

GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL STUDY SESSION MINUTES – August 26, 2020

A. Meeting Opening

Call to Order

Ms. Hodge called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Berdetta Hodge (President), Brian Garcia (Vice President), Andres Barraza, Michelle Helm, and Sandy Lowe. Absent: None. Members participated via Google Meets.

B. Health Mitigation Plan and

C. Safe Reopening for In-Person Instruction Plan

Mr. McDonald presented *Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction*. Mr. McDonald's presentation was divided into three components: Tempe Union's health mitigation plan, metrics on the level of community spread, and possible scenarios for reopening district schools. Dr. Mendivil and Mr. McDonald answered Board members' questions.

Some Governing Board questions on Component #1 – TUHSD Health Mitigation Plan:

- How often will bathrooms be cleaned and how is the cleaning of buses monitored? *Bathrooms and water bottle refilling stations are cleaned every half hour. Buses are cleaned every time they return to the bus barn. Sam Gonzales, Director of Transportation, ensures buses are properly cleaned.*
- What if someone forgets their mask, and how will we enforce the wearing of masks? *A small supply of disposable masks will be on each bus, and sites will have disposable masks available if a student forgets theirs. Mr. McDonald said we are not wearing masks for us—we are wearing masks for others. Dr. Mendivil said that other than the exceptions found in Governing Board policies and regulations, students and staff are required to wear face coverings. Students who refuse to wear a face mask will be invited to continue their instruction in the virtual format. There will be disciplinary consequences for staff members who refuse to take health mitigation protocols seriously or who do not wear a face mask.*
- How are we going to help students maintain social distancing? *We'll have to educate students on why social distancing is important. When we bring small groups of students back to school we believe we'll be able to work with them so they understand what we're doing to keep everyone safe.*

Some Governing Board questions on Component #2 – Level of Community Spread: The Metrics:

- Will we reopen as a district? *Dr. Mendivil said because of open enrollment we have students who don't live within district boundaries, but they are also part of our community. He said it's important that we take into consideration zip codes that are outside our boundaries when we consider a phased plan.*
- Can we provide families and teachers a weekly update on our estimated reopening date? *Dr. Mendivil said we are looking forward to getting updated information tomorrow so we know what's trending; our plan is to put the most current information on the website. He said implementing the health mitigation protocol is key to successfully opening sites. He does not want to be a position where we're forced to go back to any type of virtual mode.*
- If kids are exposed can they get tested so they can participate in an activity? *We can't require quarantined students to get tested but we can encourage them to do so and give them information on where free testing is available. CDC requires a person to wait four to five days after the exposure before being tested, unless they already have symptoms.*

Some Governing Board questions on Component #3 – Reopening TUHSD Schools Scenarios 1 – 4:

- Have we considered morning/afternoon/evening cohorts or block scheduling? *Dr. Mendivil said that as a high school only district we have to be careful with scheduling—we don't want to put students earning credit or their graduation at risk. Mr. McDonald said there might not be enough time to do the deep cleaning that's required if different groups of students attend in the morning, afternoon, and evening.*
- In Scenario 2 on days a cohort isn't on campus or in person, does that include synchronous learning at home or asynchronous learning at home? *Synchronous learning at home.*
- Is there a plan in place if staff don't feel comfortable returning? *Dr. Mendivil said Covid protection*

under FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) affords staff time off without penalty. The challenge will be to determine how many kids will be on campus. Approximately 1,000 students chose Tempe Union Online. An unknown number of students may feel uneasy returning to campus and decide to continue with virtual instruction at home. The next phase of information gathering will be to survey families to learn what their intentions are so that we can plan accordingly.

Dr. Mendivil said if we're going to receive kids back in a phased manner people's behavior needs to change. Health mitigation plans must be in place so we can bring kids back safely. He said he wants to be able to open with a level of confidence that we will remain open. Everyone has to practice new behaviors for that to happen.

Board members thanked Dr. Mendivil and Mr. McDonald for the thought and detail that went into creating the Health Mitigation Plan and the school reopening scenarios.

D. Meeting Closing

The Special Study Session ended at 7:14 PM.

Berdetta Hodge, President

Brian Garcia, Vice President

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