

SOUHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
4991 Southside Rd. Hollister, CA 95023
REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, September 16th, 2020
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES

ITEM I

a. Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm by Mr. Michael Ruth.

b. Roll Call:

Board Members Present:

- Michael Ruth
- Katie Evans
- Carina Freeman
- Laura Forth

Board Members Absent:

Sarah Alford

c. Pledge of Allegiance – was led by Mr. Schilling

d. Agenda – Carina Freeman made the motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Katie Evans and carried the following vote: Yes – 4; No/Absent/Abstain – 1 Absent.

e. Public Comments – Mrs. Howard spoke regarding the Distance Learning Calendar and the 3 different options. The SEA (10 Teachers) voted anonymously on the options to re-open.

- 6 teachers voted – Jan. 19th, 2021
- 2 teachers voted – Jan. 5th, 2021
- 2 teachers voted – Nov. 9th, 2020

She mentioned that bringing students back to soon may increase some trauma if we need to close back up soon after re-opening.

ITEM II -DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Officers Report

1. Superintendent/Principal –

a. Mr. Schilling informed the Board that our first Saturday School was held on Sept. 12th, 2020 and approximately 16 students attended. The Saturday school is intended to help with tutorial services on logging into google and basic support for students who are struggling academically. The program is much like our Summer School program with the restrictions. There is only a limit number of students and staff that can attend. The program will run for 9 Saturdays ending in November 2020.

b. Mr. Schilling informed the Board that SBC Public Health Department does not have new updates. San Benito County remains in the purple category along with 30 other counties. The Health Department also indicated that screenings for COVID-19 testing at the Veteran’s Memorial will possibly be closing at the end of September.

2. **Board Member Comments** – Carina Freeman asked if our hot spots were working out. Mr. Schilling informed the Board that we have had to retrieve them, and he has contacted the vendor for replacements or a contract reimbursement. The Santa Clara County Office of Ed, Migrant Department has provided our students with new hot spots that seem to be working for our students.

3. **Board President Comments** – NONE

4. **Parent Club** – Mr. Schilling received an email from Parent Club apologizing for not participating but are working on a DeBrito Apple Fundraiser that should take place in October.

ITEM III – CONSENT ITEMS

These items are considered routine and may be enacted by the Board in one motion. There is no discussion on these items prior to the motion unless a specific item is removed from the consent list.

- a. Special Board Meeting Minutes August 19th, 2020 as presented
- b. Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 2nd, 2020 as presented

Carina Freeman made the motion to approve the Minutes dated August 19th, 2020 and September 2nd, 2020 with a note to change the date at the bottom of the page for the Sept. 2nd minutes to reflect the correct date of Sept. 2nd, 2020 and to include that Shannon Hanson was present to discuss the unaudited actuals and answer questions and was seconded by Laura Alford and carried the following vote: Yes – 4; No/Absent/Abstain – 1 Absent

ITEM IV – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a. Southside Elementary Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (ACTION)

Rationale: The Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (Learning Continuity Plan) is a key part of the overall budget package for K-12 that seeks to address funding stability for schools while providing information at the local educational agency (LEA) level for how student learning continuity will be addressed during the COVID-19 crisis in the 2020–21 school year. The provisions for the plan were approved by the Governor and Legislature in June in SB 98 and can be found in *EC* Section 43509.

The Learning Continuity Plan is intended to balance the needs of all stakeholders, including educators, parents, students, and community members, while both streamlining engagement and condensing several preexisting plans. In particular, it was important to combine (1) the intent behind Executive Order N-56-20, published in April 2020, which envisioned an off cycle Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) due December 15th, and (2) the ongoing need for LEAs to formally plan to return to school in the midst of the uncertainty and of COVID-19, without requiring two plans. The Learning Continuity Plan replaces the LCAP for the 2020–21 school year.

Recommended Motion: That the Board approve the Southside School Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

Laura Forth made the motion to approve the Southside School Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2020-2021 school year and was seconded by Katie Evans and carried the following vote: Yes – 4; No/Absent/Abstain – 1 Absent

b. Academic Calendar Southside School 2021-2022 (ACTION)

Recommendation: The Board review and approve the proposed academic calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. A comparison with the calendar from San Benito High school found that the February breaks were different. The Southside calendar has been modified to align with the High School calendar.

Recommended Motion: To approve the academic calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

Rationale: The calendar has been reviewed by the staff. The academic calendar for Southside school reflects many of the same students breaks and off days from that of San Benito High School.

Rationale: The calendar has been reviewed by the staff. The academic calendar for Southside School reflects may of the same students breaks and off days from that of San Benito High School.

Laura Forth made the motion to approve the Academic Calendar Southside School 2021-2022 and was seconded by Katie Evans and carried the following vote: Yes – 4; No/Absent/Abstain – 1
Absent

c. Southside School Distance Learning Calendar (ACTION)

Rationale: The current distance learning calendar for Southside School outlined a timeline of six weeks to provide distance learning for students. The end of the six weeks and the return of students is scheduled for 9/28/20. Based upon the recent guidelines published by the state of California and the recommendation of public health officials, Southside will not be able to provide in-person instruction for the general student body by 9/28/20. The reason to act is to determine a new calendar and estimate for students to possibly return to campus for in-person instruction.

Recommendation: The board review and approve one of the suggested options.

Option 1: Continue another six weeks of distance learning instruction: Return date for students – 11/9/20

-Pros: Students may return to campus sooner using the hybrid model of instruction. This will be based upon the reopening guidelines for schools in San Benito County.

-Cons: Due to the level of infection and positive cases of the virus in San Benito county, students may not be able to return to in-person instruction. Currently school districts across the nation that have attempted to re-open schools have been forced to stop in-person instruction and return to distance learning. The starting and stopping of school has been difficult for the school communities and students. Students would be on campus for two weeks then depart for Thanksgiving break the following week. Students would be returning after a holiday break which may introduce a new possibility for the spread of infection due to outside the family contact.

Option 2: Distance Learning for the remainder of the semester: Return date for students – 1/5/21

-Pros: Increases the possibility of San Benito County being removed from the state watch list. Increase the possibility of a vaccination or other medical initiatives to restrict the spread

of virus. Provide the students, families and staff stability about the school calendar and the general questioning about re-opening of school for in-person instruction. Students remain off campus for the holiday season.

-Cons: A longer amount of time that students are in distance learning. Students would return after possible outside the family contact. Middle of the flu season.

Option 3: Distance Learning for the remainder of the semester, plus two weeks: Return date for students – 1/19/21

-Pros: Increases the possibility of San Benito County being removed from the state watch list. Increase the possibility of a vaccination or other medical initiatives to restrict the spread of virus. Provide the students, families and staff stability about the school calendar and the general questioning about re-opening of school for in-person instruction. Would provide a two week “isolation” window after the holiday to ensure that outside family contact did not increase the possibility of infection.

-Cons: Increased amount of time in distance learning. Middle of the flu season.

Recommended Motion: That the Board of Education review and approve one of the options for the Southside School distance learning calendar.

Laura Forth made the motion to approve the Southside School Distance Learning Calendar, Option 3 and was seconded by Carina Freeman and carried the following vote: Yes – 4; No/Absent/Abstain – 1 Absent

ITEM V – CLOSING ITEMS

- a. Next Special meeting of the Board scheduled for **Wednesday, October 7th, 2020 at 6:00pm**
- b. Adjournment – Carina Freeman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47pm and it was seconded by Laura Forth and carried by the following vote: Yes – 4; No/Absent/Abstain – 1 Absent

John Schilling, Superintendent/Principal
Southside School District

Michael Ruth, Board President
Southside School District, Board of Trustee