



Orland Unified School District  
903 South Street  
Orland, CA. 95963

Minutes of the Special Session Governing Board Meeting  
Monday, October 26, 2020

**OPEN SESSION:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Present: Trustees Changus, Ovard, Kochems, Allen, Aguiar

1.1 President Kochems called the meeting to order at 4:35pm

1.2 Public Comment Regarding CLOSED SESSION Agenda Items.  
No Public Comment

The meeting was remanded to closed session at 4:36 pm

1.3 Closed Session Items

1.3.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS [GC 54957.6]

**OPEN SESSION:**

President Kochems called the regular meeting to order at 5:09pm

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

2.1 Announce Any and All Actions Taken in Closed Session:

1.3.1 No action taken

2.2 Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Suzi Kochems

2.3 Approval of Agenda

**Motion by:** Allen/Ovard

| Trustee | Aye | No | Abstain | Absent |
|---------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Changus | X   |    |         |        |
| Aguiar  | X   |    |         |        |
| Ovard   | X   |    |         |        |
| Kochems | X   |    |         |        |
| Allen   | X   |    |         |        |

2.4 Requests to have any agenda items heard at a specific time: No Requests

2.5 Declarations of Conflict of Interest from any Governing Board Member(s) Abstaining from Discussion and Voting on any Particular Agenda Item(s): No Declarations

2.6 Public Comment Regarding any Item NOT on the OPEN SESSION Agenda:  
President Kochems read public comments that were received via email:

Good morning I have heard there is a meeting today, I'm unable to find the email address to ask questions so I'm emailing you so that way it can get to the meeting, and maybe get some answers that many people are thinking.

1. Can we get back to school on a half day for all grades?
2. Why is it okay for kids to ride the bus, but can not go to spark after school? if the whole point is to keep kids in their small groups?
3. Why are parents having to choose spark or school?
4. I understand that sports are important and kids need that outlet, but how can that happen if they can not be in the classroom, I would think that education is the first priority, how will that look for the older grades.
5. Is there a way we can get the communications with Aries and Google classroom to be updated on a certain day every week? It is becoming very frustrating as a parent who is trying to be on top of their children's education but when it's not updated weekly it's becoming hard. I have talked to the school, and was told they would bring it up at their meeting
6. Can you explain the school day now? how it's going to work and for how long this will be? For two weeks? Four weeks? til Jan? and how DL learning will happen with some in the classroom and some home?
7. What will the school day look like if we are in the Red tier? Can we go back full days and 5 days a week? Like Red Bluff schools
8. Why is there no bus transportation in the morning? and only in the afternoons?
9. What is the plan for 7-12 graders?
10. Why are there sports schedules if we can't even go to school? very confusing with no explanations
11. Why is every school in Glenn county doing something different the small schools (Lake, Plaza, Capay) most of their kids live in the orland district,

On a side note, I just want to express thoughts about school. I'm happy with the way the teachers are doing things, there are always places to improve, but for the most part things are moving along.

I do want to make sure that I express that if we are able to get back to school that we go 5 days a week if we can half day would be fine as long as the kids are in their classes. I have a high schooler, and a jr higher, if they can be in class five days a week that would be the best. But I do understand that may not be able to happen, if we have to do an A/B thing then I would like to see the A group Monday/Tuesday split there class so that way they are getting the most out of seeing their teachers and class time. Like Monday class's 1-4, Tuesday 5-7.

If the health dept is so worried about the kids being around each other, they should go to the corn maze on a Friday/Saturday night there are hundreds of kids all around not wearing masks. That's ok but not school, just don't understand this.

Thank you for your time  
Karen Baldrige

To OHS Board,

We are writing to each board member as parents, educators, coaches, and community members. These are troubling times, as we all know. While our community as a whole may be aware of the toll that Covid-19 has had on our nation, we fear that many may not realize the degree of which Covid has impacted our community. Thankfully Glenn county has only suffered three Covid fatalities, but that hasn't meant that our community has been spared from the unintended consequences of our state and local responses to the virus.

Distance learning has been a failure. It didn't work in the Spring, and it's not working now. The number of students failing classes 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in OUSD is staggering. At CK Price alone, more than 65% of sixth graders have more than one F; many of those have four or more Fs. We must consider that if our most experienced and mature students are struggling to learn during distance learning, how much greater is the learning loss of our youngest students. While all OUSD students have been impacted by school lockdowns, it is particularly troubling that the students most hurt are our most at-risk and vulnerable students.

In addition to learning loss, we routinely hear from parents, students, and teachers of the mental and psychological impact the lock down has had on students (a population at virtually no risk from Covid-19.) We

constantly hear from parents concerned for their students whose behavior has been markedly, hopefully not irrevocably, altered by our state's response to Covid. Our students are losing their drive and purpose to pursue education. According to the CDC and other national organizations, suicidal ideation, drug and alcohol abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, depression and teen suicide rates have all been exacerbated by our response to the pandemic. The fact of the matter is that our response to the virus has been more harmful to our students than the virus itself.

Hopefully all of our schools will soon be able to open once Glenn county becomes "red." If that is the case, we hope that Dr. Garrison will not place undue burden upon OUSD in mandating unnecessary regulations that neither the state or CDC endorse. We also hope that he will not place restrictions upon OUSD that he has not placed on other school districts in the county.

My wife and I live here in Orland. We see our students on a regular basis, whether it be the grocery store or the park, etc. When was the last time anyone heard of students begging TO GO to school? And yet, that's what we hear on a daily basis. It's one thing if schools remain closed another few weeks or so; but we cannot, not under any circumstances, continue distance learning into the Spring semester. Not if we care for our student's well-being. Far from learning, distance learning has only been distant. Students are isolated from their peers, their teachers, their education, and their future. In education, it is quite common to hear lofty slogans like, "students first." Our students and our families are waiting for us to live up to it.

Respectfully,

Sean and Joanne Rodgers

Superintendent Newman invited Dr. Garrison to speak.

Dr. Garrison said that he is absolutely aware that for many kids distance learning has been a disaster. Kids have been struggling with it both education as well as emotionally and socially. Limitations on school reopening goes from the top down, each level is allowed to do more restrictive but not less. The county hasn't imposed anything that has been more restrictive than what the State recommended. When the waiver window opened early on and schools could apply for the waiver, he sent out emails. Then they realized that the window was closing quicker than they had hoped. As soon as Glenn County Department of Public Health was able to approve the waivers for the younger kids, they were approved. The goal from the Public Health Department is to try and get the kids back into the classroom as quickly as they can and make it safe for them.

Superintendent Newman thanked Dr. Garrison for being here this evening. We all share many similar questions so Mr. Newman put together some questions that we had from Orland Unified's perspective.

Mr. Newman asked, "Are we still on track to move into the red tier?"

Dr. Garrison responded, "That's a great question, our internal data shows that we make it by the skin of our teeth. If we have one more case, then we don't. Now sometimes the data from the State is a little bit off and we can try and argue it and we will. As it is now we will find out tomorrow but we believe that we will make it into the red tier."

Mr. Newman, "That's great. Thank you for that."

Dr. Garrison, "The other bad thing is, so this is kind of a complicated thing but if we can make it into the red it's a really good thing because we are given some small county allowance to the metrics so instead of only being able to have fourteen cases we can have up to thirty-five to stay in the red but our cases are jumping right now. We have a bunch of cases, just going back the last seven days we have had over thirty cases so I don't know if we are going to stay in there. It was mentioned about the corn maze, there are lots of gatherings

unfortunately. We really have tried to work with the corn maze and the corn maze has really tried to get the people to wear masks. The City of Orland has donated thousands of masks to the corn maze. Unfortunately we are having a lot of people who are gathering and the virus is spreading. Interestingly for the first time it really seems that it's starting to hit Willows."

Mr. Newman, "In regards to an uptick in our cases in the community, we are scheduled at this point, if everything goes well at Mill Street, to reopen Fairview 3-5 and the 6th grade at CK under the waivers. If we have an uptick in cases in the community, will we still be allowed to open those classes under the waiver guidelines?"

Dr. Garrison, "At this time, yes. Yes, at this time that is the plan."

Mr. Newman, "If we don't have an outbreak at Mill Street but there is one in the community, we are still good to go for our scheduled reopenings under the waivers for Fairview and CK?"

Dr. Garrison, "Once again most of the cases that we are getting right now are coming from the Willows area. Yes, I feel comfortable. We need to get those kids back in the classrooms."

Mr. Newman, "Doc we have gotten a lot of questions from parents who are confused about the differences and requirements for schools within the county and specifically the schools that are within our attendance boundary that were still allowed to open up with waivers and the number of students that they have in the class. I know you spoke to this a little bit, can you speak more to why there are so many variances within the county? I'm sure you understand that we are getting a lot of questions about why can they and Orland can not."

Dr. Garrison, "Right, so the main thing that comes down to, so we are following the State guidance. The State guidance is really very clear about the six feet. If we have a small classroom with a lot of students then that ends up having to be split in half. I think that's true for most of the neighboring schools, Murdoch falls under that category. I think some of the smaller country schools they are able to have all their students in because they can space it out by more than six feet. As far as when the waivers as far as for being able to get into those unfortunately, and I understand this from a schools perspective that its an incredible logistic thing to try and have to organize all of these different things, these moving parts but when we had received the waivers, when we been in the criteria to be able to receive the waivers, we sent them on to the State and the State approved them. At the time they approved them and as soon as we get word, we forward them on. The requirement is they have to wait at least two weeks from when they are approved to when they start. That's the reason for the variance. It's not on any schools, with the exception of, I guess I touched on this earlier. With the exception of the Orland area, we were able to petition to the State to request to be able to open the other non Orland schools earlier because they just didn't have very many cases, the majority of the cases were in Orland. We had a conversation with the State. Is there any way we could do this? The State said yes that's ok. The majority of the cases have been in Orland unfortunately. That's the reason why Orland area on the whole is a little bit behind the other schools."

Mr. Newman, "Were you able to hear that Doc? The comment was Lake and Plaza are also Orland students. They are within our attendance boundary."

Dr. Garrison, "Plaza was the first to apply. We had a brief period about September 10th or 11th somewhere right around there where we had a few days where schools could go ahead and get the waivers in. Before then our cases were just really high and then all of a sudden they dropped and they dropped for less than a week and then they shot back up. There were some, I think a majority of schools were not ready for turning in the waiver. When it came time, they did not get it in on time with that window where we could apply for the waiver. As far as for Lake, I think they just set their date a little bit sooner than Orland. That wasn't anything with the health department."

Mr. Newman, "Following up on that six foot distancing piece Doc, the waiver that Orland Unified submitted follows the State guidance about busing. You sent an email on Friday evening with some guidance on it that indicates that we would need to follow the six foot distancing on the buses as well. Is that suggestion or is that going to mandate that we spread students out? Our capacity on a bus, if we follow that strictly to the letter of the law, is about nine students. Which would mean currently with Mill Street working under the waivers and starting this morning, we've been under that but we won't continue to be under nine students as we go on and suspect more students are going to show up at Mill Street and then when we move to Fairview students trying to get on buses we certainly won't be over or at six feet. Is that information in that email, is that guidance, is that suggestion, is that cautionary or is that something you are going to mandate that we have to stick to?"

Dr. Garrison, "Where that comes from is actually a question that you asked. I think Dwayne and I have each other on speed dial, I think we talk about three times a week. Trying to do the best that we can with this is very very difficult and frustrating. I got a hold of somebody from the State and I started asking those questions. Is it possible to make it instead of 6 feet make it 4 feet. They said absolutely not, it's 6 feet and 6 feet is the minimum. Can we do other things, partitions? They loved the idea of putting plastic partitions between the kids but they need to be 6 feet apart. So probably I wish I wouldn't have asked but I did, I asked about the buses and how exactly that worked and they said they need to be 6 feet apart. So I would do the very best I could with that.

Mr. Newman, "That is a mandate then from the State?"

Dr. Garrison, "That is a mandate from the State. That's how I understand, I can seek clarification if you would like."

Mr. Newman, "I think we would just because in terms of the guidance that comes out so I'm looking at the school reopening guidance and I'm looking at the guidance of I believe it was July 17th and"

Dr. Garrison, "It's very vague isn't it?"

Mr. Newman, "It is, for instance in the classroom it says maximize distance between students and the teacher desk has to be six feet from the student desk. So again as we were looking and trying to figure out what is safe and what isn't safe. Our capacity is very limited as you know in the classroom if we have to stay right at six feet. Am I hearing you correctly? That's also a mandate, they can't be five feet, they can't be four feet in the classroom, it has to be six feet?"

Dr. Garrison, "He was very clear on that. He was very clear on that."

Mr. Newman, "OK, so then I think, the next question from our standpoint. Well it's more of a clarification and you've done this with me but we have a lot of questions about our afterschool program and I know you said it, I shared that with the public at our last regular board meeting. Can you go over again why other surrounding districts can run their afterschool program and Orland Unified cannot?"

Dr. Garrison, "You should be able to run your afterschool program. Again it's a separate cohort so it has to be in stable cohorts but it's a separate program and you can have school and those afterschool programs and try and keep cohorts as stable as you can within those. But yes you can do an afterschool program."

Mr. Newman, "So even if we remix some, we can do after school program?"

Dr. Garrison, "Yes you can. If you can remix so try to avoid as much as you can. But yeah. I don't know, it sounds like maybe there was some miscommunication with that."

Mr. Newman, "There was, I was under the impression that we couldn't. That's great news."

Dr. Garrison, "I think the other school districts have been doing that."

Mr. Newman, "The explanation that I originally had was that because it was a different group running the SPARK, the guidance was different at that point. I'm not going to argue, if we can run SPARK that's going to help parents out."

Dr. Garrison, "Absolutely, we want to do that. To be honest, the rules change. It could be at one point we said that you couldn't and then it changed. I believe the other schools in the county are doing it."

Mr. Newman, "The last question that we have as a group is there seems to be, again I think I know the answer but I think it would help our families to hear it directly from you. There seems to be a lot of variety in what's being allowed to be done in schools. You know you and I have been talking about the situation with the secondary schools as the students remixing from class period to class period. Are we allowed to do that at all so that even if we limit the number of classes per day is that allowed or is it the State's guidance that they can't remix at all? We have already talked about this; that hobbles us immensely as far as what we can offer in person instruction to our secondary students."

Dr. Garrison, "Absolutely. So I sent out an email recently, I recommended that we try and keep the kids together with the same teacher. I figured that probably most especially the high schools and the junior highs most of them are going to end up being where they are going to have to split the classes in half. My suggestion was to have period A for one week, three hours in the morning for each day for one week. Then week 2 would be period B, what that improvises a very very stable teacher and kids. The schools that have done the rotation, and it's absolutely permitted within the State they strongly suggest it. To be honest, when I spoke to the State about the program, he said he would prefer if it was two weeks. He was clear that it was ok to go ahead to do some rotation. The problem is that you end up with a lot more people quarantined and you will end up with a lot more teachers that are exposed. I called and talked to the Assistant Principal at Corning High, I was asking what their experience was cause they did a very similar as to what was proposed by Mr. Newman, with kind of a rotating schedule. They have had two complete shutdowns, where they had to completely shut down the school. They had to quarantine fourteen staff members. You got one kid and then everybody who is within six feet, who ends up in close proximity to them and a teacher. How if you got five classes all of a sudden you got five teachers that are out. One of the things that they mentioned was at one point they only had four teachers that were out for fourteen days but they couldn't get subs fast enough so they just had to shut down the whole school because they couldn't figure out how to be able to make it work. Corning High, this was called on 10/12 which was day 43 of school, they had 120 to 140 students that had been quarantined. They have had four sets of quarantine, so each time they get quarantined that's fourteen days. They had one student who had been quarantined all four times so he had only been in school three or four days. That's the advantage of having that one class. If you have one kid who gets it then maybe you lose one teacher or you lose a couple of students but it just decreases the amount of spread. I'm not going to tell you guys how to run that. If you guys are bound and determined, I suspect there will probably have more cases and it will become only more of an issue here in Orland than it was in Corning because we have a lot more cases here in Orland than what Corning has had. It's going to be like how all the experts are saying that this has all been kind of a warmup for this winter. That's when it's really going to hit, that it's going to make it even more difficult and more important to try and keep those stable cohorts, same kids together and same teachers together as much as possible. If you guys are wanting to do it that way, you can. I think you run the chances of, you are going to end up with more kids being put into distance learning. That was a frustration that they had was that they had teachers who were trying to do both distance as well as in person. They had lots of kids that were out. You can do with how you would like.

President Kochems read a comment from parent Angie Pacheco: This is a blurb directly from CDE website for students and six feet apart. Modify layout space seating desks at least six feet apart when feasible. Turn desks to face in the same direction rather than facing each other or have students sit on only one side of the table spaced apart. Modify learning situations and activities as applicable so that there are fewer students per group placed at least six feet apart, if possible. Create distance between children on school buses, e.g. seat children one child per row, skip rows when possible. If you read it, it says when feasible and when possible. Any comments?

Dr. Garrison: Absolutely, that's CDE and we are held to CDPH, that's two different organizations. Once again, what is the issue if we don't follow the state's recommendations? I think that is an important conversation to have and it's one that we had very early on. If we don't follow the state's recommendations, then it puts the schools at liability. The insurance for the schools has made it very clear that if we are not following all the rules then we lose the insurance and one lawsuit can bankrupt the school. If we don't follow CDPH and that is what the insurance company is requesting, we take that burden off. If you guys end up deciding that's what you want to do, that would be against my recommendation, but that would be something that absolutely that you can do. That does put you at risk. We'll see what happens, I don't think that you guys are putting a few more kids on a bus that you will lose funding or anything like that. That is something that has been threatened by the state. I know there have been a lot of people who talked about how we just need to forget the Governor and just go ahead and do that. My understanding is that over 80 percent of Orland Unified's school budget comes from the state, they absolutely have said that if we go against it they will pull funds. Now whether they'll do it or not, I don't know. That's the ramifications. The whole thing with the Governor and Gallagher and that court case that is going on maybe things are going to change things up. That's where we sit right now.

Mr. Newman: There is another question, Is the six foot guidance only for while we are in the purple? I think the extension of that question is does that relax once when we are in the red? If so, how much does that relax?

Dr. Garrison: Unfortunately, that probably doesn't change anything going into the red tier. Unfortunately this is the guidance for the schools. I have heard rumors of talk about how when people make it into the orange tier, which is less than red, about changing to that 4 feet distance. But, you know that's making it to the red first. The good thing is it potentially allows us to open to in person as well and I think that is what we are really hoping for.

President Kochems: So I have another question Doctor, So is the County's position that it will not add any other restrictions other than those put out by the State?

Dr. Garrison: What we have mandated has been above what the State. There have been 2 things that I have requested that are above what the State mandates. The first is that if there is an outbreak, we ask that the schools do an investigation and a root cause analysis; try to figure out what happened and come up with a plan to have it corrected. The next thing that we have required, this has actually come from the teacher's association, is to just have someone walk the schools and take notes on how they are doing and take notes and give suggestions on how we can do things safer. Those are the only two things that we are doing. I will mention that in Glenn County we have not taken a punitive approach. So, even when we have had businesses that have had 40% of their work force out with COVID, I went there, we went over what practices they are doing and looked at what can be fixed and we never shut them down. The role, in my mind, of Public Health is to educate and do our best to make things clear, we are not an enforcement agency, we're not.

President Kochems: So what would it take for our kids, all grades, to go back to school more than say an hour or two a day?

Dr. Garrison: So for all of the grades we have to make it into the red tier, we have to stay there for two weeks. Hopefully that small county bonus, that we just got that instead of being at 14 we have to be at 35 will help us stay there. We have to stay there for two weeks. Those are the rules of the state. As far as for how much time the kids are in the classroom, that is really depending upon the school and maintaining that six feet. It really doesn't have anything to do with me or the Health Department, those are just the rules of the State.

Victor Perry: Good evening. I just wanted to talk a little bit about the schedule and a couple of things as to why we will continue to follow a rotating schedule. A couple of things, with the secondary level I understand what you say that the contact tracing would be easier to trace. With contact tracing if someone got sick, with the smaller cohorts, but some of the things to think about is I think if we did that, we would be committed to that for the rest of the year, because of the fact that the amount of instruction that is given and if you only did one period at a time for three weeks, everybody else is being left behind. That was one of the reasons, two is that we are asking students and teachers to do one subject matter for 3-4 hours, and I don't see that as being successful. Our kids are already struggling significantly, with distance learning. I know Joann Rodgers and Sean had talked about the F rate at CK. Ours is as much, I believe we have 60 or 70 freshmen that have at least one F. Some teachers have in their schedules, let's say that they are teaching 3 U.S. History classes back to back. So if we did 1 or 2 weeks at a time they could potentially be teaching the same lesson for 4-6 weeks. So those were the things we were looking at when we were creating that schedule. I just wanted to make sure that you guys, as a group, understood that it just wasn't let's bring them all back. It was well thought out and it was also taking into consideration the kids and overall what we thought was best for them.

Dr. Garrison: The idea of the stable cohorts is that it is obviously a suggestion, but I don't know if you guys are aware that Corning High just changed their whole schedule. They were rotating and now they are changing it up. It may be that you guys can't pull that off for right now. I realize the logistical nightmare that might be. It might be just something to look at come January. Unfortunately, I think that this is going to get a lot worse. We are probably going to have much more patients. They are seeing it in the Midwest now. So, it might just be something to think about. You guys can play with it and see how it goes, but like I mentioned Corning has just in the last week or so changed up how they are doing it. They just realized that they had too many kids that needed to go back on distance learning.

President Kochems: Dr. Garrison do we have access to same day testing for teachers or staff?

Dr. Garrison: No we don't. Across the street from the High School we have the Optum Serve. That's a PCR test, that's a much better test. The ones that you get the results immediately have a lot of problems. That's why the CDC as well as the State cannot recognize them as being a positive. Some of them have a false positivity of up to 17%. That means that almost a quarter of the time you are wrong. The rapid tests are not very accurate. The PCR is. Going along with that is symptoms. Obviously if we had someone with symptoms we recommend they get tested and isolate themselves.

President Kochems: How will those symptoms come into play when we get into flu season, which is right around the corner? People have a fever, they got the flu, they come to school. It's not COVID it's the flu but we don't know that. Are going to have everybody and their mother getting tested and quarantining for two weeks until the results come back?

Dr. Garrison: Fortunately, our turnaround for the labs right now is about 48 hours. It's not terrible. Not quite as good as I wish it was, but it's what we got to work with. It's better than a few weeks ago when it was taking 20 days get the results. So 48 hours is pretty good. Somewhere between 48 - 72 hours. The frustrating thing with COVID is that it is a little bit different than the flu is that they are symptomatic 2 days before having symptoms and then after the onset of symptoms they are the most contagious for 3 days. The symptoms are usually pretty mild, by the time they start running fevers it's usually about day 5. By day 6, they



are really not very contagious anymore. The frustrating thing is with the mild symptoms it is very hard to control this.

Mr. Newman: I have a question from a staff member. She was tested on the 20th and still has not her results back. Can you please speak on the idea of having the testing for the school staff members? Whether the lag is 48 hours or in this case 6 days.

Dr. Garrison: Where did she get tested?

Mr. Newman: I'm not sure.

Dr. Garrison: There is a wide variable as to where people get tested, where different labs get the results back. I will tell you that Memorial Hall is completely free and it's about 48-72 hours. I have a lot of people in the nursing home and they are required to get tested on a weekly basis. At one of my facilities, I had 7 people that have tested positive for COVID, that were having very mild symptoms when they got tested. Some of them ended up getting very sick, but I think it helps it from spreading. I think part of the reason is that we are doing the testing. I do think it is a good thing and a way of controlling the spread. When you look at the countries that have put a lot of emphasis on testing, they are the ones that have been the most successful. It's tough when you have a disease that you are most contagious before you are really sick and then you have a quarter of the people that get it that have absolutely no symptoms and can still be spreading it. So testing is very important. It is different from influenza in that you are only contagious for about 48 hours before the onset of symptoms and then when it hits you, it hits you all at once. You run a high fever and you feel like you got run over. It is much easier to quarantine something like that than with COVID. That's why getting the testing is important.

President Kochems: So that person that had the question, was tested at Memorial Hall.

Dr. Garrison: Well I will tell you that when we got up above the 10% positivity state mandate is that anyone that goes into a care facility gets tested twice a week. I have been getting tested once a week for the last 3 months and for a good 3 weeks I was getting tested twice a week and I have not experienced that. I wonder if we have a problem with the logging. That's really a surprise to me.

Trustee Aguiar: Dr. Garrison, I am part of the school board here, and I wanted to see if you can break out your crystal ball and tell us how long you think that we are going to be going down this road. Are you thinking a few more weeks, or a few more months? We are 6 months in and it doesn't seem to be getting better.

Dr. Garrison: Personally I think that most of what we've been doing is getting prepared for this winter. When you look at the 18/19 flu, they had a little spike in the spring and then it almost went away and then came back in the winter. I think the thing with this pandemic is what is it going to be like when you combine it with influenza? One study shows that mortality rates triple when we have COVID along with influenza. I'm hoping we have a mild flu season, kind of like what Australia did. We are going to have to wait and see how the influenza is and how good that vaccine for influenza was. My thought is that things will get back to normal in the spring. I don't think we will get a vaccine until probably January. Once again this is just guessing. I don't have a crystal ball, but this is what the experts are saying. Everything up until now has been in preparing for the winter.

President Kochems: Here's another question for Dr. Garrison and part for the superintendent, from Angie Pacheco. Red Bluff went into the red tier for two weeks, were able to open full day with a 100% capacity. Some Tehama schools have been open since August, full day full loading. That includes Red Bluff High and the

middle schools. There is also an allowance for families that need to continue distance learning. Why could we not be able to do the same if we are in the red tier for two weeks.

Dr. Garrison: Once again this comes down to once we are in the red for two weeks then the schools are allowed to open. I would highly encourage you to get open as quickly as we can, after those two weeks, because there is a possibility of that window closing. Kind of like we did. This is going to be our chance to get the high school back in. That said, as far as full or those things the guidelines are just the six feet. However the schools want to figure it out is really up to them. If we are going away from those six feet, it does increase the liability of the school district. That would be my only concern with that. There other thing to say is that there is a huge difference between four feet and six feet as far as transmissibility and it's not a question of are we going to have outbreaks at the school, it's a matter of when are we going to have outbreaks in the schools. If our goal is to protect our students and protect the community then the....things are going to get bad this winter. I really think things are going to get bad. I think that some people would be surprised as to the effect that it has had on the healthcare system, in general. I can tell you that I haven't asked for a couple of weeks, but there have been times that patients at Glenn Medical that needed to go to an ICU bed, they have had to go to the Bay Area because there just wasn't one in the north state. We lost Feather River Hospital and right now I don't know what it is at Enloe. I can tell you that most of this summer Enloe has not been able to accept patients, other than those having an acute heart attack, an acute stroke, or a level I trauma. Part of that has to do with COVID. I mean there has been an increase in cases. I don't think people have realized how few beds there are and how much during a normal flu season it gets difficult to transfer patients. I have never seen anything like what we've had this summer, with the availability of beds. In my 16 years of practice there hasn't been anything like it and the main thing is not the hospital beds, it's the nursing staff. We have a lot of nurses that are not really interested in taking care of COVID patients. Just like Corning High shutting down because they had 4 teachers that ended up having to be quarantined, the nurses are having the same problem. Really the problem becomes the availability of nurses to be able to handle the beds. We can build a whole bunch of hospital tents, but we are limited on people to man them. That's really what the issue becomes. I know that there are people that feel like this is nothing, but we just had somebody who is in there very early 20's who just got admitted to the ICU today. I mean this has affected the older people are the ones that are dying. A lot of people are getting sick for all of the different age groups. I think this is the fifth person in their 20's who ended up needing to be hospitalized, four of them needing to go into the intensive care unit. I think that we need to do what we need to do. We have to try and make the right choices for our students and for our community, and I think that trying to keep that distance makes a difference.

President Kochems: Mr. Newman would you speak to how parents can choose to send their kids back to school, when we go back to school or can we continue to keep the kids on distance learning?

Mr. Newman: Sure, that's part of what the presentation that I have prepared for tonight. I can speak on it now if you like. That is an easy answer. It is the parent's choice. We are going to ask the parents to commit for the rest of this semester to their selection of distance learning vs. not distance learning. Again, I will explain about that more in the presentation, but that has to do with our staffing and our ability to have a teacher available for the students in person and a teacher available for the students on distance learning. We are mandated by the state to offer and provide distance learning, for this entire school year.

Trustee Changus: It sounds like if we get to the red tier, we better put the hustle on getting back to the High School at some level or we are liable to lose it because of the winter season that is coming.

Mr. Newman: Right. Dr. Garrison can you clarify if we implement our plan as I read the guidance that said as long as we are implementing, even if it's a phased plan we will still be allowed to reopen in the red tier guidance. As long as we have started to implement the plan. Is that correct?

Dr. Garrison: That is correct. I would really highly suggest that we try and get the schools reopen as close to that first day as we can, because this really could come crashing down on us. Like I said, our cases look

like they are bouncing back. We had 15 cases over the weekend. Once we go in person school then we don't have to close down, unless we are having outbreaks. Judging from how things have gone in Corning, really the limit thing is going to be the teachers. It wasn't that percentage of students, they did not get that 5% of students. It only took a few of them and they couldn't suffice.

President Kochems: Dr. Garrison can you talk about your thoughts about the social-emotional health of students that are not in school?

Dr. Garrison: Absolutely. When you look at the data the depression and anxiety rates are 3 - 4 times higher than they were about a year ago, and I don't think anybody is surprised by that. There is a lot of emotional health that has been horrible. I think for some students it has been terrible. That is something, to be honest, that is the main reason I took this job as a health officer. Sometimes I wonder why I did, but it was because I have 3 kids that have graduated from Orland High and another that is just entering. One of my son's closest friends committed suicide and that is why I came into becoming a health officer. I wanted to make a difference with that. I can tell you there are a lot of this we are doing. We are trying to address that. I agree that getting our kids back to school is important. I also think it is important to keep them safe while they are. I have a child that will be attending Orland High and having them wear a N95 mask and face shield and they will be just fine. I am not worried about them being in school. As long as we are following the rules, there are a lot of things we can do safely. The problem and frustration that I have is when we don't follow the rules, that is where we can get into trouble. I know that there are a lot of anti-maskers. I can tell you from the care homes is that the masks do work. You can decrease your chance of getting COVID by 3 times by wearing some kind of eye protection or wearing glasses.

President Kochems: So that comment that was made early, the person who typed it in said it was an error. It was actually from the CDC website and not the CDE website. Does that make a difference?

Dr. Garrison: The federal puts out the memo and then the state can have more strict criteria, but we can't go backwards.

Trustee Aguiar: You mentioned that the N95 mask and eyewear work, then why are the kids not back in school? If they work why can't we put them in that and put them in school?

Dr. Garrison: I am not the one making the rules. I am not the one holding the kids back from being in school. I agree that there are some rules that do not make sense. I can understand where their thought process was. I agree that most things can be done safely, you need to follow the distancing. I think that it is very safe for kids to get together with masks. If you wear a N95 or KN95 then yes they are pretty safe. We need to get students back in school. It is important that we get kids back in school. We have them wear a mask, keep them six feet apart, I throw in as extra the eye protection. I think there are lots of safe ways to do it, by just doing simple things.

### **3. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **3.1 Resolution #07-20/21 - Resolution Authorizing Establishment of Fund 19** Roll Call vote was taken - passed 5/0

**Motion by:** Allen/Ovard

| Trustee | Aye | No | Abstain | Absent |
|---------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Changus | X   |    |         |        |
| Aguiar  | X   |    |         |        |
| Ovard   | X   |    |         |        |

|         |   |  |  |  |
|---------|---|--|--|--|
| Kochems | X |  |  |  |
| Allen   | X |  |  |  |

**3.2 Reopening in Red Tier** - Mr. Newman presented phased reopening plan: Mr. Newman presented the District's phased plan for re-opening. He stated that the District is focusing on safety. In person instruction is preferable. The district is trying to provide as much in person instruction as possible as long as it is done in the safest manner. Parents will be given the option of either in person instruction or distance learning.

President Kochems - If students are going back to school with masks on, why the six feet?

Dr. Garrison - By wearing a face shield, N95 mask and are six feet apart then the person is 75 times less likely to contract COVID.

President Kochems asked a question on behalf of Mr. Bentz - Can we resubmit our waiver to allow all day participation from our students?

Dr. Garrison - I don't make any decision that states how long the students can be in school.

Mr. Newman - If we want to increase the time, then there is not an issue?

Dr. Garrison - I am not aware of any guidance that says that there is a certain amount of time. What it comes down to is maintaining the six feet.

Board President Kochems - So we can increase our day from 3 hours to 6 hours as long we stay under 20 kids and six feet apart?

Dr. Garrison - It doesn't have to do with the number of kids, it has to do with distance.

Trustee Ovard - On the California Department of Health frequently asked questions it says what is the guidance regarding face coverings and physical distancing on buses and it says that face coverings are required on buses and acknowledges that physical distancing may not be possible.

Dr. Garrison: The information that I have is from a conversation that Mr. Newman and I had. Mr. Newman asked for more clarification and I called the state and they are the ones that said that they need to be six feet apart.

President Kochems: Their website contradicts that.

Dr. Garrison: I don't think it contradicts it. I think it is vague on the website and he was more specific.

President Kochems: So when I hear vague, it leaves us a lot of latitude to push the rules a little bit.

Dr. Garrison: I agree. That is what the state recommends. They say we should be six feet apart. We should leave it at that.

Trustee Changus: When we bring sports in, are we going to transport nine kids on a bus and take four buses to transport the whole team?

Dr. Garrison: What I have was last updated September 18th. It says what sports are allowed. Physical Education is permitted only when the following can be maintained: maintain six feet of physical distancing, stable cohorts, and outside when possible. I don't see how we are going to be able to do sports while maintaining these guidelines. I can see possibly having sports in the spring.

President Kochems: There is a question from the public. Does that mean our at risk kids can go a full day schedule on rotation schedule?

Dr. Garrison: I don't have anything to do with time.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:**

##### **4.1 Meeting Adjourned at 7:02pm**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dwayne Newman, Secretary to the Board 1/21/21

  
Becky Brummet, Board Clerk 1/21/21