

# GALT JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

“Building a Bright Future for All Learners”

Special Board Study Session  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Zoom Teleconference  
Meeting ID: 974 8601 1887

## Board Members

Grace Malson  
Thomas Silva  
Wesley Cagle  
Matthew Felix  
John Gordon

## Administrators Present

Donna Gill	Stephanie Simonich
Tina Homdus	Leah Wheeler
Jennifer Porter	Judith Hayes
David Nelson	Laura Papineau
Ron Rammer	Kuljeet Nijjar

# MINUTES

This meeting is being held pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Grace Malson followed by the flag salute. Karen Schauer reviewed the public comment protocol and study session goals. The goals include:
1. Revisit 2019-20 strategic planning efforts
  2. Report and discuss distance learning and support service efforts
  3. Clarify emerging state budget information
  4. Receive board feedback and direction for strategic planning and budget

B. Mindset and Strategic Planning

Karen Schauer, Superintendent, updated the board on progress made to develop a plan for reopening schools in August. She underscored the importance of safety for reopening schools within public health guidelines along with planning attention to equity, inclusion and access considerations. She highlighted a parent communication describing current conditions and next steps. The parent communication was followed by a survey invitation with a video clip that explained reopening factors and next steps.

Claudia Del Toro Anguiano, Director of Curriculum, summarized the development and implementation of an employee, parent and student survey. She reported that after just 24 hours, there has been strong survey participation. Results will be used to develop a reopening plan that is safe, optimizes learning and is reflective of school district feedback. The survey will close on Tuesday, June 2nd.

Karen Schauer reported that GJUESD is working to develop a Schools Reopening Plan by late June. The projected timeline and next steps include:

- May/June: Parent, Teacher and Student Surveys
- Through mid-June: District committee examines public health and county education guidance and survey data
- June 17: Draft Plan Developed and Shared for Feedback
- June 24, 2020: Reopening Plan Complete

C. Budget Challenges & Considerations

Lois Yount, Business Services Director, reported district leadership meetings with the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) and School Services this week regarding the CA Governor's May Revision budget. She indicated school districts are still working to understand the information. The state is in a recession. The question among leaders is how long will it last. Financial experts are predicting a "U" shaped recession, a recession that could last 2 to 3 years. Unlike the "L" shaped recession in 2008 that lasted many more years. Ms. Yount stated she will share more budget detail information at the next regular board meeting. At this time, she provided an overview of what the Governor's May Revise means for GJUESD.

1. 10% reduction to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) of minus \$2.6 million
2. Pension Rate Buydowns of plus \$500,000
3. CARES Federal Stimulus funds of plus \$1 million

Ms. Yount stated total reductions for GJUESD in 2020-21 is 1.1 million with an estimated increase to 1.6 million to stay at a 3% reserve. However, things can change by August. She indicated the following:

1. State revenue personal income tax is due July 15th
2. GJUESD could receive federal funds from the Heroes Act
3. There could be a pause in the minimum wage increase
4. Flexibility options absent in the May revise such as reduction in routine restricted maintenance
5. Summer certificated layoffs
6. GJUESD could receive a one-time investment from the CARES Act to mitigate learning loss

Ms. Yount indicated there are lots of unknowns at this time. Things to consider and plan for now include a multi-year budget projection. If the District stays in a negative COLA for the next three years, additional cuts will need to be made. Additionally, the first state deferral is expected to be in June and July. GJUESD will not need to take out a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) loan to bridge the funding gaps for these deferrals but will need to take one out for the deferral that is expected in April. The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) is considering a county TRAN pool for school districts to get a better interest rate.

Grace Malson acknowledged the dire budget situation across the state right now. She indicated state workers may have to take a 10% reduction. In addition, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued guidelines for reopening schools a few hours ago. She questioned how school districts can afford to follow CDC guidelines with increased expenses.

Lois Yount confirmed the extra costs from additional custodial supplies to additional staff to monitor social distancing. Additionally, all food will have to be served on disposable trays and personal protective equipment is needed. These are safety measures that the district has to implement.

John Gordon stated it will be interesting to see what we can learn from other countries that have opened up. He stated his concern with increased costs and a decrease in the budget. He referenced districts across the state that have said they cannot open because they cannot afford to. A lot remains to be seen.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano, Curriculum Director, stated the district will have to get very creative to keep literacy a goal and prepare children for the future. She indicated the district needs to make sure the focus is very strong in literacy to ensure children are prepared for a future that could look very different from today.

John Gordon surmised we are dealing with a whole system academic slide from math to literacy.

Matthew Felix asked what school reopening models are being considered for fall 2020.

John Gordon spoke. He indicated the target is moving, it will depend on a lot of external factors that we don't have control over.

Matthew Felix summarized school models that could work:

1. Traditional classroom model with safety protocols that are practical.
2. A synchronous blended model that blends classroom instruction with a virtual model.
3. Asynchronous virtual model that is all distance learning.

Mr. Felix added that from what the board has heard thus far, participation and academic achievement has not been very good. He would like to hear from teachers to determine school participation rates among students during distance learning. He asked if it is possible to provide parents with information on what the district is going to look like in the fall.

Karen Schauer recognized Mr. Felix's summarized school models. She indicated that within those 3 models there could be variations. The District is seeking to get feedback from teachers and parents to help determine what could work best for Galt. She reflected that years ago the District implemented a blended model in the summer that was very successful. She indicated students attended in-person meeting with their teachers depending on their needs and then worked remotely. School re-opening depends on what the health conditions will allow. There are variations that we would want to get feedback on.

Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano reported that the 3 options that Matthew Felix is describing could have additional layers of safety and health protocols such as children moving in one direction. Other considerations could be having younger students hold music sessions in their classroom space. Children could go to the playground as a grade level. Children could attend school from 8-2:30 p.m. with safety protocols. She indicated if the county allows districts to only have half of students on campus at a time, for high needs learners, we could have some kind of intervention. If the health department closes a classroom or school the District will need to have a distance learning program ready. Feedback from parents and staff will be very important to implement a successful plan. Ms. Del Toro-Anguiano indicated the task is massive because school districts are being asked to create a plan with different options with a moving target. Teachers, staff and administrators are working hard. She indicated they were given 2 days to implement, create and deliver a distance learning program. The District is keeping track of things that worked and didn't work to improve.

Karen Schauer stated the county could be advancing into less restrictive health requirements. However, if there is an outbreak, the district would need to step back into

an earlier phase of social distancing. The district needs to be nimble, flexible and more efficient in the area of distance learning as health conditions change. In addition, she indicated teachers and administrators worked with a program called Gooru. When the Director of Curriculum is talking about learning options, how do we monitor it? How do we measure growth and achievement to determine what is working or not working? Gooru is an organization that may help us support equity inclusion, and access with tools for learning management, in real time. The lack of learning management tools to monitor and support distance learning with other learning programs is an issue.

John Gordon stated that he hopes the district considers, if there is a situation where the health department requires social distancing, that the district consider all assets throughout the city of Galt to determine if there is space that could be utilized for learning. For example, perhaps kindergartners could go to Fairsite to open up spaces for other grade levels.

Claudia Del Toro Anguiano reported the District is looking at current school spaces differently. She indicated she is communicating with the Galt High School District in an effort to align reopening efforts. Additionally, she is monitoring COVID-19 health numbers in Galt. Ms. Claudia Del Toro-Anguiano will provide more information once the district receives feedback from parents and staff.

Karen Schauer stated the District is striving for efficiency and equity during budget challenges. She shared next steps:

Goals:

- Reopen schools safely, efficiently and equitably aligned to health conditions and learner needs.
- Incorporate instructional delivery options, responsive to health requirements including social distancing and gathering
- Develop and implement a budget (with August 2020 revision) aligned to district direction and needs.
- Equity= Inclusion + Access should not be an afterthought.

Budget Development and Reductions: May 2020-August 2020:

- May-June: Consider budget cut scenarios and reductions estimated at \$1.5 million.
- Work with employee unions.
- Consider a County TRAN loan for cash flow (Jan-April).
- August budget revision based on the final State budget and possible employee union agreements.
- Based on August budget revision, redirect resources & make additional reductions, layoffs or restructuring efforts.

Reopening Schools: May 2020-August 2020

- By mid- June, develop a GJUESD Reopening Plan
- Revise or create related policies
- Communication and Feedback Efforts
- Redirect, pursue or expand resources to support reopening efforts.

Matthew Felix asked if the district has information related to Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Specifically, have families left the district due to unemployment?

Lois Yount responded that the district is held harmless for ADA this year. There is also consideration being given to hold districts harmless next year. She indicated the District is not aware of families leaving the district. However, families may not be reaching out during this time.

Donna Whitlock spoke. She estimated approximately a dozen students have left the district that she is aware of.

Karen Schauer asked if a board member would be available to look at the survey the District is developing.

Thomas Silva and John Gordon agreed to review the survey.

John Gordon stated he is curious how districts will assess the magnitude of the academic slide. What is the baseline when students return to understand where students are at. As our students are integrated back, how does the district address mental health and being thoughtful about that.

Grace Malson asked if there has been any consideration given to McCaffrey Middle School Wellness Center during these difficult times?

Karen Schauer recognized mental health wellness as a priority. The district is planning to staff the Wellness Center. There were decisions that McCaffrey administration made to support the model. She indicated there may be more emphasis on mental wellness than academics when children do come back to school. Teachers have worked so hard. There is a social worker or counselor at every school.

Thomas Silva asked what level of participation the district is anticipating for special education students. In addition, what is the possibility of bringing these students into the classroom. Has the district had these discussions. Also, what is the level of participation during distance learning for these students? And what does extended year for these students look like?

Donna Whitlock reported that Gina Fuentes is serving as director for extended year for special education. She indicated the district has received overwhelming participation from students qualifying for extended year. The district is hoping for a blended experience for students but right now it is dependent on health department guidelines. It is the same with migrant education.

Thomas Silva asked what feedback the district has received from teachers and families about returning to the classroom.

Donna Whitlock responded that she has not received feedback from families at this time because the district can only offer virtual learning at this time.

Ron Rammer, Principal, addressed the board regarding the wellness center. He indicated it is funded through donations. Some teachers have changed classrooms to accommodate the wellness center and material has been accumulated for the center.

Wesley Cagle stated the board packet has the blueprint for back to school from the California Department of Education. He asked if this material could be posted to the website for parents to reference.

Karen Schauer thanked Mr. Cagle for the suggestion. She will add it to the website and added that a similar document will be coming from the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) soon. Additionally, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) put out a document today.

Grace Malson thanked staff for all their efforts during these challenging times.

C. Public Comment

The following addressed the Board regarding schools re-opening in the fall:

1. Ryan Montgomery
2. Robert Harper
3. Jennifer Bitondo
4. Marinda
5. Kathy Loesch
6. Kim Lizama
7. Madyson
8. V. Lopez
9. Adrew Washburn
10. Tiffany Lourence
11. Sara Murray
12. Emily Lewis
13. Tammy Partridge
14. Maria Bernal
15. Barbara Woods

D. Adjournment 7:55 p.m.

Board Approved: June 24, 2020