

Approved



**Durham Unified School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 9, 2021**



6:00 pm Closed Session – 6:30 pm Open Session

District Board Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://durhamunified.zoom.us/j/87487591634?pwd=WFhDdXlDdjIwZ3VPWnZWUHJaeCtoZz09>

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Passcode: 432944

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Durham Unified School District was held in the Durham Unified School District Board Room on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Trustees Present: Jennie DuBose, David Loudermilk, Ed McLaughlin, Lance Smith and Matthew Thorpe

Administration Present: Superintendent John Bohannon, Assistant Superintendent to Business and Operations Aimee Belev and District Secretary Tina Blenn

A. Call to Order

President, Ed McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Durham Unified School District Board Room.

B. Moved to Closed Session: 6:02 p.m.

C. Closed Session

1. Conference with Labor Negotiators Agency designated representatives: Board President Ed McLaughlin, Unrepresented Employee(s): Superintendent (Government Code 54957.6)
2. Conference with Labor Negotiators Agency designated representatives: Superintendent, Employee Organizations: Administrative, CTA, CSEA, and Classified Confidential (Government Code 54957.6)
3. Public Employee Discipline / Dismissal / Release / Complaint (Government Code 54957)
4. Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent (Government Code 54957)
5. Public employee appointment/employment: Superintendent (Government Code 54957)

D. Return to Open Session: 6:30 p.m.

E. Pledge of Allegiance:

Assistant Superintendent to Business and Operations, Aimee Belev, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

F. Report of Action Taken in Closed Session: No action taken in closed session.

G. Items from the Public:

The Board took public comment from those addressing concerns or comments regarding items not on the agenda. Each person had 3 minutes to address the Board with a 20-minute limit per subject.

- Durham High School Senior, Lexi Vanella spoke regarding the need for sports to return to Durham High School.
- Durham High School Junior, Brady Webb addressed the Board with his concerns regarding sports at Durham High School and how the lack of sports affects students.
- Tyler Messina also a Durham High School Junior spoke to the Board regarding Butte County Public Health, CIF and the need for sports.
- Allie Doyle, parent of Durham High School student, Ryan Doyle, read a letter to the Board from Ryan. This letter was sent to the California Governor and Butte County Board of Supervisors. The letter focused on the necessity of sports programs for students.
- There was a very well organized and attended Sports rally held outside the Boardroom from 5:30-7:00pm. Many high school students, coaches and parents participated. "Let Us Play" was the theme directed at the Butte County Public Health Department and the State of California Public Health Department to release the mandated hold on school sports.

H. District Reports:

1. MOT – Eric Kolstad, Manager of Operations and Transportation report addressed MOT staff busy preparing for the return of more students, moving furniture and continuing to sanitize and deep clean all the facilities.

2. Principals

DES: Principal Lisa Atlas – Enrollment: 438

DES is gathering information on students either returning to In Person Learning or Distance Learning. Shout Out to the Grounds, Custodial and Maintenance staff that have been a tremendous help as we gear up for full capacity. Returning to 5-day school, DES has developed Foundational Fridays – providing for assessments, small group instruction, virtual art and field trips, or time to engage in more in depth studies in science and social studies. Continuing with parent communication regarding safety protocols and any changes that can occur.

DIS: Principal Lora Fox – Enrollment: 242 In Person: 197 Distance Learning: 45

DIS Shout Outs to Alex Hernandez, Maggie Mendoza and Lisa Farrage-Johnson for supporting students and families. In addition, a Shout Out to Debbie Slightom, Food Service Manager and her crew for feeding our students and having snacks available. We appreciate them! DIS staff is busy preparing for 5-day school. Configuring classrooms, discussing goals for enrichment and intervention also, what Fridays will contain. Currently gathering survey results from each family on their learning option choice for March 1st.

DHS: Principal Robbin Pedrett – Enrollment: 292 In Person: 246 Distance Learning: 46

WASC committees have been formed. They are Organization, Assessment and Accountability, School Culture and Support, Learning and Teaching, and Curriculum. Preparing for 5-day instruction. Lots of moving furniture, getting plexi-glass shields and setting up large classes in the Library or Ponderosa portables.

The Almond Blossom run has committed to both a live and virtual event with 300 entries. The annual fundraiser is slated for February 21. CIF sports are moving forward. Golf has six matches scheduled. Three senior football players were selected to participate in the "All American" football game in Texas next week. Jace Buck, Dominic Tovar and Victor Hernandez will represent Durham. DHS registration is moving forward. Completion is set for March 15. FFA is also continuing with State Degree submissions and livestock projects. The greenhouse has vegetables growing and a sprayer for the

vineyard was purchased. Shout Outs to Debbie Cornett, as she is retiring at the end of February, to our steady helpers Ed and Eric; Debbie Slightom for her endless job and Alex Hernandez and Colleen Coutts for helping our special populations finish first semester.

3. SPECIAL EDUCATION: Director Marilyn Bertolucci

Director Marilyn Bertolucci reported that Individual Education Plans (IEP) Teams are planning for next school year, 2021-2022., discussing student transitions. Transitions from a specialized preschool program to kindergarten at DES and in District transitions such as moving from DES to DIS, DIS to DHS and DHS into the work world or secondary education. SPED Paras and Service Providers are creating new schedules for the 5-day school week. The staffing needs for the Special Education Department will increase in the number of hours per day as well as filling positions. Returning to 5-day per week increases responsibility for Specialized Transportation and the hours needed to provide these services would increase. Communication with BCOE and DHH, and FOCUS, is in progress so that they can try to align their programs with DUSD. Thank you, DUSD Special Education Department Staff for again rising to the challenge of another big change with student centered commitment. Thank you, DUSD Transportation for your flexibility recognizing to meet schedule changes and always getting students safely to and from programs all over the county.

4. Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations: Aimee Beleu

Obtaining PPE for classrooms has been ongoing for the District. Currently we have 991 students enrolled at Durham Unified and we have 900 desk plexi-glass barriers/dividers totaling \$22,497. Two sizes were ordered and have been implemented into the classrooms.

5. Superintendent: John Bohannon

The Superintendent began his report reading a few Chats from the Zoom meeting. Behavioral Specialist, Jo Richer complimented Robert McGuffin for being so terrific and motivated. Kathy Horn submitted a letter "Let them play".

Continuing into his report, the Superintendent said that DHS golf team had 14 members. Cross Country is practicing and the swim team is on hold because the Durham pool heater is not working. Baseball/Softball will be starting conditioning. New guidelines are limiting high school sports to one sport per season, which for small schools like Durham, will not be fair. The Superintendent has reached out to the Butte County Public Health Director who is calling the State of California Public Health Director to address this concern. The high school band had been practicing percussion outside, hoping to get some outside concerts in the future.

The Midway House will be used for a firefighter-training burn on March 6th. The second vaccination date for Durham staff has been set and an earlier time schedule made available for those who want it on Monday, February 15th.

I. Items from the Board:

- Trustee Loudermilk: I hear the community support for reopening schools and am excited about creative Fridays. Very proud to live in a community that is so invested in student education. I heard nothing but praise for Durham Unified from a past student.
- Clerk of the Board Matthew Thorpe: Had the same sentiment for the students of Durham. The leadership that helps make decisions - I appreciate that.
- Trustee DuBose: Ditto! Great support from families makes Durham.
- Trustee Smith: Thank you student speakers! Know that the Board hears you. Thank all the staff, this assignment this year is so very tough and now athletics. All of you are so appreciated.
- President Ed McLaughlin: Ditto, 3 students with excellent articulation was great! The Board agrees with you. This last year ½ has given us lemons, but we are making lemonade. Thank you

J. Consent Agenda:

The Consent Agenda was approved as read with several comments from the Board. All members thanking Debbie Cornett for her amazing job as DHS Secretary II, with well wishes on her retirement. She will be missed. The Board also thanked Tom and Sue Dauterman and Tom Chambers for their generous donation of trucks to Durham Unified School District. President McLaughlin thanked The Forum, the local Durham newspaper, for running the advertisement that produced the donations.

Motion: Lance Smith Second: Jennie DuBose Vote: 5-0

K. Discussion/Action:

1. **Discussion/Action:** Discussion of the Durham Unified School District Reopening Plan.
Discussion was held regarding the March 1st reopening schedules for all Durham school sites. Each Principal/Director presented to the Board their creative schedules for minimum day Fridays. Each site had different needs for their students and planned accordingly.
Director of Special Education reported on how her department is re-scheduling staff and transportation for the return to 5-day instruction. She has been communicating with BCOE and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program to align with Durham Unified School District.
Superintendent Bohannon told the Board that Oroville City Elementary School District had extra desks that they would loan Durham until the end of the 20-21 school year. No action was taken on this item.
2. **Discussion/Action:** The Board approved the Durham Unified School District Safety Plan 2020-2021.

Motion: Matthew Thorpe Second: David Loudermilk Vote: 5-0

3. **Discussion/Action:** The Board adopted the revision and Resolution #21-1 to the 2021-2022 DUSD Student Calendar and approved the 2022-2023 DUSD Student Calendar.

Motion: Lance Smith Second: David Loudermilk Vote: 5-0

4. **Discussion/Action:** The proposal to amend Durham Intermediate Sports from a basketball season to a cross-country season for the 2020-2021 school year was approved.

Motion: Lance Smith Second: Jennie DuBose Vote: 5-0

L. Items from the Board:

- Trustee Smith – Thanks to all for keeping up with all the great work!
- Trustee DuBose – Thank you to everyone.
- Clerk of the Board Matthew Thorpe – Looking forward to being back in school.
- Trustee Loudermilk – My turn to say “Ditto”.
- President McLaughlin - I wanted to say how great the sign looks on the Midway, Jake Ilukowicz did a beautiful job with his Eagle Scout project. Happy Valentine’s Day to all.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021. (Different Day for March Board Meeting)

N. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.