnership Committee dated on March 8th confirms their recommendation for an URGENT safe school reopening for all K-12 students. As stated clearly in the letter, distance learning itself is now causing EXTREME harm to our children: they are witnessing an epidemic of depression/anxiety, with failing grades, victimization, and higher rates of physical inactivity and weight gain than their peers now in school. They continue to point out that schools provide our children safety, nutrition, mental health support and social and emotional skill-building. Our at-risk youth are in grave danger of ongoing neglect and abuse with continued school closures and limited access to mandated reporters, their teachers. Furthermore, there is no substitute for in-person assessments/interventions for children with special needs in a Zoom format. Period! <b>HEAR OUR VOICES!</b> Hundreds of parents with Special Education services in our district state that the services being provided via Zoom are not meeting their children's unique needs and are not satisfying what is outlined in their children's IEP and 504 plans. The loss of learning has been exponential in schools that have remained closed compared to those open and this will lead to inequity in educational outcomes long-term. <b>HEAR OUR VOICES!</b> The Board has continued to state that they want to prioritize getting all children back in the classroom as soon "as it is safe." We argue that it is safe NOW per the ample amount of data from other states showing that opening schools does not endanger children, educators and other school staff, nor raise community's risk factors. <b>HEAR OUR VOICES!</b> Again, we request that a subcommittee be formed that will allow for parents to provide input into the district's reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year. There is new national research that indicates that there is no substantial difference in cases among students or staff with 3 versus 6 feet of distance since schools have reopened. This is the type of data that our district MUST consider in their safe reopening plans. <b>HEAR OUR VOICES!</b> Keeping children out of school is NOT SAFE and is contributing to an endemic issue for our next generation. By the time all of the data has been collected about the harm school closures have caused to our children, it will be too late! Our children need you to stand up for them NOW. They are suffering! Reopen our schools for every student who wants and NEEDS in-person education!	VIII. Public Comment Presentation



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Anonymous		As parents, we would like to be able to interact in real time with the board members that we elected to represent us. Even zoom classes allow for students to talk with their teachers yet we are not allowed to do so with our elected school leaders? Help me understand what the barriers are because other school districts have been having live telephonic commenting. My understanding is that this mode of communication does not by any means present a risk of spreading Covid so let's open the two way communication!	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Anonymous		There are parents that do not know how to write but are able to speak English. However, they are excluded in sharing their thoughts because only written electronic comments can be submitted. This is not fair or equitable and limits the voice of vulnerable families. Open the live telephonic comments so they too can have the opportunity to partake in the process	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Anonymous		Many other schools allow for parents to speak during the meetings and why are we not allowed to comment live during the meetings? It's as though you do not care about what we think even though we elected you to represent us. You have effectively been shutting and muting us and this is not why we voted for!	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Anonymous		I'm very disappointed that the board has not allowed us to have live telephonic comments during the meetings. I am able to speak for myself and my children without having someone else read my comments and decides how to add the tone or emotions thereby changing the context of my words. We all know how a comma can change the meaning of a sentence, let alone the reader who can decide what should be omitted or when to pause so the true meaning is lost in the context.	VIII. Public Comment Presentation
Tristina	Senter	We want a voice. We want to be heard. We are the public who elected you. We are the community you are supposed to serve. You have stifled our voices. You have not considered our concerns. You have not taken our offer to be partners in a solution for our kids. You can do better, we can all do better for our children. Let us be heard, in real time in our own voices so we can work in partnership to get our kids back in the classroom 5 days a week.	VIII. Public Comment Presentation