

YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting: June 21, 2022
MINUTES

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call. The Yolo County Board of Education met on June 21, 2022 at 4:05 p.m. in person at the Woodland Joint USD and by Zoom. Board Members in attendance: Elizabeth Esquivel, Melissa Moreno, Carol Souza Cole, Shelton Yip and Tico Zendejas. President Melissa Moreno presided. Superintendent Garth Lewis was present. (Roll Call held).
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
Pledge of Allegiance conducted.
- 1.3 Land Acknowledgement Statement
Land Acknowledgement Statement conducted.
- 1.4 Approval of Agenda.
Motion to approve agenda.

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

- 1.5 Public Comment.
None.

2.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 2.1 Board Study Session for the Yolo County Office of Education Alternative Education Programs
Trustee Souza Cole requested this study session after the last facilities committee meeting and towards the end administration had been having conversations on schools and the Board wanted to find out what is currently happening with YCOE so that everyone can be on the same page.

Superintendent Lewis had made some observations in that meeting which included the attendance rate, enrollment, revenue and what is on the horizon. Conversations today will also be continued on June 28th. Cesar Chavez Community School is currently reimagining work and the full-service community school program. Staff will also share a few thoughts reflecting on today and important functions we fulfill as a COE that provides direct service to students with alternative and special education specific to county and community. In 2017 we switched name to Cesar Chavez Community School and reinvented vision and what it means to serve in Yolo County. YCOE leadership team will participate in a two-day retreat in June and will view a presentation from ten (10) students on learning and YCOE will recognize their achievements in the YCCP program. President Melissa Moreno

thanked staff and community for attending and stated that teachers are brilliant, courageous and caring. It is important to continue to improve our communication with organization and board. There is low enrollment at Chavez and across the state. Looking forward to learning more.

Dr. Micah Studer, Assistant Superintendent, Equity and Support Services gave a reflection on Cesar Chavez Community School and stated that they are a family and thanked them for all their hard work.

Principal Gayelynn Gerhart introduced the team and commented on recent conversations with staff and students.

Principal Gerhart presented the PowerPoint “Yolo County Office of Education Alternative Education Programs – Board Study Session.” Items discussed included:

- What does future hold for Cesar Chavez Community School/YCCP
- Budget Development Assumptions
- Conservative projections
- ADA History 2008 to present
- Statewide
- Fluctuate – 18 to 30 students on average. Considerably different today.
- Present staffing
- Projected enrollment by student
- Alt. Ed. Facts
- Youth to enroll: referral criteria
- District referral
 - Process not smooth.
 - Parents don’t know how to navigate.
 - Enrollment issues.
 - Need for more staff in future.
 - No flexibility.
 - At mercy of districts to create opportunity.
- Scenarios, A, B, C.
- Why enrollment is down.
- Next Steps

Dr. Studer commented on why we don’t we have more solid answers today which include the:

- Pandemic – No educational model on widespread trauma to system. Trying to figure out how to chart a path forward to navigate out of pandemic.
- Superintendent Lewis suggested an opportunity to analyze low enrollment at Dan Jacobs and the uptick in youth crime and the low numbers of students incarcerated and the decrease in crimes. What is working in community as part of this analysis?
- Concept of full community schools. There are one-time dollars as consequence. Allowing us this upcoming year to pilot this extension.

- Trustee Zendejas sensed urgency with this issue for example Cesar Chavez Community School is not a school of choice. Is that in Ed. Code? – Yes, per staff. Counties have blended charters with community and shifted to a charter model. The referral piece is part of Ed. Code. There are challenges with a community school in competition with districts. Our need and desire to provide a service that fits students is important. Trustee Yip thanked Trustee Zendejas for asking the question since Community schools are limited.
- Principal Gerhart stated that parents are begging to come in and Trustee Souza Cole stated the need to establish and govern court and community schools. Having a WASC accredited community school. You have a committed staff and students progressing. Figure out how to support program. Trustee Yip stated that it meets the needs of marginalized students and the Board supports this. Counties will work with districts to provide support and guidance.
- Trustee Esquivel commented on the increase of expelled students in West Sacramento and what is process of system in place. There is a need to improve partnerships. During her tour of Chavez, she noticed how passionate the staff is and their love for teaching and ensuring successful students. The Board will do what we can to support space and environment for students as the need will continue.
- Trustee Souza Cole appreciates comments about perception of community schools in direct competition with districts and how that description should be removed by changing conversation you can change reality.
- Comments regarding the LCAP and budget include 2.9 million we have for funding the program. Are we being shortsighted on this issue since we just came out of a pandemic and are we making a knee jerk decision? Other items to consider is Dan Jacobs School and possible closure and what to do with juvenile hall.
- Trustee Moreno feels it is too soon to be making decisions and wants to be transparent with information in regard to the increasing leadership roles in districts. She would like to see Brown Issues in LCAP and hear where staff is on Brown Issues, staff, etc. since the pandemic. With the change of curriculum was also thinking about what is correlation with ADA enrollment and funding? Where are the student reps today who should have a role in conversation? Was glad to see that Superintendent Lewis was recently at Davis Joint USD and presenting on the different programs at YCOE.
- Superintendent Lewis commented on egos being involved and his experience with conversations with superintendents on this issue. There are questions on understanding the additional education and has thought

about taking a show on the road to all districts on what alternative education is and what COE provides. It will also be an opportunity to address questions on enrollment and the charter program.

- Between now and early September we will have thirty (30) days to build Chavez extension program as we are having conversations with school district partners on a plan to enroll students. More information will be upcoming on this issue next week along with plans to advertise through social media.
- Maria Arvizu-Espinoza thanked everyone for comments on a community school that serves students with extreme needs. There is a need for more staff while looking through an immigration lens. There is also the plan to get students proactive with conversations with superintendents before being expelled.
- Trustee Yip thanked staff and stated that egos are involved but not by superintendents and staff at the site level.

The Board took comments from the public:

Emmanuel Padilla, Teacher

There is a need to help kids academically. He has special education kids who have emotional disturbance, autism, incarceration. You don't see the kids we get who are truant because they are gay, embarrassed, lost in schooling and they feel there is no way out. There was a student who is transgender and constantly missed school. We didn't give up and kept asking ...do you need a ride? The student did finally show up and was able to find himself and be comfortable. Kids with special education needs and autism graduated this year including non-binary students. They wear makeup and are themselves. It doesn't matter who they love. They are able to go to staff for help and one of the first people they see is Selyna. The regular high school experience tends to be about not having relationships with teachers and staff. We work with students who have anxiety and just need to sit....these kids are family and some we have known since third grade including the YCCP students. Those are the things we do at an alternative school that you don't get at a typical high school. We have 24 students who feel so comfortable that they give you hugs and tell you that they miss you. These kids deserve to graduate also.

Selyna Leach, Administrative Secretary – Her son is a student at Chavez. She has had multiple children at Chavez and in school districts. Her son who came from Pioneer High is high functioning and he transferred and now cannot wait to graduate. While at Pioneer he did not want to graduate. He now has a diploma for life and job skills that Chavez provided. She sees all the kids and has to enforce policy and explains why but it is so important to have parent and staff members see the progress with each

student. Change is not easy with the enrollment process, but students feel accepted at Chavez.

Trustee Melissa Moreno - Children are centered and witnessing transformation of direct programming itself which will increase constituency. Ethnic studies is about the plus.

Monica Aceves Robles – World & English teacher. In 2015 she was fresh out of college and a paraprofessional. Ethnic studies has been incorporated in teaching since beginning. She likes to teach who they are and where they come from during civic engagement. It is a very diverse group of students who are welcoming and encouraging. Chavez is a good school for every student. Trying her best to be a good educator in regard to history and social change which is her goal as a teacher. She has also worked on the Brown Issues event and with many of the community partners. It is also important for students to work on the spoken word and writing to help them heal. She enjoys collaborating with students and staff with events planning, preparing students on current events.

Kristen Storz – Paraeducator – All comments have been very accurate and on point. It is a privilege to be on the team. Long term idea is relatively safe but understand not wanting to make knee jerk decisions. Inclusion is very traditional and I compliment all students and staff. It is imperative that we try to get kids before expulsions happen. This topic still on table since we do not want children to slip through cracks. Dropouts without Chavez or YCCP will fall through without direction and that is not good for community. Hope we can have long term plans and build strong foundations for our students.

Kelsey Mitchell, CommuniCare Technician – Important to focus on long term health conditions so that students have fewer long-term effects if not at traditional school so having this school is extremely important.

Jatinder Sandhu, Teacher Dan Jacobs. Feel blessed to be working with students. Important to not give up on students. Important as staff to show love and see change. They should not be labeled that they are not smart and can't graduate. At Chavez the label disappears one student at a time. Maria's comment to get to students before being expelled is a preventative measure and gift to community.

Alejandra Lopez, Program Specialist. Kids are scared and feel ostracized. They haven't felt there has been a safe space for them in past and have not been who they truly are. These kids deal with trauma constantly and we have the best kids here. Important to share conversations for a strong future but students do struggle with change and we need a clear picture moving forward to lead them to not spiral in negative way. Centering marginalized students so important.

Trustee Zendejas left 5:39 back at 5:40 pm.

Trustee Elizabeth Esquivel asked how many referrals in a week vs. a month do you receive? Staff stated it is based on partnership with district and referrals, which can be a challenge and cause some barriers. Principal Gerhart stated that the best practice is to streamline point of contact in each district which would have the authority to start process. Currently process gets lost in shuffle and can be overwhelming. Parents don't know how to navigate system. Truancy issue in state and process needs to be streamlined. IEP process not thought of for special ed students referral and can take 2 to 3 months.

Trustee Elizabeth Esquivel asked about parents and increased transparency. What tools, resources and options do they have? Do we see that multiple languages causes issues? How do youth and multigenerational families navigate situation? Are there flyers in home language? Staff stated that this process needs to be streamlined. Also education in regards to local continuation vs. Chavez Community school.

Trustee Souza Cole asked Superintendent Lewis if it is possible to have regular meetings with district superintendents on this issue and ask who is their point of contact on this issue? Dr. Micah Studer stated that there are currently meetings with student services directors on this issue. There is good standing relationships and every student is being referred from/to student services directors. The district is frequently consulted on how to handle situations. Trustee Souza Cole asked if we could think about an ombudsman for parent. Nothing worse than being sent from phone to phone to phone. Maybe something to consider in regard to a continuum of service. This discussion is ongoing with probation and Sacramento county. Thanked everyone for comments.

Trustees wanted to confirm if juvenile hall school in education code has to provide community school? Staff stated that we are not compelled by Education Code to provide. We possibly would be able to as a board adopt policy that we will provide a full community school? Staff would need to research this. Policy committee could look into this.

Trustee Zendejas thanked everyone for giving testimony. He appreciates the work staff does.

Trustee Moreno appreciates the effectiveness and meaning of programs. Staff represented questions and testimonies were affirmed. The impacts of COVID still yet to be seen. Please hang in there as staff is the safety net for students which leads to questions:

How are district programs doing? Is it better? What are conditions of

programs at districts? Thinking about possibilities of a campaign to dispel myth that students at Chavez have not been let down by district. We need to change the conversation. Addressing myth and pointing to reality. Student services directors are making decisions, but parents/students are not clear who to go to first on inquiring opportunity or options they have. This is a very important and productive conversation.

Trustee Esquivel is curious to how extension program is for 18-25 years old. Question on ADA concurrent enrollment and 30-day window. Could we invite students to Yolo County Fair to pass out more information on program? Do we have tracking mechanisms? Principal Gerhart stated that she does not have access to district data and who is truant and how many get or don't get referred. Trustee Esquivel stated that expelled students are aged through districts but behavioral data is not known.

Superintendent Lewis commented that the extension program has data for students not on track to graduate. Also for Adult Education and for fifth year senior. Data would be interesting in some of those circumstances.

There is a lot of education to wrap minds around utility of program and future needs for students. Trustee Esquivel thanked Superintendent Lewis and staff for being passionate and dedicated. Hopeful to hear where we stand in future. Also, on the LCAP there is outdoor learning for Chavez and funding is moving from 1.2 million to 700,000. Are there conversations about school and low enrollment and what to do with facility and outdoor learning space? It would be wonderful to put funds towards creating something great for students. What are plans for this year? Could we get a report? Superintendent Lewis stated that we do have updated information coming to Board on June 28.

Melissa – Thank you for sharing outdoor learning. Climate resolution. Curriculum around that sustaining and affirming environmental and justice. Micah – final thoughts we want to express to board vote of confidence. Support work. Behalf of team. Thank you from staff. Looking forward to bright future.

Anissa DelCastillo, CSEA President asked the question on the funding investment for students instead of facility? Last week FTE projections for next year included a reduction; does that include Chavez? Staff commented on the budget projections report and that for classified there was no reduction for Chavez. Board has asked for information on this budget projection for classified staff.

Principal Gerhart thanked everyone for their support.

Break at 6:12 pm

Back at 6:20 pm

2.2 Yolo County Superintendent of Schools' Compensation

President Moreno presented on this issue. The committee met twice and was able to review salary comparisons of county and district superintendents.

Vice President Zendejas stated that this is first time being on committee would like to be consistent on what was given to staff. Tentative agreements. 7% moving forward with 3.8 cola, total is 10.8 increase and \$50 increase to health benefits. Which is a good starting point to have conversation.

Trustee Souza Cole requested that the committee put this information in writing and have an actual recommendation.

Vice President Zendejas stated that the committee has met with Superintendent Lewis to get his thoughts. Would like to know what direction to go in for a recommendation to give to board. Trustee Souza Cole stated that staff salary is a good standard to use.

Trustee Yip stated that it is important to have comparisons to other county offices (5 or 6 within same size). Trustee Zendejas stated that they will reach out again in regards to comparison of COEs and district superintendents.

Trustee Elizabeth Esquivel asked about the salary annually and historically? Was there the same thought process? Salary raises for teachers and staff happens yearly. In the four previous years there was one year where Superintendent Lewis declined the salary increase. The executive committee would like the history of salary increases for Superintendent Lewis sent to them. Hard issue to do in open session. Question from board on how many superintendents are appointed – staff stated five (5) – all others are elected.

Crissy Huey, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services gave an update and explanation of COLA.

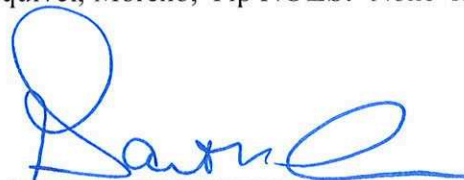
Trustee Souza Cole stated that there is an executive committee template for superintendent salary recommendations. Staff will send this to executive committee.

Board's policy is to have this recommendation as information and then separately as an action item at next meeting. President Moreno stated that the Board will consider a 7 to 10% salary increase. Trustee Souza Cole stated that it has to be written as a recommendation to board at next meeting as an action item. This meeting will satisfy our information/discussion per President Moreno.

Final recommendation on this issue to take place at next board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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



Garth Lewis, Superintendent