

**CHATOM UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Virtual Zoom Platform  
February 8, 2022**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
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**

**Time: 6:40 p.m.**

- 1.1 Roll Call  
Karen Macedo X, Rob Santos AB, Anthony Avila X,  
Ryan Blount X, Steve Soderstrom X
- 1.2 Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items
- 1.3 Adjourn to Closed Session

APPROVED

Motion: Steve Soderstrom      Second: Ryan Blount

Vote:      Ayes 4              Noes 0              Abstentions 0

**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)

2.3 Negotiations

2.4 Adjournment Back to Public Session

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

**Time: 7:01pm**

3.1 Roll Call

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

3.2 Flag Salute

The flag salute was led by Board President, Karen Macedo.

3.3 Report from Closed Session

The Board approved the resignation of employee #02-08-22-01, and employee #02-08-22-02.

3.4 Approval of Agenda

APPROVED

Motion: Anthony Avila      Second: Steve Soderstrom

Vote: Ayes 4              Noes 0              Abstentions 0

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

4.1 Board Minutes

4.2 Fiscal Services – Warrants/Payroll

4.3 Declaration of Obsolete Items

4.4 Collection of Developer Fees

4.5 Approval of Microsoft Software Agreement Renewal

4.6 Consider Reaffirming Findings of Resolution #10-12-21-01 for Use of Virtual Meetings

Approval of Consent Calendar  
APPROVED

Motion: Ryan Blount Second: Steve Soderstrom

Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

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

The Board opened public comment to participants online.

- A staff member spoke on an item not on the agenda regarding concerns over the mask mandate. Her concern comes for her students, as a parent, a teacher, an employee, and community member. She asked the Board how they plan to support the mask mandate since other districts are treating it differently. She also asked the Board if they plan on testing all employees regardless of vaccination status, and the defining moment when masks will no longer be required.
- A Board Member commented that he doesn't agree with a lot of the decisions of the State either but stated that we must still follow protocols and be safe. He said that the District and Board Members, see and feel the pressure coming from both points of view. We have to do what is best for our students, staff, and community.
- A group of community parents attended the Board Meeting to voice their concern and opinions on the mask mandate. The parents made statements as to why Chatom Union School District should not continue to have students wear masks. Parents gave various reasons as to why they believe the mask mandate should be lifted. One reason given was that it is delaying the students' learning capabilities since students can't see their teacher's mouth for pronunciation and letter sounds.
- Another parent commented that students should have a choice on the mask mandate. She stated it should be based on their comfort, for talking, breathing, and learning.
- Another Board Member expressed that he understands and sees both points of views but stated we as a community must understand that we are risking our insurance coverage and liability protection. Not all of us agree with the mask mandate but we all still need to comply. He shared that he also has children who struggle with the masks, but he still has his children wear masks.
- Another parent asked if her student doesn't wear a mask, what would be the consequences? The parent expressed

that if other districts weren't enforcing the mask mandate, then why should we? What do we need to do to make the mask mandate a choice?

- Superintendent, Cherise Olvera, expressed her understanding for all of the parents' frustrations. She stated that the District is doing what is necessary to keep our schools open for students and not put the District at risk of potential liability. Once the mandate becomes optional for Districts, it will become optional for families. She also shared that she would follow up with nearby District Superintendents to get more information as to what is occurring in other Districts.

5.1 Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department K-9 Association and Walmart Neighborhood Market Donation of School Supplies to Chatom Elementary and Mountain View Middle School

5.2 Education Foundation of Stanislaus County Donation of \$3,000 for Outdoor Education

Superintendent, Mrs. Olvera, thanked the Sheriff's Department K-9 Association, and Walmart Neighborhood Market for the wonderful visit, and donation of school supplies for our students. She expressed appreciation for the donation and partnership. It was an honor that the association selected our District for the donation.

Mrs. Olvera also thanked the Education Foundation from Stanislaus County Office of Education for their kind donation of \$3,000 to Mountain View for their outdoor education trip.

Mrs. Olvera notified the Board that we would be sending out thank you letters for all the donations. A copy of the thank you letters were included in the board packet.

## **6. INFORMATION**

6.1 Calendar of Events

6.2 Board Financial Summary Report

Business Manager, Kelly Machado, went over fund balances, income, expenditures, and ending balances. She explained that the cafeteria fund is in the negative because we have a pending deposit from the State. Once the deposit goes through, the cafeteria resource will be back in good standing.

6.3 Communication from the Stanislaus County Office of Education Regarding an Audit Extension

Business Manager, Kelly Machado, reported that the auditor requested an audit extension. The request was granted by the Stanislaus County Office of Education. The audit timeline was extended to April 1, 2022.

6.4 Program Reports:

- **Chatom Elementary School**  
Chatom Principal, Sara Cruz, expressed that it was a great month. The students at Chatom made New Year's resolutions for 2022. The students also learned about the history of the Martin Luther King holiday. Chatom celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and got to dress up like 100 years old, which made it fun for all the students. Chatom also got to experience a wonderful visit from the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department K-9 Association. The students' faces were very delighted, and they were grateful and appreciative of the visit, and donations. Everyone at Chatom has also been working on good character traits. The character trait for the month of January was "respect." Not only did the students learn different ways of being respectful, but they got to point out real life scenarios, involving respect.
- **Mountain View Middle School**  
Mountain View Principal, Steve Lewis, shared that it's great to see students look happy to be hanging out with friends during lunch and break. Progress reports for Mountain View were just sent. Mr. Lewis expressed there's only a quarter and a half left of the school year, and before you know it, it's graduation and 8<sup>th</sup> graders progress to high school. The boys' basketball team (Team B/6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders) have had a spectacular undefeated record. There were about 5 games that were very intense, and Mountain View won by 1 point, or have won in overtime. Mr. Lewis also gave great news regarding the virtual Summit Day because they had a very high rate of students who qualified and participated in the event. He also shared that there were twenty-nine (29) students with straight A's in the last quarter. The after-school programs are back, which a lot of students look forward to, especially as it gets closer to the end of the school year. Mr. Lewis also asked for the Board's input on outdoor education. Outdoor education wasn't available last year, so he wanted to have both 6<sup>th</sup>

and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students attend together. In prior years, students attended a four-day program. This year that is not an option. Currently they are looking into the option of attending for two nights, and three days, or to attend for one full day and plan another field trip elsewhere on another day. The Board commented on how the outdoor education experience is great for students. They suggested looking further into going one full day to outdoor education and to seek input from students on a possible second fieldtrip.

- **Chatom State Preschool**  
Preschool Director, Sandra Nunes, reported that the Preschool AM class currently has 24 students enrolled, and the Preschool PM class currently has 18 students enrolled. Mrs. Nunes shared that students are currently focusing on friendships and having respect for one another. They recently held a parent meeting via Zoom on Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The parent meeting consisted of reviewing and completing the State Desired Results for Children and Families Parent Survey. Mrs. Nunes also stated TK and Kindergarten registration is currently taking place, for the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Chatom Union School District**  
Superintendent, Cherise Olvera, shared that sadly, Mrs. Paulina Johnson, a previous teacher in our District, passed away over the weekend. Paulina was employed with the Chatom Union School District from 1972-2006. She extended our condolences to Mrs. Johnson's family. Mrs. Olvera reported the COVID data from January 6-February 2. She explained that when we returned from winter break, numbers were high, but they have now continued to decrease. Mrs. Olvera also shared that the District is no longer required to track and report known contacts. This will help reduce the number of messages and emails parents are currently receiving. The District will continue to notify parents of positive exposures. Some parents and/or families want a lot of information, while others prefer minimal information. Mrs. Olvera also shared that there are two forms of contract tracing which are allowed under the new K-12 CDPH Guidance. The District currently follows the isolation and individual contact tracing approach. However, the

District is looking into transitioning to the alternative method which is the isolation and group tracing model which allows for a quicker and broader response to cases identified in school settings, accomplishable through prompt notification, testing and isolation protocols. Lastly, Mrs. Olvera shared the exciting visit from the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department K-9 Association. Several Deputies from the K-9 unit visited both Chatom and Mountain View to deliver donated school supplies and visit with students.

- 6.5 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Report:
- Mrs. Olvera reviewed the mid-year outcome data, metrics, and expenditures. She also presented the supplement to the annual update for the 2021-2022 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

## 7. ACTION

- 7.1 Consider Approval of 2022 Ballot for CSBA Delegate Assembly  
The Board nominated Faye Lane from the CUSD.  
APPROVED  
Motion: Steve Soderstrom Second: Anthony Avila  
Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0
- 7.2 Consider Approval of Agreement for Special Contract Services with Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) for Literacy Instruction Training Part II  
APPROVED  
Motion: Steve Soderstrom Second: Ryan Blount  
Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0
- 7.3 Consider Approval of Resolution #02-08-22-01 to Enter into Agreement with the California Department of Education for the Purpose of Providing Child Care and Development Services and to Authorize Designated Personnel to Sign Transactions  
APPROVED  
Motion: Anthony Avila Second: Ryan Blount  
Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0
- 7.4 Consider Approval of School Accountability Report Card for Mountain View Middle School  
APPROVED  
Motion: Steve Soderstrom Second: Anthony Avila  
Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

7.5 Consider Approval of School Accountability Report Card for Chatom Elementary School

APPROVED

Motion: Ryan Blount Second: Steve Soderstrom

Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

7.6 Consider Approval of Revised Safety Plan

APPROVED

Motion: Anthony Avila Second: Steve Soderstrom

Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0

**8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

- Mrs. Olvera advised the Board Members to check their email and fill out their Form 700 no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board asked Mrs. Olvera to reach out to local Superintendents regarding the mask mandate on school grounds.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Time: 8:46pm**

APPROVED

Motion: Steve Soderstrom Second: Anthony Avila

Vote: Ayes 4 Noes 0 Abstentions 0