

EMPIRE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

February 11, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Due to CA safer at home order, meeting was held electronically.

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:

Ivo Caouette, Board Chair Jessica Large, Secretary Jason Rodriguez, Treasurer Dianne Mendez-Cantu, Board Director Craig Schneider, Board Director (left at 9:55) Tracey Vela, Board Director (arrived at 9:26)	Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent, Admin Operations Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent of Business Doug House, Asst. Superintendent, Personnel Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent of Education Debbie Daniel, Asst. Superintendent, Program Improvement Natali South, Director of Executive Support
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- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
 - Mr. Caouette called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Action: Approval of Agenda**
 - Ms. Large moved to approve the agenda.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Schneider; 2 Absent: Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted
- 3. Action: Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2020**
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the Minutes from the December 10, 2020 meeting.
 - Ms. Large seconded.
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Schneider; 2 Absent: Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted

4. **Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**
 - Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Warrants and Personnel Action Report.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Schneider; 2 Absent: Nagelvoort, Vela; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted

5. **Information: PUBLIC COMMENTS**
 - None

6. **Superintendent's Report**
 - Dr. Hermsmeyer reviewed the Superintendent's Report and provided updates regarding plans to allow families to choose options that they are comfortable with regarding attending class in person or doing Distance Learning. Additionally, she indicated that at this point, we will be encouraging staff to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, but will not be requiring it.

7. **Information: School Meal Program Update**
 - Tanya Rogers provided an update regarding offering meals at no cost to our students, other children in their families as well as youth in the community.

8. **Information: Account Accountability Report Card 2019-20**
 - Amy Podratz reviewed the School Accountability Report Card and indicated that the data is from 2019-20. It has been posted on the website, per the legal requirement.

9. **Information: Update Regarding Favorable Office of Administrative Hearing Ruling**
 - Kathy Cox informed the Board that Empire Springs received a favorable ruling from the Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH). The judge ruled completely in our favor, indicating that the appropriate services were offered to the student.

10. **Information: College and Career Dashboard Information**
 - Debbie Thurston reviewed the College and Career Dashboard report with the Board and answered their questions.

11. **Action: Approval of Auditor Selection**
 - Ms. Vela moved to approve the Auditor Selection.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Discussion: Tanya Rogers indicated that staff is very pleased with our auditors and would like to retain them for next year's audit.
 - Vote: 6 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vela;

1 Absent: Nagelvoort; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted

12. **Action: Approval of Resolution for Wiring Funds**

- Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the Resolution for Wiring Funds.
- Ms. Large seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers indicated that a Resolution is required in order for Empire Springs to be able to wire funds when necessary.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vela; 1 Absent: Nagelvoort; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted

13. **Action: Approval of Revenue Anticipation Note**

- Ms. Vela moved to approve the Revenue Anticipation Note
- Ms. Large seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers indicated that due to deferred funding from the State, it will be necessary to borrow funds.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vela; 1 Absent: Nagelvoort; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted

14. **Action: Approval of Attendance and Staff Calendar for 2021-2022**

- Ms. Mendez-Cantu moved to approve the Approval of Attendance and Staff Calendar for 2021-2022.
- Ms. Vela seconded.
- Discussion: Amy Podratz reviewed the proposed calendar for 2021-2022.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Schneider, Vela; 1 Absent: Nagelvoort; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted

15. **Action: Ratification of Safe Schools Reopening Plan**

- Mr. Rodriguez moved to approve the Ratification of Safe Schools Plan.
- Ms. Large seconded.
- Discussion: Debbie Daniel indicated that schools are required to develop a plan for safe reopening of schools. The approved plan must be posted on the website and submitted to various agencies.
- Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Vela; 2 Absent: Nagelvoort, Schneider; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted

16. **Action: Second Reading and Approval of BP 5024.1 - Suicide Prevention**
- Ms. Vela moved to approve the Second Reading and Approval BP 5024.1 - Suicide Prevention.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Discussion: Kristin Turner indicated that the Suicide Prevention policy had been presented at a previous meeting. No changes were requested, and the policy is presented now for approval upon second reading.
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Vela; 2 Absent: Nagelvoort, Schneider; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted
17. **Closed Session - in Accordance with Gov Code Section 54957.1/54957.9 - entered into at 10:08 a.m.**
- Conference Regarding Existing Litigation - SSID 9107432548
 - Evaluation of Public Employee - Superintendent Kathleen Hermsmeyer
18. **Report of Action Taken in Closed Session**
- Conference Regarding Existing Litigation - SSID 9107432548
 - The Board approved the settlement agreement.
 - Evaluation of Public Employee - Superintendent Kathleen Hermsmeyer
 - The Board approved a favorable review for the Superintendent and thanked her for her service.
19. **Board Comments**
- Mr. Rodriguez requested to be provided information regarding the tracking of Homeschool Instructional Funds.
20. **Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**
- Ms. Large moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 a.m.
 - Ms. Mendez-Cantu seconded.
 - Vote: 5 Ayes: Caouette, Large, Mendez-Cantu, Rodriguez, Vela; 2 Absent: Nagelvoort, Schneider; 0 Noes, Motion Adopted



Jessica Large, Secretary

March 11, 2021

Date