



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

Minutes of the Emergency Session Governing Board Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2020

OPEN SESSION:

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Present: Trustees Kochems, Allen, Aguiar, via phone Changus

Absent: Trustee Ovard

1.1 President Kochems called the meeting to order at 12:02pm

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Becky Brummet

1.3 Board Action to Authorize Emergency meeting pursuant to 54956.5 to consider action in response to Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19), including but not limited to authorizations to close schools in the interest of public health and safety

Motion by: Aguiar/Allen

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

1.4 Public Comment Regarding any item that is NOT on the open session agenda
No Public Comment

2. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM:

2.1 Resolution #16-19/20 - Resolution Authorizing Staff to take any and all necessary actions to prepare and respond effectively to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Trustee Allen made a motion in the interest of public health and safety that:

- The schools of the District shall be closed through April 17, 2020; and
- That the Superintendent will determine essential services required to be performed by District employees during this time; and
- That the board affirms, pursuant to Board Policy 3516.5, the Governing Board has authorized the Superintendent or designee to close a school site, change the regular school day schedule, or take any necessary action during the emergency created by COVID-19

An audience member asked when it would start. Trustee Aguiar replied, "tomorrow."

Superintendent Newman reported that the leadership team met last week to discuss the issues. Under the direction of the health department, in collaboration with other schools in the county and getting input from the State. The Leadership team met again this morning along with union leadership and had the conversation about the next steps. We had the conversation about delaying another day and consensus was at that point for the most part the parents were already aware that schools were closing and the likelihood of the school closing is pretty high. We think the parents are anticipating that this was going to happen and suspect that many of them have already made plans for school closure. If we delay another day, are we going to be chastised for delaying and exposing kids to potential infection for another day. The recommendation of the leadership of the district is closure starting tomorrow. We have already planned to start meal prep so that we can deliver meals starting tomorrow. We will have staff report to school tomorrow as normal and start working on delivering the instructional piece. We are going to operate the food service under the summer feeding program rules, it does not distinguish between students it's just simply if you are age 18 or under you will receive a free meal. Students need to be present. We just got off the phone with the county health department and Glenn County Office of Ed and other superintendents from within the county. The recommendation from the health department is going to read that we should close as soon as possible but no later than Friday at 5:00pm and stay closed until April 20th. April 17th is the last day of the mandated closure. We do know that CDC, the Feds, are saying that it might be eight weeks. That's a whole next level. We will have conversations before we come back about what to do next. We had conversations about whether we should do shorter closures and then bring the kids back and then go to Spring break. The problem there is we risk exposing students to the virus when they get back together. If we go out now and stay out, it's a long period of time and hopefully we will get all this under control and we will have a better chance of lower infection rates. We have had all the conversations that we could think of, we planned the best we could to this point. We didn't want to do unnecessary planning but it has become real. It is so fluid that it has really changed even over the weekend. We think that getting staff together tomorrow is the best approach. That's our recommendation to the board from the leadership.

As soon as the Board makes the call, we are ready to go with a letter explaining this in Spanish and English. We will do an all call, we will do the automated emails, we will put it on the website. If we can get it out early enough, the sites will print the letter and put in backpacks for the younger ones.

Trustee Kochems reported that it is very fluid and its changing minute by minute. There have not been any directives from the Governor to mandatorily close schools. Although she thinks it might actually be coming tomorrow, we understand he is doing another press conference tomorrow. Our directive from our local public health department is not a mandatory closure, it is a directive please follow our recommendations. She thinks pretty much everybody on the call with the exception of maybe one district was all onboard with that. We all agreed as an entire county that we would follow the same timeline through April 17th. We all are on the same Spring break week so it was a nice natural break. She forewarned us that we have not seen the worst of it yet. In one months time when we come back or anticipate coming back to school, we may get a mandatory request from the Federal government that we stay out another four or eight weeks. As we talk to parents, partners and stakeholders we need to be preparing ourselves for something bigger than what we are seeing today.

A parent in the audience thanked the district for handling it professionally and thoughtfully. She wanted to know if Superintendent Newman could elaborate on the plan for the instructional side. Superintendent Newman replied that we know that we can't deliver online instruction to all simply because many of our families do not have access. What we are going to try to figure out tomorrow is how to make the best of what we can deliver. We are going to talk about the whole notion of whether it is mandatory or voluntary. How we help, for instance, our high school students with credits and figuring out that piece of it. He's certain that there is concern among high school seniors about what this means in terms of their entry into college, conversations about that with the counseling staff. We are aware of the issues and chipping away at them systematically so that we present a unified front and are consistent as we can be and equitable as we can be. Flip side of that is access and equity for our special ed students. That's a whole next level of planning and delivery and how we do that appropriately so they have a fair chance at getting the best from their education during this time. We are aware of all those and we are going to chip away at it. Our leadership team is very thoughtful and very intentional about doing their best for the kids. We all agreed that we will be flexible in our

thinking in terms of how we can do that. He has no doubt that they will be open to ideas about how to get the information out there and whether we can be operating differently in terms of some groups and not other groups.

Trustee Aguiar asked if this was a mild or a hard shut down. Is it everybody or some go home and some stay. He thinks it should be a hard shut down and everybody goes. Superintendent Newman responded that the Governors direction and health departments direction is around groups of people interacting. The Governor talked about social cohorts, so the worry is not as much about interacting with the people that we normally interact with because if they were infected we would probably get it. It's about getting infection from outside. His direction is trying to limit the mixing of social cohorts. Our staff can still work in many cases without actually coming within six feet of each other. We have some teachers in that group that the Governor asked to stay home and some teachers with special circumstances. We need to be flexible in our thinking about what we are going to say and how we are going to interact with them. If they need to stay home because they are caring already for an elderly parent, then they need to stay home and we will get them to communicate with us through electronics. The MOT staff can come in and they can do cleaning and other maintenance jobs. Everybody is coming to work tomorrow and we will go from there. The Governor has given us assurances that our staff will be paid no matter how we structure the shutdown. The notion that we are operating on is we are going to do our best for the kids. It was very clear from the meeting this morning that the staff will not balk at that.

Food service will be in two locations, Orland High and CK Price. Please don't spread that until we make it final. Will meet with leadership after this to make sure our statement out to the community contains all the accurate information.

Roll Call vote was taken - passed 4/0

Motion by: Allen/Aguiar

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

Trustee Kochems asked to please allow Dwayne and the district office staff to submit one letter that we can submit to our students and faculty so we have the same message delivered.

3. ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

3.1 Meeting Adjourned at 12:27 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

 4/23/20
Dwayne Newman, Secretary to the Board

 4/23/20
Michelle Allen, Board Clerk