UNADOPTED

Minutes of
Madera County Board of Education Special Meeting
March 31, 2021

Present: Cathie Bustos, Shelley Deniz, Tammy Loveland, Zimri Padilla, Joe Vived, Dr. Cecilia A. Massetti, Executive Secretary

Absent: Brian Ramirez, Alfred Soares, Jr.

Also Present: Fred Cogan, Julie DeWall, Jessica Drake, Dianna Marsh, Jennifer Pascale, Tricia Protzman

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Flag Salute

Vice President Cathie Bustos called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the flag salute.

2.0 Consideration of Minutes

2.1 Regular Meeting March 9, 2021

Mrs. Pascale stated no written or verbal comments were submitted for this agenda item.

Shelley Deniz moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021, seconded by Zimri Padilla and carried by unanimous vote.

Ayes: Bustos, Deniz, Loveland, Padilla, Vived
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ramirez, Soares, Jr.

3.0 Adoption of Board Agenda

Mrs. Pascale stated no written or verbal comments were submitted for this agenda item.

Tammy Loveland moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Zimri Padilla and carried by unanimous vote.

Ayes: Bustos, Deniz, Loveland, Padilla, Vived
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Ramirez, Soares, Jr.

4.0 Information

4.1 Public Comment

Vice President Bustos stated this time is offered to members of the public wishing to address the Board on matters under the jurisdiction of the Board, but not listed on the agenda. Board members may listen to but not discuss matters not on the agenda.

(G.C. 54954.2) The Board will not take action on any items presented under public comment. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes.

Mrs. Pascale stated that no written or verbal comments were submitted for this agenda item. No one came forward to address the Board.

4.2 Letters and Communications
None

4.3 Non-School Sources
None

4.6 Member Report(s)
None

5.0 Information from the Superintendent and Staff
None

6.0 Old Business
None

7.0 Closed Session
None

8.0 New Business
8.1 Consideration Request for Allowance of Attendance Due to Emergency Conditions
Mrs. Pascale stated no written or verbal comments were submitted for this agenda item.

Ms. Drake explained Special Education programs located at Yosemite High School and Coarsegold Elementary School were closed on January 19, 2021, due to strong winds and dry conditions causing a public safety power shutoff in order to avoid potential wild fires. MCSOS is requesting that the California Department of Education provide an attendance allowance for this date.

Joe Vived moved to approve the Allowance of Attendance Due to Emergency Conditions, seconded by Tammy Loveland and carried by unanimous vote.

Ayes:	Bustos, Deniz, Loveland, Padilla, Vived
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Ramirez, Soares, Jr.

8.2 Consideration School Reopening Plan to Provide In-person Instruction
Mrs. Pascale stated no written or verbal comments were submitted for this agenda item.

Dr. Massetti noted that Madera County was in the purple tier at the time of the Board's

last meeting when it was decided adoption would be needed from the Board on the School Reopening Plan. Madera County is now in the red tier. Even though the plan is not currently needed to open schools, Dr. Massetti felt it would not be a bad idea to move forward with the adoption just in case the county moves back into purple. From the COVID data, it appears Madera may be in the orange tier by April 20. Tricia Protzman worked with the Leadership team and Joe Casarez to develop the Reopening Plan.

Mr. Vived stated COVID numbers in the northeast part of the United States is going up again with a new variant of the virus. He asked who will decide if districts will close if Madera returns to the purple tier.

Dr. Massetti explained that if MCSOS opens in red, it would not need to close down completely if Madera returns to the purple tier. Mrs. Protzman added that Madera County would not shelter in place. MCSOS is in a position with personal protective equipment (PPE) to maintain safety when students return. The Early Education Center (EEC) has been in operation since July and has had three COVID cases. A student and an instruction assistant came to school feeling ill. They were isolated and those classrooms were closed for two weeks. The rooms were sanitized. There was no cross contamination and no other individuals contracted COVID. Several other classes have opened since and there have been no cases. When a COVID case is confirmed, MCSOS is obligated to notify Public Health. Public Health makes the determination of whether the classroom should be closed. An outbreak is three cases or more in a 14-day period. There is a statewide school portal for contact tracing.

Mr. Vived asked about COVID rapid testing. Mrs. Protzman explained that testing is part of the reopening plan. For on demand testing MCSOS refers individuals to public health. The antigen test is the rapid test. It informs MCSOS if there is a COVID positive case. Regardless of the test, individuals are quarantined if they have symptoms. The test cannot be given without parent permission. The cost has gone down considerably. They were $115 originally and some have come down to $5.

Mrs. Loveland asked about the change in social distancing requirements to three feet. Mrs. Protzman stated six feet is still the preferred distance, however it is very limiting. With added layers of PPE, three feet was considered and determined to be an acceptable distance by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Dr. Massetti added that some staff members need to be much closer than three feet, such as one-on-one assistants and for medical procedures. Those staff members, use masks, face shields, gloves, and gowns, which allow them to be in close proximity to students.

Mr. Padilla asked if there is a limitation regarding classroom capacity. Mr. Cogan said that Opie Riar has a program that measures the square feet in the room and determines how many people can be in that room. Those calculations have been completed for all MCSOS classrooms and there is a limit to the number of people depending on the size of the classroom.

Dr. Massetti said EEC used visual cues for preschoolers. They used three foot hula-hoops and blue tape on the floor to show students what their space looked like.

Mrs. Bustos asked if it is mandatory for students to return to in-person instruction. Mrs. Protzman stated that students have an option for the remainder of this school year: return to in-person instruction or continue with distance learning. Ms. Drake stated surveys have been completed by parents and approximately 70% of students will be returning. For the time being, technology assigned to students will remain at home so that if a classroom needs to be closed, students can still connect with their classrooms.

Mr. Vived asked if isolation rooms are needed and if staff is available to cover that room. Ms. Drake said isolation rooms have been established for each site, including this building and staff members have been assigned to monitor the rooms when they are needed.

Mr. Cogan informed the group that staff have received PPE three times this year: hand sanitizer, masks, and face shields (for those that want them). Now, staff will be receiving PPE for when students return: hand sanitizer, thermometers, goggles, sani-wipes, vindicator, shields, gowns, etc. Approximately 15 foggers are available and a fogging schedule has been developed to fog classrooms between groups. Face shields with drapes have been purchased for individuals that have health issues, such as asthma. For the deaf and hard of hearing classes, masks with a clear center were purchased so that students can see the instructor's mouth. Plexiglass dividers have been installed where needed and portable systems have been given to itinerant staff. Bus drivers have a health screening survey and thermometers to screen students before they get on the bus. They also have iPads with the survey recorded in Spanish that they can play for Spanish speaking families. An informational training for parents has been completed. Parents have received packets that include an affirmation form and general COVID information such as symptoms. The COVID flyers were obtained from the CDC website. A thermal scanner was purchased for Gould to be used as a secondary screening measure. It has the ability to measure up to eight people at a time. Mr. Vived stated staff has done amazing work in organizing the Reopening Plan. He was really impressed. The Board thanked staff for their work.

Joe Vived moved to adopt the School Reopening Plan to Provide In-person Instruction, seconded by Zimri Padilla and carried by unanimous vote.

Ayes:	Bustos, Deniz, Loveland, Padilla, Vived
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Ramirez, Soares, Jr.

8.3 Consideration Disposition of Surplus/Obsolete Equipment

Mrs. Pascale stated no written or verbal comments were submitted for this agenda item.

Mrs. DeWall provided the Board with a list of equipment declared obsolete. Items

included audiology equipment as follows: Class Mates, an Easy Listener Phonic PE 300R, a Bone Conduction Leadband, BTC Receivers, an A Arc Receiver, a TC 2 Battery Charger, Phonic Ears, Telex Small Wall Chargers, Wall Charger Condors, Phonak Receivers, Phonix Ear 300Rs, speaker bags, switching power adapters, light switches, a music switch, a transformer enhanced vision machine, a Winspeak Model SB2 MFG Year 206, a 1999 school mouse, earscan tymps, a Dell monitor, a freehand glove with cable, a Humanware braille note, a Kensington, an Audiotronics Tutorette audiocard recorder, a Califone 3068AV, an AAC Idea Bok, a Zoom Bluetooth keyboard, a Springboard plus accessory, an EVS FlipperPort, a DinaVox Mayer-Johnson EyeMax system, a laptop with an AC adapter, wireless systems, Phonic Ear Inc adapters, Condor adapters, a Humanware VictorReader Classic, Zoom-Twixes, a Humanware Acer monitor, a Mini-Lite Box AC adapter, Illuminate screens, a document camera, a Tactile Graphics Designer, wheelchair stands, JVC monitors with stands, a Toshiba monitor with vision stand, MagniSight Explorers, a MacBook, and an AlphaSmart Pro keyboard.

Tammy Loveland moved to approve the list of equipment declared obsolete, seconded by Shelley Deniz and carried by unanimous vote.

Ayes:	Bustos, Deniz, Loveland, Padilla, Vived
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Ramirez, Soares, Jr.

9.0 Other

None

10.0 Adjournment

Mrs. Pascale stated no written or verbal comments were submitted for this agenda item.

Tammy Loveland moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Zimri Padilla and carried by unanimous vote.

Ayes:	Bustos, Deniz, Loveland, Padilla, Vived
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Ramirez, Soares, Jr.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia A. Massetti, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary

CAM/jep