

# EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to Safer at Home Orders, this meeting was held virtually.

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2020

9:00 a.m.

*Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.*

**Present:**

Craig Schneider, Board Chair Michelle Nagelvoort, Vice Chair Jason Rodriguez, Treasurer Ivo Caouette, Board Director Dianne Mendez-Cantu, Board Director Tracy Vela, Board Director (arrived at 9:06)	Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent of Operations Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent of Business Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education Doug House, Interim Asst. Superintendent, Personnel Natali South, Director of Executive Support
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- 1. Call to Order**
  - Natali South called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and established a quorum through roll call.
- 2. Action: Approval of Agenda**
  - Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the agenda.
  - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: 5 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu; 2 Absent: Vela, Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 3. Action: Approval of Minutes**
  - Mr. Caouette moved to approve May 14, 2020 Minutes.
  - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: 5 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu; 2 Absent: Vela, Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

4. **Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**

- Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Warrants, Personnel Action Report, Contract Ratifications: Kelly Services, Carnegie Contract, Oasis Contract.
- Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

5. **Public Comments**

- None

6. **Information: Superintendent's Report**

- Kathleen Hermsmeyer reviewed the Superintendent's Report and provided updates regarding the steps being taken to prepare for reopening in the fall. It remains to be seen exactly what will be required, so we are making arrangements for various scenarios. Dr. Hermsmeyer reminded the Board that our virtual Graduation ceremony will take place on June 13. Our senior students received a box filled with items to help them celebrate, including a yard sign, special tassel and other fun things.

7. **Action: Approval of 2020-2021 Budget**

- Mr. Schneider moved to approve the 2020-2021 Budget.
- Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reviewed the proposed budget for 2020-2021. The budget reflects the expected decrease in funding for the coming school year. Additional information will be released from the governor in the coming weeks, and will be shared with the Board when available.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

8. **Action: Approval of 2019-2020 Education Protection Account Actuals**

- Ms. Vela moved to approve the 2019-2020 Education Protection Account Actuals.
- Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that EPA funds provided funding equivalent to 4.41 teachers' salaries for 2019-2020.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

9. **Action: Approval of 2020-2021 Education Protection Account Plan**

- Mr. Caouette moved to approve the 2020-2021 Education Protection Account Plan.
- Ms. Vela seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that EPA funds are expected to provide funding equivalent to 4.96 teachers' salaries for 2020-2021.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

10. **Action: Approval of Legal Services Contract with Hatch and Cesario**
  - Ms. Vela moved to approve Legal Services Contract with Hatch and Cesario
  - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
  - Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that the law firm of Hatch and Cesario provide legal services in the area of Special Education. There was not an increase in their rates for the upcoming school year.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
11. **Action: Approval of Special Ed Contracts**
  - Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Special Ed contracts
  - Ms. Vela seconded.
  - Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that efforts have been taken to reduce the amount spent on Special Ed contracts by utilizing staff to provide services, rather than contracted service providers, whenever possible.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
12. **Action: Approval of Cherry Valley Lease**
  - Mr. Caouette moved to approve Cherry Valley lease
  - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
  - Discussion: Tanya Rogers indicated that the lease for Cherry Valley has been renewed and is now overseen by Empire Springs.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
13. **Action: Approval of 2020-2021 Superintendent's Contract**
  - Ms. Vela moved to approve the 2020-2021 Superintendent's Contract
  - Mr. Caouette seconded.
  - Discussion: Doug House reviewed the terms of the Superintendent's contract, and indicated that there will not be an increase in salary for anyone in the network for 2020-2021, including the Superintendent.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
14. **Action: Approval of Covid-19 Written Report**
  - Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve Covid-19 Written Report.
  - Ms. Nagelvoort seconded.
  - Discussion: Amy Podratz indicated that the California Department of Education required each school to provide information regarding the changes to program offerings made in response to school closures related to the COVID-19 emergency and the major impact on students and families. The report also highlights services for English learners, foster youth and low-income students, school meal programs, and supervision of students.

- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela;  
1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

15. **Action: Approval of Position Control System and Salary Scales**

- Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the Position Control System and Salary Scales.
- Mr. Caouette seconded
- Discussion: Doug House reviewed the PCS and Salary Scales for 2020-2021.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela;  
1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

16. **Action: Approval of 2020-2021 Board Calendar**

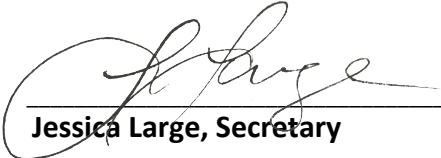
- Ms. Vela moved to approve the 2020-2021 Board Calendar.
- Ms. Nagelvoort seconded
- Discussion: Natali South reviewed the proposed calendar. Board members and staff discussed the plans for a modified Ignite! retreat at Pechanga, and the related expenses.
- Vote: 5 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela; 1 Absent: Large;  
1 No: Rodriguez; Motion Adopted

17. **Board Comments**

- Ms. Vela: Do we know when we'll be meeting again in person?
  - Staff indicated that the authorization to reopen schools in Riverside County occurred this week, but the specific parameters haven't been established yet. We anticipate being able to hold our meetings in person after the school year begins.

18. **Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

- Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.
- Ms. Vela seconded
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Schneider, Nagelvoort, Rodriguez, Caouette, Mendez-Cantu, Vela;  
1 Absent: Large; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

  
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Jessica Large, Secretary

8/28/2020  
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Date