

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting: March 20, 2020
MINUTES

1.1 OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call. The Yolo County Board of Education met by Zoom Conference call on March 20, 2020 at 10:06 a.m. in Special session at the Conference Center located at 1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite 120, Woodland, CA. Board Members present were: Carol Souza Cole, Matt Taylor, Shelton Yip and Tico Zendejas. Board President Carol Souza Cole presided. Superintendent Garth Lewis was present. (Roll Call held).

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

1.3 Approval of Agenda.

MOTION: Taylor **SECOND:** Yip **AYES:** Taylor, Yip, Souza Cole, Zendejas
NOES: None **ABSENT:** Moreno

1.4 Public Comment. None.

1.5

Carl Fahle, Director, Information Technology commented that the public can participate by Zoom chat. Board meeting is also being recorded.

2.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

2.1 Update on Current Public Health Emergency in Yolo County

President Souza Cole thanked Superintendent Lewis and YCOE staff for all their hard work during this time. Superintendent Lewis thanked the Superintendent Advisory Team (SAT) and Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) staff for their leadership, work and focus during this difficult time. Superintendent Lewis gave the Board a current public health update which includes:

- Currently five (5) COVID-19 cases in Yolo county.
- A shelter in place order active through April 7.
 - Educational activity is an essential function.
 - We continue to work to support students and staff.
- 98 percent of students out of school currently in the State of California.

Superintendent Lewis stated that things are changing rapidly and tomorrow may be drastically different. We will continue to communicate and please feel free to ask questions at any time.

Additional updates:

- SAT and some essential staff including external, internal and maintenance are still working.
- Receiving updates from the state, Governor's office, Yolo county public

- health department and other partners.
- YCOE is working with district superintendents on this issue.

Superintendent Lewis responded to questions from the Board. Trustee Yip requested staff fill out the questionnaire from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on what is the most immediate need. YCOE is also filling out other surveys on this issue. Trustee Taylor stated that assessments have been suspended for schools.

2.2 Status of District Operations

Superintendent Lewis gave an update on the districts.

Additional updates include:

- Anthony Volkar will be helping Superintendent Lewis on communications coming out of YCOE.
- School closures.
- Instructional programming for districts.
 - Cleaning procedures for schools.
 - It is possible students will not return before end of the school year.
 - Not a formal directive, but this was shared by Governor Newsom during a press conference.
- Shelter in place order
- Social distancing requirements
- Information on COVID-19, closures and student meal information will be on the YCOE website.

Superintendent Lewis responded to questions from the Board.

Trustee Moreno joined the call at 10:20 a.m.

Trustee Moreno requested that if there is a Special meeting that in addition to email she would like a phone call/text also.

Dr. Carolynne Beno, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services gave an Update on distance learning and the multiphase approach to teaching for districts who are currently posting voluntary activities for families to provide a continuity of education. Districts plan to launch a distance learning program after spring break. Distance learning can include videos, packets and online activities.

Trustee Moreno asked a question about student access to computers, and the process for sending emails to families. She wants to make sure that families also have access to communication (phone calls, emails and texts) in Spanish. She feels that multi-messaging is not happening. Dr. Beno stated that we are discussing this issue with districts and that all districts are using different mediums that are computer based. Questions were also answered on high school credit earning, broadband access and mobile hotspots for the schools.

Trustee Moreno asked a question about implementing resources for distance learning for English learners. Dr. Beno stated that the California Department of Education (CDE) has shared resources for English learners and we have been sharing ideas and practices with teachers and schools. Trustee Moreno requested that the ELAC leaders be kept in communication with district on these issues. Superintendent Lewis asked that trustees please help with communication that they hear in these meetings and to please share with parents. Their needs are being taken into account and this is ever changing. The districts and county plan is to focus on efforts to maintain equity and excellence through this situation.

An update on special education was given by Elizabeth Engelken, Assistant Superintendent, SELPA. Trustee Yip has been asked to participate in a COVID-19 task force committee on issues with special education.

All feedback will be shared with districts per Superintendent Lewis.

2.3 Status of YCOE Operations

Superintendent Lewis and Dr. Carolynne Beno, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services gave an update on YCOE operations and responded to questions from the Board.

Additional updates:

- Short term - instructional materials will be voluntarily accessed at home.
- Providing special education services over phone or zoom - counseling, speech therapy, behavioral support.
- Deploy chromebooks and hotspots to all students in need at Cesar Chavez (edgenuity program).
- Teacher training to provide distance learning.
- Head Start meal program.
- Head Start, special education and alternative education distance learning are being discussed.
- Ways to support students for graduation.

Superintendent Lewis thanked union leaders who he has shared these preliminary plans and will continue to engage with union leadership and instructional staff as the different phases approach to implement distance learning.

Dr. Beno answered questions on providing access to all student IEPs. YCOE is discussing options with legal counsel and is being creative. YCOE is receiving additional guidance from CDE and we will resume counseling services on March 30, 2020. Superintendent Lewis requested that the Board ask parents to contact the district on how they are to deliver services to students. Superintendent Lewis and Mr. Volkar will draft speaking points for the Board to communicate to district parents on this issue.

Other items discussed included:

- Food locations on YCOE website

- Covid 19 guidelines, yolo county closures and district closures on ycoe website.
 - In Spanish, and other languages.

Crissy Huey, Associate Superintendent gave updates on the following departments:

- Information Technology
- Internal Business
- External Business
- Maintenance
- Essential employees come in to work which is limited to perform certain responsibilities (paychecks, accounts payable and cleaning)
- Certification of closure Covid – 19 will need to be filed soon.
- Vehicle yards in Santa Anita and Greengate have security system – 24 hours.
- Members of the Superintendent’s Advisory Team have been scheduling time with unions to help outline duties of essential workers and to move forward as a collective.

3.1 Consideration of Dan Jacobs School

Superintendent Lewis discussed the oversight of operations at the detention facility. Items discussed included:

- Social and emotional support for students.
- Conversations with chief probation office and union presidents that we are moving towards distance learning in the juvenile detention facility.
 - Working on what the phase and model will look like.
 - Seven (7) youths currently detained
 - None have exhibited issues with their health and well-being.
 - Other counties are considering distance learning or closing facility.
- Dr. Beno discussed decision to prepare packets that would earn them credits.
- The delivery of special education support was also discussed along with partnership with probation to continue to bring additional resources.
- Safety and security of youth and providing educational services with distance learning.

Trustee Moreno asked about collective communication on social and emotional learning with the students along with distance learning. This should be considered as part of our planning. Superintendent Lewis stated that the juvenile facility will continue to provide services as does Communicare.

President Souza Cole commented that the next meeting will be on April 14, 2020.

Supt. Lewis thanked Information Technology and Micah Studer, Executive

Director, Equity and Support Services for the zoom conference set up. This is the first time doing this and he would like to thank the Board for their flexibility. Superintendent Todd Cutler, Winters Joint USD will be leaving for a new position on July 1 in South Lake Tahoe in El Dorado county. Winters Joint USD is currently searching for a new superintendent.

Business is continuing with constant contact with the district superintendents. Also in the Executive Order there are four (4) areas specific for education, youth and families that we are paying attention to. This includes:

1. Payments to staff
2. Delivery services food for children
3. Extended learning (Independent Study)
4. Providing childcare and supervision during school day (biggest struggle)
Possible partnership with non-profit associations on this issue.

Trustee Zendejas mentioned that his non-profit organization, RISE inc., is helping rural areas with essential services which include unemployment paperwork in Esparto and Winters and the extended food closet in esparto. Also helping with mental health clinicians in Esparto.


Trustee Souza Cole reminded Board members to check the YCOE email everyday for updates. Weekly communication on Friday from the Superintendent to board members will start soon.

Trustee Moreno requested that if there is a Special meeting that in addition to email she would like a phone call/text also.

The Board will continue to use virtual/conference call for future Board meetings.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

MOTION: Yip **SECOND:** Taylor **AYES:** Yip, Taylor, Moreno, Souza Cole, Zendejas **NOES:** None. **ABSENT:** None



Garth Lewis, Superintendent

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