

**MARK WEST UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of the REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom and broadcast simultaneously on YouTube.  
**Please note, YouTube participants will be provided “view only” access. If you wish to comment during Public Participation, you must access the meeting through Zoom.**

To access the meeting, please use one of the following:

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84272482709?pwd=U1JRbUxNcHF5WVRKUm53eVVSZXNHUT09>  
 Meeting ID: 842 7248 2709 Passcode: 760561

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dQLSPcN4EMs>

**The meeting opened to the public 5:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL: 5:00 P.M.**

**Board Members**

Brad Sherwood, President  
 Brian Burke, Clerk  
 Victor McKnight  
 Priscilla Jaworski-Quintanilla  
 Sara Azat

**Staff Members**

Ron Calloway, Superintendent  
 Regina Cuculich, Associate Superintendent of Business  
 Rachel Valenzuela, Asst. Superintendent of Ed Services  
 Michael Smith, Director of Technology Services  
 Principals: Patrick Eagle, Emily Todd, Tracy Kendall and  
 Michelle Francl  
 Alicia Mills, District Executive Assistant

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*At this time, members of the public may seek clarification about any item on the Closed Session agenda for as long as the item is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person for a total of 20 minutes. Any person interested in the following items on the agenda will be allowed an opportunity to address the Board at this time.*

**2. CLOSED SESSION: 4:00 p.m.**

**2.1** Public Employment (Resignations, Hirings, Leaves, Contracts, Reassignments, Layoffs)  
 (Government Code 54957)

**2.2** Conference with Labor Negotiators pursuant to Section 54957.6: (Classified: CSEA;  
 Certificated: MARFAC; Management; Confidential; District Negotiator: Regina Cuculich

**2.3** Negotiation with Real Property

**3. STUDY SESSION – No Study Session will be held**

**4. OPEN SESSION: PUBLIC MEETING: 5:00 P.M.**

**4.1** The meeting will be called to order at 5:00 P.M. at 5:02pm

**4.2** Pledge of Allegiance

**4.3** Introductions

**4.4** Approval of Agenda Order

**4.5** Report Out of Closed Session – There was no report out of Closed Session

**5. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

Mark West Charter 8<sup>th</sup> grade students Vy Hoang and Evan Meier presented their videos on Climate Change. 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers Lisa Chapman and Shannon Bell worked with the students in aligning their videos with NGSS standards. Vy began the presentation with an explanation of her video which included: how unequal heating of the earth impacts the earth; causes of unequal heating; impact of seasonal differences and influence of life on earth. Evan introduced his video which focuses on how the climate change affects our ecosystem and the seas; the effects on coral reefs which protect the ecosystem and the coastlines; ocean toxicity; sea wall erosion and rising sea levels. Lisa Chapman added that the WeVideo platform is used throughout the year and she and Shannon Bell create several, cross curricular assignments.

Trustee Sherwood thanked the students for their presentations and said they were “amazing”. Trustee McKnight added, “very impressive!” Trustee Jaworski told the students that “she would love to learn how to make the videos!” Vy replied that it “takes her about 6 hours to produce a video” while Evan does it over 2 days; creates the video then works on the production. Trustee Sherwood closed the presentations by telling the students that both videos were “awesome” and that he loves that students are presenting again, even if virtually, because it highlights the tremendous work students and teachers are doing.

## **6. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

*(Board Correspondence is provided for the purpose of reviewing correspondence addressed to or received by the Board.)*

## **7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS/MATTERS**

*(Board Communications/Matters item is provided for the purpose of sharing school-related activities, school visitations, conferences attended, meetings scheduled. Board members may share any district related issues with other members of the Board and Staff. No formal Board of Education action will be taken.)*

Trustee Jaworski attended a Trustee recognition event. The featured speaker was Dr. Rios who talked about looking ahead at re-opening; conversation about student potential. His inspiring story was based on one of his teachers that believed in his potential and the difference that made. Trustee Jaworski shared the video with Superintendent Calloway and highly recommends others watch.

Trustee Burke added that “it was a great reminder as to the potential of our students if we can get past the social norms”, highly recommends viewing.

Trustee Jaworski joined the CTE board and is excited to look at opportunities to connect the work force here in our county with students. She will proactively share updates with the Board monthly.

Trustee Sherwood attended the MWCAC meeting and is happy to announce that after 7 years of advocating, the sidewalk will be built from Old Redwood Hwy to Riebli on both sides. It will be ADA compliant making it safe for our students and community to walk and ride bikes. Trustee Sherwood acknowledged Superintendent Calloway for his advocacy in pursuit of the project.

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **8.1 School Reports/Principals**

Emily Todd, John B. Riebli Elementary

- The staff has been working on creating the Hybrid schedule
- A little over half of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders came for recess practice; teachers and students alike were very happy to see each other
- 150 students logged in for the author visit
- 130 students logged on for Bingo Night. Siblings sat together helping each other. It was 45 minutes of pure fun!
- Riebli will host another Bingo Night in March
- Eco Kid Presentation, Kindness Night, Family Cooking Night are all upcoming events

Tracy Kendall, Mark West Elementary

- Great to 6<sup>th</sup> graders today for recess practice. Procedures worked well but the best part was seeing kids!
- Miss Rosas did a buddy project with Miss Lawson’s class. The project included a “Let’s get to know each other activity”, “Lovebug drawing” and “Kindness activity”
- PTA received a grant for the 20/20 club to purchase books for the one school one book project
- 1<sup>st</sup> grader that lead flag salute at the last assembly was great!

Patrick Eagle, San Miguel Elementary

- Shared return to recess video
- Disney Trivia Night was a big success
- Virtual drawing assembly, Eco Hero, and Drive In Movie night are all upcoming events in March
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade return practice was great, fun to see the kids

Michelle Franci, Mark West Charter

- Shout out to Vy and Evan, great job!

- One Wednesday a month we are holding a school wide event. Tomorrow night is Movie Night. Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> is Kinder Buddy reading day
- Return to recess was great. Ms. Woods and Ms. Bell's classes came.
- Homeschool is moving along. All families are working really hard in Distance Learning and Homeschool. Ms. Franci appreciates all the time and effort spent on both programs by staff, students and families

## 8.2 Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services/Rachel Valenzuela

- Assistant Superintendent Valenzuela presented a Power Point presentation
- Staff are eager for the return to school
- Over the summer, a group comprised of all stake holders had input in the development of a Hybrid schedule. The schedule was further refined with the help of thought partner Lisa Warne
- Recess visits – In anticipation of a Hybrid return, Superintendent Calloway and Principal Eagle suggested a practice/soft return to allow students to see each other (socially distanced) and allow staff to practice specifics. Parents would bring their student for a 30 minute recess period to run through our procedures. Recommended staff was on site but additional personnel were added on the playgrounds so children can see them
- The decision was made to start with 6<sup>th</sup> grade because we thought it would be best for the young ones to go last. That way, they have the most recent experience which is more easily remembered
- Hybrid protocol includes Ingress/Egress plan with the input of thought partners thereby guarding against numerous students. Flexibility is key and we recognize we may need to adjust. If a student has an older sibling, younger sibling can be dropped off at the same time as the one that needs to be there first. Students will go directly to their classrooms.
- Egress Plan reviewed. Staggered dismissal times. Same parameters as Ingress, older sibling can be dismissed at the same time as younger student who would be picked up earlier. Pointed out where each grade level would be picked up. Each school identified on Ingress/Egress lists.
- Lisa Warne addressed different models of Hybrid Learning. An example was presented of what a day could look like for younger students that are at home, Asynchronous Learning. That includes a morning meeting for those in class and at home. Again, a draft. Support staff will be imperative for students at home; instructional assistants, paraeducators, librarians, and counselors. Sample Primary Schedule for Hybrid Model Asynchronous Days was thoroughly reviewed for Primary and Intermediate levels. Intermediate schedule provides for small group support in larger classrooms.
- Assistant Superintendent Valenzuela added that students with IEP's will receive their services during Asynchronous instruction. Services will be scheduled during a time that doesn't interrupt other important educational opportunities. SDC instruction will be provided four days a week because of the numbers in the program
- Assistant Superintendent Valenzuela reviewed differences between Hybrid and Distance Learning

## 8.3 COVID-19 Report/Superintendent Calloway

- Superintendent Calloway reviewed conditions for return.
- Updated parents on where we are on the plan. The plan was submitted to the State and County but the template and requirements changed requiring most districts in the County to re-submit based on the new templates and requirements. The templates are extremely detailed, and it will take several weeks to complete the approval process.
- If we have two classrooms with a COVID positive case, that constitutes 5% and the school would need to close. If 25% of district is affected, (which it would be if one school had to close), then the entire district would close for 10 days
- Vaccines – Most of the district staff are receiving their first vaccine over the next week. 28 days later, they will receive their second dose
- Reviewed parent surveys and what parents wanted for their student as we return
- Reviewed reconfiguration chart by grade level, Hybrid model and Distance Learning. Explained process of teacher movement. Will notify teachers that are potentially moving. Parents will be notified as well. The administration realizes that as this process unfolds, parents may change their mind about where they choose to place their students based on teachers assigned.

## 9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

*At this time, members of the public may seek clarification about any item on the agenda or not on the agenda as long as the item is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person for a total of*

*20 minutes. Any person interested in the following items on the agenda will be allowed an opportunity to address the Board at the end of Board discussion on that item.*

Trustee Sherwood welcomed parents to the virtual meeting. Recognizing that several parents wanted to address the Board, comments were limited to three minutes per person. Questions that may not be addressed during the meeting will be answered in a Q&A that will be drafted following the Board meeting. Superintendent Calloway also responded to questions received through “chat” during Public Participation.

Gina Giacone: A mother of two students at John B. Riebli, thanked the Board of Trustees, District staff, and support staff. She acknowledged that “our district has had an interesting few years.” She further stated that her “comments are not to be demeaning, she wants to be a positive influence.” “Distance Learning is clearly not working.” Superintendent Calloway has made an enormous effort in providing information to parents but she is disheartened by the progress of the CSP. What is the timing committed to resubmission of the plan? More transparency is needed regarding the situation. Ms. Giacone expressed further concern regarding the ECC – “they should not be unilaterally able to ostracize our students. Not allowing our children to participate because they are returning in the Hybrid Model is in violation of the MOU with district”, she added. Ms. Giacone closed by adding that she “is not a politician but she will advocate for our children.”

Rob Daly – Teacher in another district, “if change doesn’t help students, that doesn’t work.” Mr. Daly chose to join the Board meeting to voice concern about ECC not allowing Hybrid students in their program. “Parents were not made aware of that when they enrolled in August. The District and ECC are not being proactive in benefit of the students”, Mr. Daly added. He then presented examples he feels represent the challenges students will face if they have different teachers as they return to Hybrid.

Andrea Alexander – Requested that Assistant Superintendent Valenzuela explain the graphic she presented. How will a teacher manage in person students while also teaching via zoom?

Vanessa Thomas – Asked if parents will be able to know if teacher was vaccinated? Also requested transparency regarding the number of students in A/B cohort and if less than 12 combines, can they go back 4 days a week?

Jason Dunham – Riebli parent and a nurse that “deals with COVID patients everyday.” Looking for consistency. “We can do this, we can be safe but everyone needs to work together”. Mr. Dunham also echoed other parents in the belief that the District has influence over the ECC towards reversing their decision not to allow Hybrid students into the program.

Jason Riggs – Executive Director of the ECC and a Riebli parent stated, “The ECC is not trying to resist. Current California policy states that cohorts and stable groups cannot mix. If we mix hybrid students, we would be out of state compliance.”

Jason Dunham added that if we develop acceptable screening models for the students coming into ECC, we can bring students together.

In response to parent questions/statements, Superintendent Calloway offered the following:

- The District will work with the ECC and other organizations in support of our students and families
- The District received direction on the CSP last Thursday, we plan to have it updated within a week and resubmitted to the County. The County will then have 7 business days to respond. Districts throughout the County are all facing the same challenging process
- As we move closer to Hybrid, the process will include a return to paper packets for a week as a transition
- HIPPA Law states that we do not have a right to know who has been vaccinated

Assistant Superintendent Valenzuela also offered the following responses:

- The feedback we have received is that Distance Learning is not effective for many families and a lot of students are disengaged during Distance Learning. That said, other families have responded that their student has thrived during Distance Learning so we have had both sides represented
- In response to Andrea’s question, “we are looking at morning session to begin as a check in, simultaneous instruction will not be occurring. It is provided as an opener for students to see each other. Teachers will then hold the same type of session at the end of the day as closure. We’re hoping it promotes more communication through more exposure to each other. If it’s not working well, we will address. These are **samples**, they are not set schedules”.
- In regard to the question about the ability for students to work together during Asynchronous Learning days, there will be opportunities for students to work together. Friendship Circles will be one of the means used to address student social and emotional well being

Trustee Sherwood directed parents to the "Table of Progress Towards Reopening" located on the District and site websites under "COVID-19 Information". Additionally, he advised the viewing audience to add their questions to chat and they will be addressed

In response to the concern regarding the CSP, Trustee McKnight added that "the Mark West Union School District, along with many other districts in the County, submitted our plans as required. The County responded with a new, lengthy, very detailed template; a tremendous amount of additional work for districts that had already worked very hard to address initial requirements." Both Superintendent Calloway and Trustee McKnight spoke with Supervisor Gore about how these requirements have been handled. "Our teachers have been wonderful, what is really stopping us from reopening are regulations from the state and then county interpretations of the state guideline. We are hoping these numbers continue to drop." In response to the ECC issues, we understand our position. Although the District does have influence, we cannot dictate what they can and cannot do. Superintendent Calloway is working on an alternative provider for childcare. While we understand Mr. Rigg's position, we are two different educational agencies. When students leave the ECC, they may be attending soccer or gymnastics outside of the ECC organization. It seems that the stance that the ECC is taking is very conservative. Trustee Sherwood asked if the Mark West Union School District can direct the ECC on how the process should be managed. Superintendent Calloway replied, "we cannot, the ECC is a separate entity and we cannot tell them what to do."

Trustee Burke added, "all of the frustrations are completely understandable, but, as we look at the concerns we have in front of us, much of it is mandated for us. It is out of our control and that is what is so frustrating for me personally and we are not getting the help and support from those that can make a difference. As a parent and board member, I hear it and I understand." Unfortunately, the established requirements and guidelines extend way above the control of the Mark West Union School District and the ECC.

Trustee Azat added that "she appreciates all of the thoughtful comments of parents and the administration and staff trying to figure out a path forward. The different frameworks have been very frustrating." She appreciated all of the parents that attended and commented and thanked the District staff for the "Table of Progress Towards Reopening" in an effort to provide transparency for our parents.

Trustee Jaworski appreciated the parent comments and "the courage to speak up." She continued by adding, "we are living it too, I have two children in Distance Learning and work full time, I get it!" "Our district has been working so hard to meet the requirements, but they keep changing which only adds to the challenges. We'll get there! The fact that we are practicing return and Hybrid is a huge step. Agendas and minutes are always posted on the district website."

Trustee Sherwood requested guidance from Superintendent Calloway regarding review of the lease agreement with the ECC and the ability to send "a strongly worded letter to ECC in support of the parents' voice". Trustee Sherwood ended discussions by appreciating the creation of the "Table of Progress Towards Reopening" that includes all of the work the district has done in an effort to reopen and provide transparency for parents. He also thanked Gina Giacone for her advocacy and voice in support of students and families.

## **10. CONSENT AGENDA**

*The following items are considered routine and can be handled with one action since it is recommended that all items be approved unanimously. Board members may request that any item be discussed or moved to a future calendar.*

### **10.1 PERSONNEL**

**10.1.1** Consideration of Approval of all items on the Personnel Form

**10.1.2** Consideration of Approval of the 2021-2022 Salary Schedules including: Certificated, Classified, Psychologist, Counselor, Management, Administrative, Classified Management/Confidential

**10.1.3** Consideration of Approval of the Classified Auxiliary Pay Scale 2/1/2021

### **10.2 BUSINESS**

**10.2.1** Vendor Warrant Report

**10.2.2** Consideration of Approval of the Consolidated Application Certification – Federal Programs; 20/21 Fall Submission

**10.2.3** Consideration of Approval of Document Tracking Services Licensing Agreement for 1-year beginning March 15, 2021

**10.2.4** Consideration of Approval of GASB 74/75 June 30, 2020 Roll Forward Valuation

**10.2.5** Consideration of Approval of the Contract, Appendix, and Signature Pages – ALL FINAL; 11/1/21 – 10/31/24 between the Mark West Union School District and CSEA Chapter 570

### **10.3 CURRICULUM**

### **10.4 MINUTES**

**10.4.1** Consideration of approval of the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Regular Board meeting

### **10.5 FACILITIES**

### **10.6 DONATIONS**

On a motion by Trustee Burke, second by Trustee McKnight, the Consent Agenda was approved.

Aye=5, Ney=0, Abstention=0, Absent=0

## **11. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **11.1 BUSINESS**

### **11.2 CURRICULUM**

### **11.3 FACILITIES**

### **11.4 BOARD POLICIES**

### **11.5 ADMINISTRATION**

#### **11.5.1 Consideration of Approval of a Vote for the 2021 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election for Subregion 3-A**

Trustee Sherwood stated that Omar Medina was the sole candidate for the position.

On a motion to abstain from vote by Trustee Burke, second by Trustee McKnight, the Board unanimously voted to abstain from voting for the 2021 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election for Subregion 3-A.

Aye=5, Ney=0, Abstention=0, Absent=0

## **12. EVALUATION OF THE BOARD MEETING**

The Board members may comment or request items pertaining to the Board meeting

- Trustee McKnight really enjoyed the presentations by the 8<sup>th</sup> graders; enjoyed the participation by the parents; and encouraged parents to continue participating in the Board meetings.
- Trustee Azat also appreciated the parent comments regarding moving forward and working together in benefit of our students.
- Trustee Sherwood extended appreciation to District Communications Coordinator, Claire Raggio, for her tremendous work on the "Table of Progress Towards Reopening" and the continued efforts of the district to provide transparency for our families
- Michelle Pulliam thanked the Board, and added that "their support sets everyone up for success."

## **13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**13.1** Enrollment Report as of 2/2/2021 for Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten, 2021-2022 School Year

**13.2** Redwood Empire Schools' Insurance Group (RESIG) JPA and June 30, 2019 and 2018 Financial Statements

**13.3** Letter to Bonnie Brown at SCOE

**13.4** MOU between the Mark West Union School District and MARFAC regarding Reopening with COVID-19 (previously approved)

**13.5** MOU between the Mark West Union School District and CSEA #570 regarding Reopening with COVID-19 (previously approved)

## **14. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:00p.m via Zoom and broadcast simultaneously on YouTube. Links TBA.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.m.

**ADA Compliance**

In compliance with Government Code § 54954.2(a), the Mark West Union School District, will, on request, make this agenda available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the American with Disabilities Acts of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, should contact Alicia Mills, District Executive Assistant, 707-524-2972.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Approved By:

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Ron Calloway, Superintendent

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Brian Burke, Board Clerk