

MURRIETA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
August 27, 2020**

PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20
THIS MEETING WAS HELD AS A TELECONFERENCE MEETING
OBSERVERS WERE ABLE TO VIEW THE MEETING LIVESTREAMED VIA THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Linda Lunn called the Special Teleconference Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 3:00 p.m.

A.1 Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established by roll call with the following board members present:
Kenneth Dickson – Trustee Area 3
Paul Diffley – Trustee Area 5
Linda Lunn – Trustee Area 4
Oscar Rivas – Trustee Area 1
Kris Thomasian – Trustee Area 2

A.2 Public Comment regarding Closed Session Item

None

B. CLOSED SESSION

President Lunn announced that the Board would convene in closed session with Legal Counsel to discuss potential litigation relating to the 2015 Group Chat investigation.

B.1 Conference with Legal Counsel - Potential Litigation

C. PUBLIC SESSION

C.1 Call to Order / Establishment of Quorum

President Lunn reconvened the meeting into public session at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Lunn stated that votes will be conducted by roll call and provided instructions on how to present comments for the record. She proceeded to conduct a roll call to establish a quorum.

Establishment of Quorum – Roll Call:

Present: Kenneth Dickson, Paul Diffley, Linda Lunn, Oscar Rivas, Kris Thomasian
Absent: None

Mrs. Lunn announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.

Staff Members Present

Patrick Kelley, Superintendent/Secretary to the Board
Bill Olien, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations
Mary Walters, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Julie Diaz, Executive Assistant

C.2 Report Out of Closed Session

President Lunn reported that no action was taken during the Closed Session conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation.

C.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Board member Kenneth Dickson led the Pledge of Allegiance

C.4 Approval of Agenda

Action Taken: Motion by Paul Diffley / Second by Kris Thomasian. Motion passed by the following vote:

Yes Kenneth Dickson

Yes Paul Diffley

Yes Linda Lunn

Yes Oscar Rivas

Yes Kris Thomasian

C.5 Public Comment regarding Meeting Agenda Item(s)

None

C.6 Report regarding Investigation of 2015 Group Chat and Community Input

On June 4, 2020 screenshots of a 2015 private group chat were posted publicly on social media by former Vista Murrieta High School (VMHS) students. The District asked the law firm of Best Best & Krieger, LLP to conduct an investigation regarding the District's awareness and response to racist social media screenshots in 2015 and anecdotal reports of racial discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying at VMHS from 2015 to the present.

Investigators Dina Harris and Jack B. Clarke, Jr. of Best Best & Krieger LLP conducted approximately 60 interviews of more than 50 different people: 12 former VMHS students, 7 of whom either participated in the 2015 group chat or saw the screenshots; 32 former or current employees; and 7 parents of current and former VMHS students. Mrs. Harris and Mr. Clarke, Jr. presented a summary of conclusions and findings, saying that there was insufficient evidence that any employee of the VMHS staff saw the group chat snapshot or had knowledge of it in 2015. However, they said they received many anecdotal reports of alleged racial discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying at VMHS over the past five years and how they were handled. The complete investigation report was made available to the public on the District website.

Superintendent Patrick Kelley read a statement to the Murrieta Valley Unified School District community in response to the investigation report. He said even though the investigation did not uncover any specific actionable conduct we as a District are taking bold and decisive steps to change the culture at VMHS to ensure every student feels safe and supported.

Board members each individually commented on the findings of the investigation report and made commitments to hold the District accountable for the changes that need to be made in the culture and climate throughout the entire District. Board members acknowledged the strides the District has made towards diversity, equity, and inclusion since 2015, but said there still is a long way to go and they are committed to ensuring the necessary growth continues in order to provide an equitable educational experience for all students.

C.7 Start of the 2020/21 School Year report

Bill Olien, Deputy Superintendent and Mary Walters, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services provided an updated on supports in place to start the 2020/21 school year in a virtual learning environment. Mrs. Walters stated that over 10,000 laptop computers and 65

C.7 Start of the 2020/21 School Year report (continued)

hotspots have been distributed to families to date. She also discussed the next steps for offering in-person instructional services, assessments for Special Education and English learners, opening the Child Development Center and planning for childcare, as health orders will allow. Mr. Olien reviewed the required reporting of attendance and weekly engagement to the State. He also reported that current enrollment numbers are down by a couple of hundred students from projections at this time.

C.8 Approval of the June 18, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Action Taken: Motion by Paul Diffley / Second by Oscar Rivas. Motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes Kenneth Dickson
- Yes Paul Diffley
- Yes Linda Lunn
- Yes Oscar Rivas
- Yes Kris Thomasian

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

D.1 Approval of Personnel Report

Action Taken: Motion by Kris Thomasian / Second by Paul Diffley. Motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes Kenneth Dickson
- Yes Paul Diffley
- Yes Linda Lunn
- Yes Oscar Rivas
- Yes Kris Thomasian

Type: R = Replacement G = Growth

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL – NEW HIRE

Name:	Krystal Borges	Effective Date:	8/20/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Elementary Counselor – Murrieta Elementary				
Name:	Lucila Cardenas - Gomez	Effective Date:	7/01/2020	Type:	G
Assignment:	School Nurse – Student Support Services				
Name:	Keri Duncan	Effective Date:	8/20/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Teacher – Vista Murrieta High				
Name:	Kassandra Graham	Effective Date:	8/05/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Teacher – Avaxat Elementary				
Name:	John Haynes	Effective Date:	8/17/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Teacher – Avaxat Elementary				
Name:	Tamara Johannson	Effective Date:	8/24/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Teacher – Thompson Middle				
Name:	Karen Leggett	Effective Date:	7/01/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Teacher – Warm Springs Middle				
Name:	Mandi Spottsville	Effective Date:	8/04/2020	Type:	G
Assignment:	Teacher – Thompson Middle				
Name:	Paige Stoecklein	Effective Date:	8/21/2020	Type:	G
Assignment:	Speech Language Pathologist – Special Education				

D.1 Approval of Personnel Report (continued)

CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL – NEW HIRE (continued)

Name:	Amelia Stratton	Effective Date:	8/03/2020	Type:	G
Assignment:	Teacher – Thompson Middle				
Name:	Mary Ruth Summers	Effective Date:	8/20/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Teacher – Murrieta Valley High				
Name:	Madison Tjaden	Effective Date:	8/05/2020	Type:	G
Assignment:	Teacher – Warm Springs Middle				
Name:	Monica Tyler	Effective Date:	8/19/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Elementary Counselor – E. Hale Curran Elementary				
Name:	Nicole Vergara	Effective Date:	8/20/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Elementary Counselor – Rail Ranch Elementary				

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL – NEW HIRE

Name:	Christina Palos	Effective Date:	8/12/2020	Type:	R
Assignment:	Nutrition Worker – Nutrition Services				

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL – PROMOTION/TRANSFER

Employee:	Kirsten Bumgarner	Effective Date:	8/10/2020	Type:	R
From:	Personnel Clerk – Human Resources				
To:	Student Information Systems Technician – Facilities Services				

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL – RECLASSIFICATION

Employee:	Natalie Baltazar	Effective Date:	8/05/2020
From:	Child Care Worker I – Range 7		
To:	Child Care Worker II – Range 9		

SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL – CLASSIFIED

Matthew Miltenberger

RESIGNATIONS/RELEASES – CERTIFICATED AND CLASSIFIED

Employee # – Effective Date	Employee # – Effective Date	Employee # – Effective Date
297780-8/04/2020	290437-8/05/2020	254644-8/06/2020
298050-8/14/2020	105459-9/30/2020	249743-8/14/2020
287117-8/17/2020	300843-8/17/2020	

D.2 Approval of Interim Employment for Jonathan Pratt as Director of Educational Technology

Action Taken: Motion by Kenneth Dickson / Second by Kris Thomasian. Motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes Kenneth Dickson
- Yes Paul Diffley
- Yes Linda Lunn
- Yes Oscar Rivas
- Yes Kris Thomasian

D.3 Approval of Temporary Revision of the Substitute Salary Schedule

Action Taken: Motion by Kris Thomasian / Second by Paul Diffley. Motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes Kenneth Dickson
- Yes Paul Diffley
- Yes Linda Lunn
- Yes Oscar Rivas
- Yes Kris Thomasian

D.4 Approval of University Agreements

Action Taken: Motion by Paul Diffley / Second by Kenneth Dickson. Motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes Kenneth Dickson
- Yes Paul Diffley
- Yes Linda Lunn
- Yes Oscar Rivas
- Yes Kris Thomasian

E. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

E.1 Murrieta Valley Unified School District Visual and Performing Arts Information

Carol Hernandez, Coordinator, Educational Services, presented an overview of the elementary and secondary arts programs throughout the District. She highlighted the Horizons Unlimited program which promotes equitable access and exposure to the arts and encourages students to actively pursue the arts from elementary, middle, high school and beyond. Mrs. Hernandez shared a video clip of the "Our Town" cultural arts program that highlights the diverse backgrounds of community leaders who make up our town. She reported that teachers are able to access a library of videos to present a new culture to students to promote cultural sensitivity and bring diversity, equity and inclusion into the classroom while building positive relationships in our town.

F. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

F.1 Public Hearing regarding Resolution No. 20/21-02 Proposed Dedication and Conveyance of Utility Easement for Electrical Supply Systems and Communication Systems to Southern California Edison Company

President Lunn opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. and asked if any written comments or questions had been received. Not having received any, she closed the hearing at 6:33 p.m.

F.2 Adoption of Resolution No. 20/21-02 to Dedicate and Convey a Public Utility Easement for Underground Electrical Supply Systems and Communication Systems to Southern California Edison Company

Action Taken: Motion by Paul Diffley / Second by Kenneth Dickson. Motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes Kenneth Dickson
- Yes Paul Diffley
- Yes Linda Lunn
- Yes Oscar Rivas
- Yes Kris Thomasian

G. CLOSED SESSION

None

H. ADJOURNMENT

President Lunn adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Approved by the Governing Board October 22, 2020



Paul F. Diffley III, Clerk of the Board