

**CHATOM UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Chatom Library with Physical Distancing and Virtual Zoom Platform**  
**March 9, 2021**

Tuesday, March 9, 2021  
Closed Session: 6:30 p.m.  
Public Session: 7:00 p.m.

***Any writings or documents that are public records*** and are provided to the Governing Board regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the District Office located at 7201 Clayton Road, Turlock, CA, during normal business hours.

**The Chatom Union School Board of Trustees welcomes you** to its meetings which are regularly scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month. Your interest is encouraged and appreciated. There are two procedures for public comment. They are:

**Commenting on Items Not on the Agenda**

California law prohibits the Board from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency by the Board of Trustees.

The audience may comment on items that are not on the agenda during the Public Comments section, only. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes maximum.

**Commenting on Agenda Items**

**Procedures**

1. Prior to the meeting, fill out a 3x5 agenda comment card. Wait for the Item to be announced.
2. Item Announced
3. Board Motion/ Second
4. Public Comment (3 minute maximum)
5. Close of Public Comments
6. Board Discussion
7. Board Vote

**Consent Calendar**

Items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and are acted on by the Board of Trustees in one motion. There is no discussion of these items before the vote unless a Board member, staff or public requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar. It is understood that the administration recommends approval on all Consent Items. Each item approved by the Board shall be deemed to have been considered in full and adopted as recommended.)

**The District welcomes Spanish and other language speakers** to Board meetings. Anyone planning to attend and needing an interpreter should call (209) 664-8505, 24 hours in advance of the meeting, so arrangements can be made for an interpreter. *El Distrito da la bienvenida a las personas que hablan español a las juntas de la Mesa Directiva. Si planea asistir y necesita interpretación llame al (209) 664-8505, 24 horas antes de la junta, para poder hacer arreglos de interpretación.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

1.1    **Roll Call**

Steve Soderstrom X, Karen Macedo X,  
Anthony Avila X, Ryan Blount X, Rob Santos X

1.2    **Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

1.3    **Adjourn to Closed Session**

## **2. CLOSED SESSION**

*Disclosure of Items Discussed in Closed Session (Gov. Code 54947.7)*

- 2.1 Public Employee Appointment  
(Gov. Code 54957 and 54954.5 (e))
- 2.2 Public Employees Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Non-re-election/Leaves of Absence/Resignation/Retirements And Resolution Regarding Reduction or Discontinuance of Source (Gov. Code 44949 (e) and Gov. Code 44955)  
The Board accepted the retirement of Classified Employee #03-09-21-01/Cecilia Santos, and Classified Employee #03-02-21-02/Vitalina Bettencourt

APPROVED

Motion: Rob Santos Second: Karen Macedo  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

- 2.3 Negotiations

- 2.4 Adjournment Back to Public Session

Adjourned to public session at 7:01  
APPROVED

Motion: Anthony Avila Second: Ryan Blount  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

## **3. OPEN SESSION: CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 by President Steve Soderstrom

- 3.1 Roll Call  
Steve Soderstrom X, Karen Macedo X,  
Anthony Avila X, Ryan Blount X, Rob Santos X
- 3.2 Flag Salute  
The flag salute was led by Board President, Steve Soderstrom
- 3.3 Report from Closed Session  
The Board accepted retirement of Classified Employee #03-09-21-01, and Classified Employee #03-09-21-02
- 3.4 Approval of Agenda  
APPROVED  
Motion: Karen Macedo Second: Rob Santos  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

## **4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 4.1 Board Minutes

- 4.2 Fiscal Services – Warrants/Payroll

4.3 Collection of Developer Fees (if any)

APPROVED

Motion: Karen Macedo Second: Rob Santos

Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION**

- 5.1 Stanislaus Partners in Education (S.P.I.E.) Grant in the Amount of \$300 Awarded to Mrs. Salas for Class Incentives  
Cherise congratulated Alex Salas on the award of the S.P.I.E grant. Mrs. Salas explained that the funds will be used to purchase prizes for students in her classroom's, Cactus Corner Store. She asked her students to write out lists of types of items that they need, and she will purchase those items to have available to them at the store. She shared that students earn cactus cash by having good attendance and good behavior.

There were no other public comments.

**6. INFORMATION**

- 6.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. Olvera reported that the next PTC meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021. Cherise also shared that students had a lot of fun dressing up during Dr. Seuss week.

- 6.2 Board Financial Summary Report

Kelly shared that the cafeteria fund was at a negative cash balance on the summary, but she had received a check that would be deposited and would bring the balance back up to a positive.

- 6.3 Communication from the Stanislaus County Office of Education Regarding the 2020-2021 First Interim Report

Kelly shared that the District received a positive certification for the First Interim Report from the Stanislaus County Office of Education.

- 6.4 Program Reports:

- Chatom Elementary School

Sara reported that Chatom had a great start to students coming back to 5 day in-person learning. She shared that classified and certificated staff have done a fabulous job at helping students feel happy, safe, and supported. She also shared the character trait for the month of March is respect. Chatom is continuing to share their "power of yet" statements that was carried over from last month. Chatom participated in "Read Across America", and celebrated reading with Dr. Seuss week, along with having a different theme to dress up as every day of the week. Sara also

reported that Chatom is continuing Warrior Wednesday, and Student of the Month. She thanked teachers for doing an outstanding job presenting how proud they are of their student via virtual presentation.

Sara also shared that Chatom is starting to prepare for statewide testing in April.

- Mt. View Middle School

Steve reported that Mountain View has moved their morning announcements to every afternoon at 2:30, and it can be heard on the loudspeaker, from the parking lot. He shared that he is also happy to feel some of the normalcy of being back to school for 5 days of in-person learning. He shared that third quarter ends this Friday, March 12, 2021. He also reported that he has 17 eighth grade students that are working to get back on track to graduate, and there are 5 that have already gotten back on track. He reported that they are beginning preparation for ELPAC testing, and he reported that CAASPP testing will begin after Easter break. Karen Macedo asked what plans he had in place for those students that are not up to standards. Steve said they have created projects for those students to try to get the students back on track for graduation. He also put out an email to ask any staff member that may be interested in adopting a student in need of extra support. Many staff members have been reaching out to those students that are struggling and motivating them daily by continuing to try to offer support to get them back on track. Steve reported that the enrollment for Mountain View is currently at 197 students. Track and Field practice starts this Thursday and Friday. All students will be practicing, but students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be competing, while students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be treated as if it were a camp. Kristin Santos reported that there are 3 track meets scheduled in April. The schools that are scheduled include Hickman, Big Valley, and Hughson. Rob Santos asked about basketball. Steve said that he hadn't heard anything about indoor sports being approved but he would look into it. Cherise said she would also be looking into if basketball was one of the approved sports as well.

- Chatom State Preschool

Sandra reported that preschool is working on frogs, worms, and ladybugs. She shared that preschool registration is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>, and there was a parent meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sandra shared that preschool is receiving an Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program Grant (IEEEP), with 3 main activities for the use of the grant funds. The activities are facilities, professional development, and adaptive equipment. Items that Sandra

would like to use these funds on include; 2 cement ramps, playground surface, walkway repair, removal of an old tree, a new shade structure, 2 new water faucets, new play equipment, materials, push cars, professional development, coaching, one-on-one support, and additional renovations and repairs. Sandra is hoping to begin on June 1, 2021.

- Chatom Union School District

Mrs. Olvera reported that the total enrollment in February was 566 and it is currently at 582 (Chatom Elementary 386 and Mountain View 196). There was an increase of 16 students since last month and an additional 3 that have started since then. Cherise reported that there are currently 47 students at Chatom that are participating in the R.I.S.E. program, and 44 students at Mountain View. Cherise shared an update on Senate Bill 86. The legislation includes an In-Person Grant and an Expanded Learning Grant. In order to receive the In-Person Grant the district must offer in-person instruction to students by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Expanded Learning Grant will be based on homeless student enrollment and LCFF entitlement.

Cherise also reported that it was discovered on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> that the Chatom Elementary outdoor freezer was broken into sometime over the weekend. The total amount of theft was \$9,046.35 but there are still some outstanding invoices. There was a police report filed with Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, and there will be an insurance report filed. Cherise reported that there are some outdoor projects that will be occurring. They include the upcoming preschool outdoor project, and an upcoming Mountain View parking lot irrigation system repair. Once the repair is completed at Mountain View, they will explore options to filter the manganese. She asked Dr. Rob Santos if he would continue as the contact for these outdoor projects, and he said that would be fine.

Cherise also gave a state assessment update. She reported that ELPAC testing would begin at both sites and Karen Macedo asked how testing would be handled for students that are still on distance learning. Cherise let her know that testing can be done either remotely or on site. However, the goal is to try to get all students to test on site. Karen commented that she is also pleased to see enrollment numbers going up and hopes the number is up to 600 by the next meeting.

## 7. ACTION

- 7.1 Consider Approval of Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Section B: Governance and Administration  
The Governance and Administration section of the local SELPA Plan was presented for Board consideration and approval. It is a requirement that the plan be presented to the Board every three years.

APPROVED

Motion: Karen Macedo Second: Rob Santos  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

- 7.2 Consider Receipt of California School Employees Association (CSEA) and Its Chatom Chapter #585 Initial Public Sunshine Proposal

Mrs. Olvera reported that last night she received the initial Sunshine proposal from CSEA Chapter #585. The CSEA sunshine included: Article XVIII increase to salary, longevity and steps. Article XVIII increase to classified health benefit cap and Article 4.3.2 proposing to amend current language on extended illness leave.

APPROVED

Motion: Rob Santos Second: Karen Macedo  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

- 7.3 Consider Approval of DIACARTA Laboratory Services Agreement

Cherise shared that all employees are still required to continue COVID surveillance testing under the current state guidance. All staff members are tested every eight weeks. Currently testing is being done off site at local free clinics and pharmacies. Now that students are back full-time, she has been researching more convenient and less invasive options. She shared that she received a sample DIACARTA saliva-based testing kit that is \$60.00 per kit. The self-administered saliva-based PCR test is reliable and less invasive. Specimens are collected on site, sent to the lab via FedEx and the results are ready in 24-48 hours. This test is ranked in the top 3 among all the tests that have been FDA EUA approved. Rob Santos asked how many staff members are being tested weekly and Cherise answered, there are about 8-10 staff members tested per week. He also asked if this is a requirement and Cherise let him know it is a state requirement. Anthony Avila asked if these tests are paid for with COVID money and Cherise confirmed that they are being paid through COVID funds.

APPROVED

Motion: Rob Santos Second: Anthony Avila  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

7.4 Consider Approval of E-Rate Bid for Internet Access: ISP Services Only

Cherise reported that she received one bid from the Stanislaus County Office of Education for Category I Internet Services, and it was for \$10,000.00. She reported that she did receive one other bid, but it was received after the cutoff. The district would be responsible for paying \$1,000.00, and E-Rate would fund the remaining \$9,000.00.

APPROVED

Motion: Anthony Avila Second: Rob Santos  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

7.5 Consider Approval of 2020-2021 Master Agreement with Stanislaus County Office of Education

Cherise shared that this is an annual contract with the County and this contract includes several services such as legal, psychologist, nursing, and mail services. She also shared that we may need to add clinician services to replace the ERMHS program because SELPA is discontinuing the service as part of the SELPA pool. Kelly shared that currently there is an increase of \$953.09 compared to last year.

APPROVED

Motion: Karen Macedo Second: Ryan Blount  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

7.6 Consider Approval of a District Roving Substitute from March 10-May 28, 2021 for COVID-19 Coverage and/or Student Support (Substitute Credential is Required but Full Credential Requirement is Waived for this Position)

Cherise reported on how there is currently a shortage in substitutes due to COVID-19. Many Districts in the county are having difficulty acquiring substitutes even though some have temporarily increased the rate of pay for substitutes. In order to be proactive in securing a substitute, she suggested hiring a District roving substitute until the end of the school year. This action would secure a substitute every day in the event one was needed, and the days when a substitute was not needed the substitute would push-in classrooms to support students to assist in

learning loss mitigation. She explained the sub pay is \$120.00 per day, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day it goes up to \$130.00, and on the 41<sup>st</sup> day it increases to \$234.00 per day. Steve Soderstrom asked if we had someone in mind, and Cherise let him know that the sub we had in mind just finished a long-term assignment for one of our teachers. Karen Macedo asked if it would be okay for this person to go into different cohorts, and Cherise said it is allowable. Steve Lewis added that this roving substitute would be beneficial especially when he has a situation where his teachers need to quarantine. Sara Cruz added that she has been fortunate enough to have her long-term substitutes, but that Chatom would always have a need for the extra support. Cherise informed the Board that this position would also be paid for with COVID funds.

APPROVED

Motion: Rob Santos Second: Karen Macedo

Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

- 7.7 Consider Approval of 2020-2021 Second Interim Report  
Kelly gave her update from First Interim and Second Interim report changes. She reported that with the COVID pandemic, the District should be watching the numbers closely. She reported that current year and next year's funding is based on 2019-2020's ADA of 560.68. Kelly spoke on enrollment as of the beginning of February, which was at 566. She shared that the Governor announced that there would be no COLA given in the current year. She shared that some of the decreases were due to items such as; less bus repairs, less transportation cost, and no outdoor education costs for 2020-2021. She also shared that the district still meets the minimum reserve requirements. Steve Soderstrom asked if the large drop in the 2022-2023 projection was due to enrollment, and she confirmed that yes, it was due to enrollment.

APPROVED

Motion: Rob Santos Second: Anthony Avila

Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

- 7.8 Consider Approval of Reopening Date for Transportation and After-School Childcare Program  
Cherise shared all of the safety protocols that are in place to open transportation. She shared that masks would have to be worn at all times, the children would be using hand sanitizer when boarding and again when getting off the bus, physical distancing would be followed while on the bus, assigned seating, windows would be open, buses would be

sanitized and disinfected after routes and students would load from the back to the front of the bus and unload in the opposite order so students do not pass near each other. Cherise shared that if the board voted to reopen transportation, each bus would have to undergo the 45-day inspection. Cherise also shared on one of the last surveys that was done which indicated 16% of families stated that they were not able to attend in-person instruction due to lack of transportation. Sara reported that she has 14 students at her campus that are on the R.I.S.E. program. The Board decided to leave transportation as status quo and table it until the April Board Meeting.

7.9 Consider Approval of Short-Term Classified Positions March 10, 2021 - May 28, 2021. (Possible Custodial, Para, SLPA as or if Needed for COVID-19 Coverage)

Cherise explained that some of these positions may be needed when transportation reopens. The current bus drivers have been doing a great job in their reassigned duties, but once they return to driving bus another employee will need to cover their current assignment. The Speech and Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) is needed due to the COVID schedule. There are currently 55 students on the caseload and the Speech teacher is not able to pull large groups because she cannot mix students from different cohorts. The SLPA will be needed to meet the required service minutes for speech during COVID protocols. The Board gave Cherise the authority to hire if a short-term classified position is needed.

APPROVED

Motion: Anthony Avila Second: Rob Santos  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

**8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

Cherise asked the Board if they would like to have the April Board Meeting in person or via Zoom. The Board requested to have the April Board Meeting in person.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Time: 8:46 PM  
APPROVED  
Motion: Rob Santos Second: Karen Macedo  
Vote: Ayes 5 Noes 0 Abstentions 0