



**WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

May 13, 2021

Consistent with the Shelter in Place orders from the Governor and Yolo County, this meeting was compliant with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, which allowed for a deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. In-person attendance was not permitted. The meeting was available for live stream viewing, and recordings are available at <https://livestream.com/wjUSD> (click on the Board Meeting date).

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM:

Present:

Deborah Bautista Zavala
Morgan Childers
Bibiana Garcia
Kandice Richardson Fowler
Noel Rodriguez
Rogelio Villagrana
Jake Whitaker

A. CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION - 5:00 P.M.

Minutes:

The Board President called the meeting to order in Open Session at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom and the meeting was live streamed and recorded via Vimeo Livestream.

B. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA - ACTION

Minutes:

Superintendent Tom Pritchard moved item I.2.b. *Information: Update on the Hiring of a Public Information Officer* after L.2. *Information: Draft Learning Loss Mitigation Expenditure Plan.*

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the agenda as modified at the meeting. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Deborah Bautista Zavala.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers

Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

C. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA: Per Board Bylaw 9323, comments shall be limited to three minutes per person, and the Board shall limit the total time for public comment on each item to 20 minutes unless extended by a vote of the Board. If you wish to make a comment regarding Closed Session items, there are four (4) ways to do that: 1. Live Public Comments: Sign up by 4:00 pm on or before the day of the Board Meeting via Google Form <https://forms.gle/LtPgybsatzrD8NuT8> or in-person with the receptionist at the District Office. Individuals who sign up to share their public comments live at the meeting will be emailed a Zoom link and phone number between 4 and 5 pm to join the meeting via Zoom or phone. The Board President will call on individuals by name when it is their turn to speak. 2. Voicemail Public Comments: Public comments may also be submitted by voicemail by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date, at 530-406-5800, and they will be played during the meeting if time permits. Please indicate the item's number and title in your message. 3. Written Public Comments (email): Public comments may also be submitted via email by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date to public.comment@wjusd.org. Public comments submitted via email will be included in the meeting minutes, but will not be read during the meeting. 4. Written Public Comments (postal service): Public comments may also be submitted by mail postmarked on or before the Board Meeting date, at Attn: Public Comment, 435 6th Street, Woodland, CA 95695, and they will be included in the meeting minutes.

Minutes:

No public comments were submitted for Closed Session agenda items.

D. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

D.1. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

D.2. Conference With Labor Negotiator, Leanee Medina Estrada: WEA and/or CSEA, Pursuant to Govt. Code 54957.6

D.3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Pursuant to Government Code 54957: Superintendent

D.4. Public Employee Appointment/Employment, Pursuant to Government Code 54957:

D.4.a. Superintendent

Minutes:

The Board recessed at 5:03 p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 5:03 p.m. Closed Session ended at 6:20 p.m.

E. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

Minutes:

The Board President reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 6:20 p.m. The Board recognized the passing of Cruz Reynoso, American civil rights lawyer and jurist, and the first Chicano Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court.

E.1. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Trustee Noel Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E.2. Announcement of any action taken in Closed Session or items to be approved in Open Session that were reviewed in Closed Session

Minutes:

The Board President announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SECTION G. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Minutes:

There were no public comments for section G. Community Engagement.

G. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

G.1. Action: Approve Resolution 59-21: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - May 2021

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 59-21: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - May 2021. Passed with a motion by Kandice Richardson Fowler and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Trustee Kandice Richardson Fowler presented Resolution 59-21 to Lisa Yep Salinas.

G.2. Action: Approve Resolution 60-21: Foster Care Month - May 2021

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Resolution 60-21: Foster Care Month - May 2021. Passed with a motion by Kandice Richardson Fowler and a second by Rogelio Villagrana.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

Trustee Kandice Richardson Fowler presented Resolution 60-21 to Angelina Arias.

G.3. Recognition: Pioneer High School Teacher David Bayne

Minutes:

Trustee Deborah Bautista Zavala recognized Pioneer High School Teacher David Bayne for being named the Region 4 Advisor of the Year and California's State Advisor of the Year at the 54th Annual SkillsUSA California State Conference.

Mr. Bayne shared the following statement: *Trustees, Superintendent Pritchard, Cabinet, Colleagues, and those watching online, thank you for your acknowledgement and kind words.*

The hard work of educators is not done in a vacuum, and is very much a team effort. Without the dedication of my family, my administrators, my colleagues, and, of course, my students, I would not be in front of you tonight.

SkillsUSA is one of multiple Career and Technical Student Organizations in the district, teaching leadership and skill development to our students each year and helping them to show off what they have learned to their peers, to the community at large, and to the broader state and national community.

Watching students learn and grow is part of every teacher's world. As Advisor of a CTSO, however, this also includes taking them on their first plane trip, their first hotel stay, their first formal banquet, their first time wearing neckties. It is a different experience than just being in the classroom. Every teacher should have this experience.

Within the CTSO, students learn 22nd century skills. These are skills that are designed to help them navigate not just what they need to know to finish in our schools, but what they need to be successful in their careers and prosper throughout their life and be able to retire well.

You notice that I mention 22nd Century skills. That is not a slip of the tongue. The students we have today will very likely see the dawn of the 22nd century; it is our task to give them the skills within which they can reach their full potential and be successful. Through the SkillsUSA Framework, combining Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, and Technical Skills grounded in academics, we help them reach their full potential.

As a SkillsUSA Advisor, I have had the privilege of working with many students and fellow advisors, from Woodland, elsewhere in California, and throughout the United States. They chose to honor me as the California State Advisor of the Year this year. Thank you for your recognition tonight.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE BOARD: Per Board Bylaw 9323, comments shall be limited to three minutes per person, and the Board shall limit the total time for public comment on each item to 20 minutes unless extended by a vote of the Board. If you wish to make a comment during general public comment or on a specific agenda item, there are four (4) ways to do that: 1. Live Public Comments: Sign up by 4:00 pm on or before the day of the Board Meeting via Google Form <https://forms.gle/LtPgybsatzrD8NuT8> or in-person with the receptionist at the District Office. Individuals who sign up to share their public comments live at the meeting will be emailed a Zoom link and phone number between 4 and 5 pm to join the meeting via Zoom or phone. The Board President will call on individuals by name when it is their turn to speak. 2. Voicemail Public Comments: Public comments may also be submitted by voicemail by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date, at 530-406-5800, and they will be played during the meeting if time permits. If you wish to leave a comment regarding a specific agenda item, please indicate the item's number and title in your message. 3. Written Public Comments (email): Public comments may also be submitted via email by 4:00 pm on the Board Meeting date to public.comment@wjusd.org. Public comments submitted via email will be included in the meeting minutes, but will not be read during the meeting. 4. Written Public Comments (postal service): Public comments may also be submitted by mail postmarked on or before the Board Meeting date, at Attn: Public Comment, 435 6th Street, Woodland, CA 95695, and they will be included in the meeting minutes.

Minutes:

Jenna Myers addressed the Board regarding Teacher compensation. Please see the attached public comments submitted via email.

I. REPORTS

I.1. Report from Student Board Members

Minutes:

Pioneer High School Student Board Member Brynn Webb shared information about Pioneer HS events.

Cache Creek High School Student Board Member Kayla Calderon shared information about Cache Creek HS events.

Woodland High School Student Board Member Dora Gomez shared information about Woodland HS events.

The Board recessed the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

I.2. Superintendent's Report

I.2.a. Information: Check-in from the Previous Regular Board Meeting

Minutes:

Superintendent Pritchard provided brief updates to the Board of Trustees on actions taken since the last Regular Board Meeting.

I.2.b. Information: Update on the Hiring of a Public Information Officer

Minutes:

This item was addressed during item L.2. *Information: Draft Learning Loss Mitigation Expenditure Plan.*

I.3. Report from California School Employees Association (CSEA)

Minutes:

CSEA President Todd Freer shared information regarding CSEA activities.

I.4. Report from Woodland Education Association (WEA)

Minutes:

WEA President Jen Drewek shared information regarding WEA activities.

I.5. Report from Board Members

Minutes:

Trustees Bautista Zavala, Garcia, Richardson Fowler, Rodriguez, Villagrana, and Whitaker shared information regarding activities that they have participated in since the last Regular Board Meeting.

I.6. Information: Board Committee Updates

Minutes:

Trustee Bautista Zavala provided updates on a recent Collaborative for Woodland Youth (CWY) meeting, and an Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting. Trustee Richardson Fowler provided updates on a recent committee meeting to Revise High School Graduation Requirements, and a Yolo County School Boards Association meeting.

J. TEACHING AND LEARNING

J.1. Information/Action: Update on WJUSD's Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Impacts

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve hiring a Virtual Program Administrator and an Administrative Secretary. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Jake Whitaker.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

J.2. Information: Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) 2020-21 Annual Update

Minutes:

This item was tabled.

J.3. Information/Action: Joint Education Services Plan for Expelled Students Within Yolo County

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Joint Education Services Plan for Expelled Students Within Yolo County. Passed with a motion by Kandice Richardson Fowler and a second by Jake Whitaker.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Abstain Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

K. GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

K.1. Action: Approve Updated Board Governance Handbook

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Updated Board Governance Handbook. Passed with a motion by Rogelio Villagrana and a second by Jake Whitaker.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

L. FACILITIES AND FINANCE

L.1. Information: Nutrition Services Department Follow-up Report

Minutes:

This item was tabled.

Per the Superintendent's recommendation, the Board agreed to move item L.2. *Information: Draft Learning Loss Mitigation Expenditure Plan* prior to item N. *CONSENT AGENDA*.

L.3. Action: Approve Bid for the Spring Lake Elementary Interim Relocatable Classrooms

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Bid from Landmark Construction in the amount of \$333,622 for the Spring Lake Elementary Interim Relocatable Classrooms. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Morgan Childers.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- No Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

L.4. Action: Approve Bid for the Maxwell Elementary and Sci-Tech Playground Asphalt Repair and Replacement

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Bid from Big S Asphalt in the amount of \$319,075 for the Maxwell Elementary and Sci-Tech Playground Asphalt Repair and Replacement. Passed with a motion by Morgan Childers and a second by Jake Whitaker.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers

- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Abstain Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

M. HUMAN RESOURCES

M.1. Action: Approve Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2021-2022

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators for 2021-2022. Passed with a motion by Kandice Richardson Fowler and a second by Jake Whitaker.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- Yes Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

Minutes:

The Board recessed the meeting at 9:40 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Motion Passed: Motion was made to not adhere to the 11:00 pm adjournment for Regular Board Meetings per Bylaw 9323: Meeting Conduct. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Deborah Bautista Zavala.

- Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
- No Morgan Childers
- Yes Bibiana Garcia
- Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
- Yes Noel Rodriguez
- Yes Rogelio Villagrana
- Yes Jake Whitaker

L.2. Information: Draft Learning Loss Mitigation Expenditure Plan

Minutes:

The Information item "Draft Learning Loss Mitigation Expenditure Plan" was presented by Superintendent Tom Pritchard, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Leanee Medina Estrada.

N. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes:

Trustee Rogelio Villagrana pulled for separate action Consent Agenda item N.4.a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes: N.4.a.I. April 15, 2021 - Special Board Meeting, and N.4.a.II. April 22, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting.

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, as modified at the meeting. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Kandice Richardson Fowler.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala
Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Yes Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

N.1. Business Services

N.1.a. Approve Purchases of Items/Services in Excess of \$15,000: List 17-21

N.2. Educational Services

N.2.a. Approve the 2021-2022 Designation of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Representatives to League for Pioneer and Woodland High Schools

N.3. Human Resources

N.3.a. Approve Certificated Personnel Report, 21-16

N.3.b. Approve Classified Personnel Report, 21-16

N.4. Superintendent's Office

N.4.a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes:

N.4.a.I. April 15, 2021 - Special Board Meeting

N.4.a.II. April 22, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting

Motion Passed: Motion was made to approve Board Meeting Minutes: N.4.a.I. April 15, 2021 - Special Board Meeting, and N.4.a.II. April 22, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting. Passed with a motion by Jake Whitaker and a second by Morgan Childers.

Yes Deborah Bautista Zavala

Yes Morgan Childers
Yes Bibiana Garcia
Yes Kandice Richardson Fowler
Yes Noel Rodriguez
Abstain Rogelio Villagrana
Yes Jake Whitaker

O. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

O.1. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

O.2. Conference With Labor Negotiator, Leanee Medina Estrada: WEA and/or CSEA, Pursuant to Govt. Code 54957.6

O.3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Pursuant to Government Code 54957: Superintendent

O.4. Public Employee Appointment/Employment, Pursuant to Government Code 54957:

O.4.a. Superintendent

Minutes:

The Board recessed at 11:19 p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 11:19 p.m. Closed Session ended at 12:23 a.m.

P. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Minutes:

The Board President reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 12:23 a.m.

P.1. Announcement of any action taken in Closed Session or items to be approved in Open Session that were reviewed in Closed Session

Minutes:

The Board President announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

Q. INFORMATION: TRUSTEE REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

R. INFORMATION: CLOSING COMMENTS

S. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING: May 27, 2021 - Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

T. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 12:24 a.m.

BOARD CLERK

BOARD PRESIDENT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 13, 2021

Public Comments

I am Mesena Pimentel Vice President of the Middle School Music Boosters and on behalf of our board would like to express our concerns regarding inclusion of "arts" curriculum in summer programs.

As a result of school closures from COVID, the Douglass MS band enrollment numbers for the 2021-2022 academic year are lower than average. The Music Boosters board also noticed that WJUSD summer programs for 2021 does not have an "Arts" course. The WJUSD School Board had specifically requested that summer programs would include courses focused on the "Arts". We are asking that WJUSD add a summer Band course to include 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th in a combined option class for the Summer of 2021. It is imperative that momentum with band starts in elementary, continue through Jr. high, and into high school. The Arts are a part of the University of California, A-G requirements. It is our understanding there could be COVID relief funds that have been given to the district, with the stipulation of spending those monies on re-engaging students in learning and mitigating the learning loss that has happened this past year. A summer Band course for 2021 will help re-engage Woodland Band students. In the Boosters discussion about a band summer course (2021); Luiz Coelho, the Douglass middle school band teacher, expressed that he will make the time to teach if given the opportunity.

Thank you for taking action, and please know that the Middle School Music Boosters appreciates all the hard work and effort gone into compiling a summer program for our Woodland students for the Summer of 2021.

Sincerely

Middle School Music Boosters

Mesena Pimentel

Maria Perez

Brian Christison

Ann Christison

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees, district executives and staff:

Parents should have a voice in the Dingle Principal hiring process. Dingle parents are passionately invested in our school. Dingle Parents are key stakeholders serving on LCAP, DLAC, ELAC, Site Council and PTA and by state law must be included on all these committees so that our voices and concerns are heard. Why should the important job of hiring a new principal be excluded?

The California PTA defines parent engagement as "effort by the school district and schools to seek input from all parents and to engage parents as partners in their children's education and in the decision making". This is a critical opportunity for stake holders and by including parents will help maintain transparency.

Yes we received a parent survey asking parents to rank a set of qualities that every person on a school campus should possess. Yet, we firmly believe this inclusion is not enough.

As an involved parent I want a principal that will be a strong instructional leader that will set high standards and provide the tools to achieve these standards. I want someone that is passionate about closing the achievement gap; someone that will positively impact student achievement. Furthermore I want a principal that will put the students first and will create consistency school wide.

I would like to suggest that the Board of Trustees take time to review the hiring practices and procedures. In order for Woodland schools to better serve the academic needs of their students I request: that the

- Trustees request WJUSD to expect the leading Dingle principal candidates to present to all parents on how they will improve academics and expand dual immersion, and that parent feedback on the candidates will weigh in decision making
- All Trustees join parents in learning how schools with demographics like Woodland's struggling schools are closing the achievement gap in the U.S.A. I suggest reading 'I Got Schooled' and then begin to asses WJUSD at all levels in comparison

Thank you
Vicki Keith
Dingle Parent/Guardian

Dear WJUSD Board,

Without a doubt, since March 13, 2020, my job as a teacher has been ever more challenging and demanding. I have had to learn new technologies, be available for families past contract hours, and had to invent intuitive, creative ways to reach my students. I have spent countless hours, non paid hours of my time going above and beyond, because that is what a teacher does. We push ourselves for the sake of our students, even at the detriment of our own families. This was the first time in my professional career as a teacher that I considered another career path due mostly to the way I feel that my profession has been devalued during this past year.

I am asking that you consider the COVID stipend for teachers that is being discussed. While it doesn't equate the actual hours of overtime myself and colleagues have put in this past year and two months, it will definitely be a gesture of appreciation. I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

in peace,

Teresa A. Ramirez
Seconde Grade Teacher
Maxwell Elementary

Good Evening, Board of Trustees and District Cabinet ~

Thank you for all the work you do and the difficult decisions you make for the greater good in service to the families, staff, and most importantly students of WJUSD. I am sorry that, at times, the situation becomes contentious with your stakeholders who, with good intention, represent a particular perspective. I write this letter in the spirit of respect, appreciation, and advocacy...

I have dedicated 25 wonderful years of my life serving as an elementary school teacher in this district, and I hope to serve many, many more. I chose to enroll my own daughter at my site, Tafoya, (rather than her neighborhood school in Davis) because I **know** WJUSD teachers are truly amazing, and quite frankly, my child, like all children, deserves only the BEST! From the perspective of a mother and a teacher, I also know how much of our heart and soul we have given selflessly daily to support our students. On a personal note, I have cried many times over the last 14 months because I gave so much to my students during Distance Learning and Hybrid Instruction, that I had nothing left for my own child. That is profound guilt.

So while none of us became teachers for the financial aspect of this profession, with all due respect, we DESERVE compensation for all the sacrifices we also have made during this pandemic. We sacrificed time with our family in the evenings and weekends to make sure we had engaging virtual lessons for our students, as well as time learning new technology and ways to be more innovative. The level of energy, positivity, and strength we had to emote for our students for the sake of their well being have taken an immeasurable toll on our own mental, physical, and emotional health. No stipend or raise will ever be enough to compensate us for that.

Therefore, as you consider and discuss priorities for the Covid Funds our district will be receiving, please be mindful that teacher compensation is not only for past service. It's an investment, as well. Teachers represent a critical role in the infrastructure of school districts. Compensation equates to valuing us, recognizing our sacrifices, and honoring our service to WJUSD and its students. In my humble opinion, your support of us directly translates to your support of students. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Respectfully submitted by,
Maria Kirkland
4th Grade Teacher

Dear WJUSD Board of Trustees,

I have been a teacher in this school district for 9 years, and I hope to continue to work to teach and serve this community for many more years. I am writing to ask that you consider teacher compensation to show recognition and appreciation for the hard work and time we have put in during this pandemic.

This school year has required more of us than ever before. We had to recreate all of our lessons to teach virtually, which takes hours of new and additional prep time. In addition, we have made packets of materials to send home with our young learners to provide them with hands-on opportunities to write on paper, do art, or participate in science experiments. We spend several hours a day with students on Zoom, which has often caused me headaches, eye irritation, and back pain. After spending our contract day with students, we now have to lesson plan for in person class, online class, and check all of their asynchronous work that they complete during the time they are not with us; it honestly feels like we have 2 jobs right now. On average, I work 2-5 hours every day outside of my normal school day, and there are many weekends where I spend an entire day trying to "catch up." However, we can never catch up; every day it feels like we are just keeping our head above water. All the schedule changes and unknowns from month to month has caused more stress and anxiety, plus more time for planning with each change and more parent communication. If you add it all up, I have easily

spent more than 400 extra hours working this year because of my dedication to my students and families.

I know how to get to every one of my students homes without looking up their address because I have personally delivered school materials and prizes for positive recognition throughout this school year. Teaching is not just about the academics but the connections we build; while "unnecessary" those waves and smiles from 10 feet away or the "surprise" left on their porch helped build relationships with my students and the materials dropped off by me took something off the plates of our hard working parents.

Our job has not only been to teach the academics, but to also remain positive and supportive for our students and families. This has taken time and has been emotionally draining -- but we do it for the kids.

We are all doing our best and more. We deserve to be recognized for our hard work as professionals during this pandemic.

Please consider compensation for the extra work we have put in this past year.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Michaela Baer

Greetings WJUSD Board,

My name is Charrise Torres. I am the parent of a Tafoya Elementary 5th grader and the parent of two PHS graduates. The reason for making contact today is to request that the board consider offering stronger ethnic studies programs to our district students. I wish I would have had access to learn about this earlier in life.

My specific immediate request is that our high schools offer:

Ethnic studies as dual enrollment – this would allow our **HS students** to gain both high school and college credit.

Chicano Art Survey is a WCC course that I believe would be the perfect course, to begin with. My 11-year-old son lingers around when I am in virtual class and asks me many questions about what I am learning. This makes me believe that eventually moving in the direction of introducing ethnic studies earlier in our school years would be beneficial and enrich the quality of education within our district.

I humbly suggest ChicanX Studies based on the demographics of our community and the enhanced knowledge, this subject would bring.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Charrise M. Torres

My name is Emily Murphey and I am a kindergarten mom at Dingle Elementary and a soon to be TK mom at Beamer, both Dual Language.

I am been one of the more passionate parents you've heard from over the past year, fighting for the re-opening of schools and pushing for the maximum on-campus time for our students. Thank you board members for listening to us and working to make it happen. My daughter's overall well being, happiness, social engagement and excitement about learning has skyrocketed as a direct result of being IN the classroom with her teacher.

I would like to share an expert from a podcast by Physician and Professor Zubin Damania I listened to this morning... as a great reminder that flexibility to planning is so important. I urge you all to continue to be forward thinking as you approach the new school year. The quote is: We only need to have one dogmatic belief. That ALL beliefs need to be examined, questioned, and updated when necessary. We can do this by listening to others respectfully and to make decisions using critical thinking".

As our community progresses out of this pandemic, I urge you to make decisions based on logical and transparent facts. My hope is that fear does not influence your decision making as it did in 2021. Let's commit to reestablishing normalcy in our community structure for children and parents alike. Please, finalize the Virtual Academy for the small percentage of students who prefer to stay home, and announce full time school for those that feel safe. Please keep up with mask mandates lifting and make it a goal to get rid of the masks that are stunting socialization and communication skills as soon as it's announced safe to do so. Let's do this and collectively celebrate the end of the learning loss and isolation era.

Additionally, I would like to add that I want selection of a capable and forward thinking, driven, motivated and talented new principal for Dingle Elementary be made a TOP priority. The easiest way to grow our district to its full potential is to find the right leadership. Let's keep demanding the BEST for our district.

Thank you,
Emily Murphey

Hello, I am a student at WCC, and thanks to my Ethnic Studies Class have recently taken a bigger interest in ethnic studies. I am grateful for the opportunity to receive such important information and just wanted to comment about the need for Ethnic Studies and/or Ethnic Studies Dual Enrollment courses (credit for high school and college at the same time via one course).

Adriana Murillo

Dear WJUSD Board Members:

My name is Cyndee Ruiz and I am an RSP teacher at Woodland Prairie Elementary. I am retiring after 34 years with the district. I have loved my job and have always worked more than my contractual day leaving at 5:00, spending hours in the evenings and on weekends. I knew that was part of the job. This year on top of my usual work ethic, I was asked to go above and beyond to make school accessible for my RSP Students. I believe I have earned the proposed stipend for the following reasons.

1. Daily, I texted families to remind them to have their child log in. Each of my sessions would require 2 or 3 texts before starting class. This was on my personal phone.
2. With virtual IEP's, extra time was spent helping the parents log in. Often parents weren't able to manage to log in requiring a second meeting.
3. Documents were to be e-signed. Parents struggled to figure out how to e-sign and often did not respond to calls, texts and emails to sign.

4. Compliance is a critical issue for special education. In order to obtain signatures, I routinely went to homes to get the required signatures.
5. Further home visits were made when students needed more materials or had lost tools they needed to be successful. One student I realized had never picked up his materials. A few days before Thanksgiving, I went to his home with 2 large grocery bags filled with curriculum and supplies.
6. With the shut down last spring triennial and initial assessments were not completed. The expectation was that we must keep up with current timelines while completing all the missed ones from last Spring. This created a grueling grind.
7. We have had 3 schedule changes. Hard enough for teachers, but a nightmare for special education teachers who had to figure out how to serve students across many classrooms with the expectation of not pulling them from the core.

Hello,

As a 20 year teacher, we have never been faced with such a challenge. We have overcome and prevailed. Teachers, including myself have worked weekends...all...weekend...long, and late, late, late nights well into the morning to make sure students and families know we are there for them. We taught them, we are teaching them. We are tired but we keep going. A pay increase and a stipend are just one small way to show how much we are actually appreciated. We keep hearing we are appreciated but no bonus has been given. We have used our internet and upgraded on our own dime. I can't get those hours of my life back, but you can help teachers feel like the work we have done does not go unnoticed. Please help with a stipend and much deserved/needed pay increase.

Thank you,
Hard working, dedicated PE teacher.