

**SOUHSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**4991 Southside Rd. Hollister, CA 95023**  
**REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**By virtual attendance via ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**ITEM I – Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.**

**a. Meeting called to order** at 6:02 p.m. by Mr. Michael Ruth

**Roll Call:**

Board Members Present:

- Michael Ruth
- Katie Evans
- Sarah Alford
- Laura Forth
- Vacancy

Board Members Absent:

**b.** Comments from public –

**ITEM II – Special Meeting 6:00 p.m.**

**c.** Pledge of Allegiance

**d.** Approval of the Agenda – Laura Forth made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented and it was seconded by Sarah Alford and carried the following vote: YES -4; No/Absent/Abstain – 0  
Absent

**e.** Comments from the Public – This is a time for the public to address the Board. A maximum of 5 minutes will be allotted to each speaker.

- Mrs. Elena Verdegaal, Southside School Physical Education Teacher voiced her frustration & sadness of not being on campus. She believes students and staff can attend in person in a safe manner. She mentioned that Spring Grove School has had in person instruction since October with very few issues and is at a loss because Southside School being a smaller setting is not open. She asked the Board to re-open the school soon.
- Mr. Jensen Lai, a Southside school parent asked about the safety measures and protocols that will be put into place before the re-open. He would like to have these outlined on paper.

**ITEM III. – DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Officers' Report**

**1. Superintendent/Principal –**

**a. Re-open Committee Updated**

**1. Schedules –** Mrs. Romiti spoke about the AM/PM Cohorts. She reviewed with the Board

the Hybrid Model which consist of the AM / PM Cohorts, Monday through Thursday on campus. Each cohort is 2.5 hours and Friday is a distance learning day for all students.

2. Parent Contacts on AM/PM Cohorts – Mrs. Rocha spoke about the total number of students enrolled and the number of students that opted to return to in-person instruction versus the number opting to stay on distance learning. There is total of 180 students enrolled, 162 opting to the in-person instruction and 16 opting to remain on the distance learning for the remainder of the school year.

3. County Metrics – Mr. Schilling informed the Board that San Benito had moved to the Red Tier. Most counties have moved to this tier and some are already in the yellow & orange tier.

4. Mr. Schilling indicated that the Food Service program will remain the same as it is during distance learning. He also mentioned that all meals are free for the remainder of the year for anyone between the ages of 1 and 18 years old.

5. Staff Vaccinations – Mr. Schilling informed the Board that 90% of the staff has been vaccinated with their 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine and will receive their 2<sup>nd</sup> one in the next couple of weeks. There are still 2 staff members not vaccinated. One is per medication being taken now and the other is not sure they want it. Mr. Ruth asked about the students getting vaccinated. Mr. Schilling informed the Board that the school cannot mandate students to receive the vaccine. This mandate would need to come from the State.

2. Board Member comments – NO COMMENTS

3. President Comments – Mr. Ruth, Board President spoke before public regarding being on distance learning for a year and indicating that the pandemic is not over but would like to work on ways to re-open the school safely. He mentioned that we need to take into consideration the 3 stakeholders (students, parents, staff) needs and concerns before re-opening. He asked that we take into consideration the social and emotional needs of all involved.

4. Parent Club – Mrs. Amanda Humphreys, parent club member informed the Board that the Parent Club has a list of parents willing to volunteer to help re-open safely. She also asked the Board to consider having a pre-opening for families of the primary grades to come visit the campus so they can feel more comfortable coming back to school.

#### **ITEM IV – 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 March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as presented

Sarah Alford made the motion to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes dated 3/10/21 as presented, and it was seconded by Laura Forth and carried the following vote: Yes -4; No/Absent/Abstain – 0 Absent

#### **ITEM V – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Southside Hybrid Learning Instructional Model and 100% Distance Learning Model for the Remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. (DISCUSSION/ACTION)**

**Rationale:** Due to COVID-19 global pandemic, for the safety of students and staff, Southside School transitioned to 100% Distance Learning in November 2020. With the easing of stay-at-home restrictions and the reduction of positive COVID case in San Benito County, Southside School is providing options for parents. Two options would be available, one for a hybrid of in-person instruction on the Southside campus and a second option for students to remain in 100% distance learning.

**Hybrid Learning Model - In-person on Campus:** Students will be in a hybrid learning model which is a combination of in-person and distance learning. Students will be placed in AM or PM cohorts by grade level and will be on campus four days a week, for approximately 2 1/2 hours per day. Fridays will be distance learning days.

**100% Distance Learning - Distance Learning:** Students will have more independent learning time from our current distance learning platform. Approximately 30 minutes a day the student will have contact with the teacher and a minimum of 1 hour of live instruction with the teacher on Fridays. If parents elect for distance learning, they must commit to this format for the remainder of the school year quarter.

**Recommendation:** That the board review and discuss and or approve the two learning model options if in-person instruction is offered.

**Recommended Motion:** That the board review and discuss and or approve the two learning model options, Hybrid model for in-person instruction and 100% distance learning.

Sarah Alford made the motion to approve the Southside Hybrid Learning Instructional Model and 100% Distance Learning Model for the remainder of the 20-21 school year with the following changes: If parents elect for distance learning they may ask to have their child return to in-person instruction and the School will take their request into consideration and evaluate the situation and it was seconded by Katie Evans and carried the following vote: Yes -4; No/Absent/Abstain – 0 Absent

#### **b. In-Person Hybrid Learning Contract 2020-2021(DISCUSSION/ACTION)**

**Rationale:** Given the extraordinary circumstances and the ever-changing dynamics of the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that health and safety protocols, district guidelines and expectations are clear. The contract is intended to clearly outline the safety protocols, guidelines, and procedures required for and for all students to return to in-person instruction on campus. The contract asks parents to read and initial each section, sign, and date the document, and send it back to the office prior to the first day of in-person instruction.

**Recommendation:** That the board review and discuss and or and approve the Southside In-person Hybrid Learning Contract for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Recommended Motion:** That the board review and discuss and or approve the Southside In-Person Hybrid Learning Contract 2020-2021.

Katie Evans made the motion to approve the In-Person Hybrid Contract 2020-2021 and it was seconded by Laura Forth and carried the following vote: Yes-4; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

**c. In-Person Bell Schedule for AM/PM student cohort groups for on campus instruction (DISCUSSION/ACTION)**

**Rationale:** To maintain physical distancing between students and staff, staggered entry and exit times for students has been recommended. Grade level cohorts of students will be assigned different entry and exit point on campus and grade levels will arrive and exit at different times to maximize physical distancing. The bell schedule outlines the instructional time for AM/PM cohorts. Kindergarten times will be different from grade levels 1-8 due to ½ day kinder.

**Recommendation:** That the board review and discuss and or and approve the staggered starting and end time bell schedule for the AM/PM cohort groups of students.

**Recommended Motion:** That the board review and discuss and or approve the in-person am/pm bell schedule for students.

Sarah Alford made the motion to approve the In-Person Bell Schedule for AM/PM student cohort groups for on campus instruction and it was seconded by Katie Evans and carried the following vote: Yes -4; No/Absent/Abstain – 0 Absent

**d. Return date for In-Person Instruction (ACTION/DISCUSSION)**

**Rationale:** As of 3/14/21 the county of San Benito COVID-19 risk of infection level was reduced from widespread “purple” to substantial “red”. Entering the red tier allows for lesser restrictions and increased ability to return students to campus. Below is a listing of options for the board to discuss for in-person instruction.

<b>Option A:</b> Return dates	Pros: Student back on campus the fastest
TK-K – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade: April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cons: staff not fully immune
3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade: April 12 <sup>th</sup>	
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade: April 19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Option B:</b> Return dates	Pros: Most staff fully immune
TK-K – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade: April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Cons: Loss of funding
3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade: April 19 <sup>th</sup>	
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade: April 21 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>Option C:</b> Return dates	Pros: All but 1 teaching staff fully immune
TK-K – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade: April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cons: More time in distance learning
3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grade: April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Loss of funding, testing
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade: April 26 <sup>th</sup>	

\*\*After some extensive discussion, the Board decided to add an Option “D” as follows:

**Option D:** Return dates  
TK-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: April 12<sup>th</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade: April 19<sup>th</sup>

Sarah Alford made the motion to approve the Return date for In-Person Instruction with **Option D**, return to in-person instruction start date on April 12<sup>th</sup> for TK-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade on April 19<sup>th</sup> and it was seconded by Katie Evans and carried the following vote: Yes-4; No/Absent/Abstain – 0

**VI. Closing Items**

- a. Next Regular Board meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm.**
- b. Adjournment – Sarah Alford made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. and it was seconded by Laura Forth and carried by the following vote: Yes – 4; No/Absent/Abstain – 0 Absent

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John Schilling, Superintendent/Principal  
Southside School District

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