



Regular Board Meeting
08/12/2021 05:00 PM
District Office Board Room
435 6th Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Meeting Minutes
Printed : 8/30/2021 1:19 PM PT

Mission Statement

Woodland Joint Unified School District's mission is to prepare and empower all students for a future of endless possibilities.



Scan the above QR code with your phone to view this meeting agenda on your phone.

The meeting will be available for live stream viewing at <https://livestream.com/wjUSD> (click on the Board Meeting date).

[2021 Board Meetings Webpage](#)
[Board Meeting Packet Website](#)

Public Comment to the Board: Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda or within the Board's jurisdiction.

Additional options for public comment:

1. *Voicemail Public Comments:* Public comments may be submitted by voicemail by 2:00 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.

2. *Written Public Comments Via Email:* Public comments may be submitted via email by 2:00 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.

Attendees

Voting Members

Deborah Bautista Zavala, Clerk
Bibiana Garcia, Board Member
Kandice Richardson Fowler, Board Member
Noel Rodriguez, Board Member
Rogelio Villagrana, Vice President
Jake Whitaker, President

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

The Board President called the meeting to order in Open Session at 5:02 p.m. in the Board Room.

B. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA - ACTION

Superintendent Tom Pritchard pulled Purchase Order #8 Paper Education Company Inc. from the agenda. Trustee Deborah Bautista Zavala moved item K.1. Action: Approve New Board Policy 0416: Cultural Pluralism to the Consent Agenda. Motion was made to approve the agenda as modified at the meeting.

Motion made by: Rogelio Villagrana

Motion seconded by: Deborah Bautista Zavala

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - Yes

Bibiana Garcia - Yes

Kandice Richardson Fowler - Yes

Noel Rodriguez - Yes

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Passed

C. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA (Please fill out the Public Participation Form): Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the Closed Session Agenda. Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes each to address the Board on Closed Session Agenda items. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. This is a comment period only, and the law does not allow the Board of Trustees to take action on any item not explicitly posted on the agenda in advance. However, Board members may ask for clarification, briefly respond to questions, refer concerns to staff, and/or request that an item be placed on a future agenda.

No one came forward when the Board President requested comments on the Closed Session agenda items.

D. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

The Board recessed at 5:04 p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 5:06 p.m. Closed Session ended at 6:23 p.m.

1. Public Employee Appointment/Employment, Pursuant to Government Code 54957:
 - a. Director III, Public Information Officer
 - b. Director, College and Career Readiness
2. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
3. Conference with Real Property Negotiators Regarding the potential purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of Real Property, Pursuant to Government Code 54956.8, for the following properties:
 - a. Property: Land Acquisition for Potential Elementary School in the Woodland Research and Technology Park (WRTP) as Specified in the WRTP Specific Plan, Agency Negotiator: Tom Pritchard, Superintendent and Lewis Wiley, Associate

Superintendent, Business Services, Negotiating Parties: Woodland Joint Unified School District

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

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

The Board President reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 6:25 p.m. Board President Whitaker and Director of Food Services Spencer Springer opened the meeting in honor of JJ Miller who passed away recently.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Deborah Bautista Zavala led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

3. BOARD ACTION - Approve the Appointment/Employment of the Following Positions:

- a. Director III, Public Information Officer

Motion was made to approve the Employment of Jerry Jimenez as the Director III, Public Information Officer.

Motion made by: Rogelio Villagrana

Motion seconded by: Deborah Bautista Zavala

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - Yes

Bibiana Garcia - Yes

Kandice Richardson Fowler - Yes

Noel Rodriguez - Yes

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Passed

- b. Director, College and Career Readiness

Motion was made to approve the Employment of Lore Carrillo as the Director of College and Career Readiness.

Motion made by: Rogelio Villagrana

Motion seconded by: Bibiana Garcia

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - Yes

Bibiana Garcia - Yes

Kandice Richardson Fowler - Yes

Noel Rodriguez - Yes

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Passed

F. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SECTION G. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no public comments for section G. Consent Agenda.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, including item K.1. Action: Approve New Board Policy 0416: Cultural Pluralism, and excluding Purchase Order #8 Paper Education Company Inc.

Motion made by: Rogelio Villagrana

Motion seconded by: Noel Rodriguez

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - Yes

Bibiana Garcia - Yes

Kandice Richardson Fowler - Yes

Noel Rodriguez - Yes

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Passed

1. Business Services
 - a. Approve Purchases of Items/Services in Excess of \$15,000: List 2-22
2. Educational Services
 - a. Approve Petition for Early Graduation as Follows: a. Student #EG 22-1
3. Human Resources
 - a. Approve Certificated Personnel Report, 22-02
 - b. Approve Classified Personnel Report, 22-02
 - c. Approve Certificated Substitute Pay Rates for the 2021-2022 School Year
4. Superintendent's Office
 - a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes:
 - i. July 22, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting

H. PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE BOARD (Please fill out the Public Participation Form): Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda or within the Board's jurisdiction. Individual speakers shall be allowed three minutes each to address the Board on agenda or non-agenda items. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. This is a comment period only, and the law does not allow the Board of Trustees to take action on any item not explicitly posted on the agenda in advance. However, Board members may ask for clarification, briefly respond to questions, refer concerns to staff, and/or request that an item be placed on a future agenda.

Phil Giebel asked if the District will teach critical race theory.

Sarah Martin expressed support for implementing an outdoor mask requirement (via voicemail).

Garret Wright addressed the Board regarding his opposition to requiring students to wear mask.

I. REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

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

2. Report from California School Employees Association (CSEA)

CSEA President Todd Freer dedicated his report to JJ Miller, who passed away recently.

3. Report from Woodland Education Association (WEA)

WEA President Jennifer Shilen shared information regarding WEA activities.

4. Report from Board Members

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

5. Information: Board Committee Updates

There were no Board committee updates.

J. TEACHING AND LEARNING

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

The Information/Action item "Update on WJUSD's Reopening Plan and COVID-19 Impacts" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Associate Superintendent of Educational Services Elodia Ortega-Lampkin, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christina Lambie, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Leanee Medina Estrada, and Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities Nick Baral.

Public Comment:

Echoe Camacho addressed the Board regarding her opposition to requiring students to wear mask.

Laura Brubaker and Donna White expressed their support for requiring masks outdoors (via voicemail).

Motion was made to implement an outdoor mask requirement and communicate to teachers that students may take a break.

Motion made by: Jake Whitaker

Motion seconded by: Rogelio Villagrana

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - No

Bibiana Garcia - No

Kandice Richardson Fowler - No

Noel Rodriguez - No

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Failed

The Board directed staff to invite Public Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson to attend a Special Board Meeting to discuss wearing masks outdoors.

The Board recessed the meeting at 7:59 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

2. Information: Initial Discussion Regarding the New Grading Policy

The Information item "Initial Discussion Regarding the New Grading Policy" was presented by Superintendent Tom Pritchard. The following Trustees volunteered to serve on the committee that will develop the policy: Rogelio Villagrana, Bibiana Garcia, and Noel Rodriguez.

3. Action: Approve Revised Board Policy 6158: Independent Study

Motion was made to approve Revised Board Policy 6158: Independent Study, and waive Board Policy 9310 for this item, to allow the policy to be approved without a second reading.

Motion made by: Jake Whitaker

Motion seconded by: Kandice Richardson Fowler

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - Yes

Bibiana Garcia - Yes

Kandice Richardson Fowler - Yes

Noel Rodriguez - Yes

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Passed

4. Information: School Resource Officer (SRO) Quarterly Report (Written Report)

The Information item "School Resource Officer (SRO) Quarterly Report" was presented as a written report.

5. Information/Action: Resolution 3-22: Waiving the District's Academic Eligibility Requirements for Students Participating in Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities During the First Semester of the 2021-2022 School Year

The Information/Action item "Resolution 3-22: Waiving the District's Academic Eligibility Requirements for Students Participating in Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities During the First Semester of the 2021-2022 School Year" was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Woodland HS Principal Peter Lambert.

Public Comment:

Tammy McMillan asked the Board to keep Special Education students in mind when they consider approving this item and to also think about the social-emotional wellbeing of students.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 3-22: Waiving the District's Academic Eligibility Requirements for Students Participating in Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities During the First Semester (Quarter) of the 2021-2022 School Year, with the following amendments: title will be changed from semester to quarterly, hours of support will be increased from 2 hours to 4 hours, and a "why" statement will be added, "As a way to keep our youth engaged and connected to our campuses both socially and emotionally, we are requesting action to eliminate barriers that may have developed as a result of the pandemic."

Motion made by: Noel Rodriguez

Motion seconded by: Kandice Richardson Fowler

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - Yes

Bibiana Garcia - Yes

Kandice Richardson Fowler - Yes

Noel Rodriguez - Yes

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Passed

K. GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

1. Action: Approve New Board Policy 0416: Cultural Pluralism

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

L. FACILITIES AND FINANCE

1. Information: Weekend Food Distribution Update

The Information item "Weekend Food Distribution Update" was presented by Associate Superintendent of Business Services Lewis Wiley and Director of Food Services Spencer Springer.

2. Information: HVAC Improvements Options Using ESSER Funds

Public Comment:

Laura Brubaker expressed her excitement for the funds to make HVAC improvements (via voicemail).

The Information item "HVAC Improvements Options Using ESSER Funds" was presented by Superintendent Tom Pritchard.

M. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Action: Approve Resolution 4-22: Elimination and/or Reduction of Classified Employee Services Due to Lack of Work/Lack of Funds

Motion was made to approve Resolution 4-22: Elimination and/or Reduction of Classified Employee Services Due to Lack of Work/Lack of Funds.

Motion made by: Jake Whitaker

Motion seconded by: Kandice Richardson Fowler

Voting:

Deborah Bautista Zavala - Yes

Bibiana Garcia - Yes

Kandice Richardson Fowler - Yes

Noel Rodriguez - Yes

Rogelio Villagrana - Yes

Jake Whitaker - Yes

Motion Passed

N. INFORMATION: TRUSTEE REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Trustee Bibiana Garcia requested information on how teachers are addressing mental health in classrooms.
- Trustee Noel Rodriguez requested a discussion about changing the Board of Trustees from 7 members to 5 members.
- Trustee Deborah Bautista Zavala requested information on the strategy and plan to obtain free and reduced lunch applications, and fees for participating in athletics.
- Trustee Rogelio Villagrana requested staff to bring back recommendations for increasing the certificated substitute salary rates.

O. INFORMATION: CLOSING COMMENTS

P. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR BOARD MEETING: August 26, 2021 - Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Public Comments Submitted Via Email

Hello -

I would like to provide a public comment on outdoor masking in schools. I would love our children to be able to have mask breaks in school, and I think there should be a controlled time and place for that (outdoors and distanced), but I don't think that time is anytime they are outdoors, particularly recess. Having kids maskless outside provides a very direct way for them to be exposed to each other and actively negates other safety measures taking place. There is very little way to enforce distance at recess. We know these kids are excited to play with each other and will likely not be mentally capable of the quick thinking it requires to remember to maintain 6ft of distance when playing if they don't have their masks on. Requiring masks outdoors will give us that extra layer of protection we desperately need in times of deep purple case number, Delta variant times. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elyse Dixon

Hello WJUSD Board,

I want to request that kids in elementary school should continue to wear masks outdoors. They can't get vaccinated yet and distancing while at play is difficult. Right now it is optional, but when there isn't a rule, then it becomes easy for peer pressure to get kids to take off their masks. Will there be hand sanitizer and bathroom rules like last year? Is there a plan for the kids to be distanced while eating lunch outdoors? If outdoor masking remains optional, is there a way to make sure that kids know that it is a family choice and not to tell other kids to take off their masks? Thank you for listening.

Michelle Leal Sci-Tech Parent

Hello Superintendent and Board Members. I am a parent from Plainfeild elementary. The thought of having my kids masked is absolutely absurd! Especially outside, I hope that NO outdoors masking will stay in place.

I highly recommend you take some time out of your busy days to watch and read this info!
<https://independentvotersofbrowncountyin.com/>

I appreciate you keeping our kids face but masks do not work & they are not the answer.

Thanks for you time! Emily Tidwell

Please read this article from the Washington Street Journal for public comment during the board meeting. I'm stressed out about my child being in a mask for 6 hours a day! He's autistic and can not keep his hands off the bothersome mask through out his day! During summer school he managed it, it was only 2 hours a day! This is just one article that has stated they can not find the data or case studies concluding that masks are doing more good than harm!

Because they are not! My son and I got covid! He missed his last week of summer school to quarantine along side me, He had a slight fever, some coughing roughly 2 days tops and a runny nose during this dry coughing spell. His nebulizer was helpful and we got through this illness fine! It's not causing our children any harm more than what the flu USED to do! Please I beg you to give the parents a choice what they're children can handle. This is AMERICA, not CHINA!

Thanks from,

A concerned parent whos advocated plenty during this bogus shutdown! Mask our kids, I guarantee you, you will lose this battle! I'll remove my children from your school system..PERIOD!
Carrie Anne

Trustees,

Thank you for all you do in these efforts to reopen schools in a safer manner. I especially want to thank President Whittaker for his extensive and informative email response to an earlier communication to the board.

The daily Covid case rate in Yolo county is rising to a rate not seen since the winter surge. It is unlikely that we will completely keep Covid out of our schools. The question is, how do we minimize the number of people affected once it is in the school?

I ask that the board consider the following:

First, mandatory masking outside unless eating or drinking. Additional mask break areas could be established, but it is unreasonable to expect kids to keep distance while playing basketball or swinging on a play structure.

Second, allowing teachers the power to replace a mask that is insufficient, ill-fitting, or has gotten wet. Establishing clear guidelines for what constitutes an acceptable mask, and giving teachers the ability to provide a district supplied mask would increase the effectiveness of masking.

Third, when a positive Covid case is identified, require notification of all class members. This will allow for increased vigilance, increased voluntary testing which could find cases earlier, and allow families to make informed decisions at home for at risk members of the household.

To open schools in the safest manner possible, the increased transmissibility and harsher health consequences of the Delta variant must be considered. I'm sure this school year will present many unexpected challenges, but let's take steps to eliminate problems before they arise, where we can anticipate them.

Thank you for your time. Mick Martin
Father of a 1st and 4th grader.

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment via email for those parents not able to attend in person.

I would like to raise my concern regarding continued masking in our schools, and request that Mask-Choice be placed on the agenda.

I realize you are obligated to follow the will of the Governor and CDPH, but I plead with you to please be our partner and our advocate to the state for mask choice in schools. I've attached a school board resolution template that I hope you will find helpful. The mental and emotional harm to our children is too great.

We're told our kids have to wear masks because they are at risk from COVID, but the data shows their risk is less than from other respiratory viruses like influenza:

1. The CDC estimates 332 children have died from COVID-19 in 18 months.
2. The CDC also estimates 434 children died from influenza during the 12 month 2019-20 flu season and 600 children died from influenza during the 2017-18 season – more deaths despite a widely administered vaccine and lower case rates.
3. The New York Times found children are about 10 times more likely to die in a car accident than from COVID.
4. The Financial Times found children at less risk from COVID-19 (0.0002%) than vaccinated adults.

We're told they must wear masks to slow the spread of COVID-19, but numerous studies show that schools without mask requirements for children had case rates just as low or even lower than schools which did have mask requirements.

Do you wonder why at least 40 states in the US don't require masks in school? Or perhaps you remember that California was 50th in the US in reopening schools, so you already know that California does not follow the science.

So again, our question to you is when will these restrictions end? CDPH says kids must wear masks even if there are 0 community cases and 100% vaccination rates. For them, this will never end. Your job is to tell them that it's over and not engage with them in this pointless war against a virus that will never go away. We need you to fight for our kids to get back in school in an environment conducive to learning by ending these unnecessary requirements for masks, quarantines and testing in school.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to continuing this discussion at upcoming board meetings.
Raychel Daniel

Hello,

My name is Celina and I am an elementary school parent emailing to address item J1 on the agenda regarding WJUSD's Reopening Plan and Covid 19 Impacts. On the Covid 19 Student Health and Safety Protocols under Recess and Breaks it states, "Students will wear masks while outdoors during passing periods, recesses, and lunch breaks with the exception of eating." Per the The California Department of Public Health website, "Masks are optional outdoors for all K- 12 school settings." Besides masks not being 'required' outdoors, masks are not proven to prevent the spread of Covid 19. The negative effects of masks are physical, social, and emotional when data shows children's risk is less than other respiratory viruses like influenza. Masks should be optional for everyone at school. Children have the right be able to breathe, socialize, and learn in a healthy environment and masks do not promote that. We're told the children must wear masks to slow the spread of COVID-19, but numerous studies show that schools without mask requirements for children had case rates just as low as schools which did have mask requirements- currently only 10 states require masks at school. It's our job as parents to work with the district and to make masks a

choice and not mandatory for our kids to promote a healthy in person learning environment.
Celina Freitas

To the Woodland Joint Unified School District and School Board,

I am writing to you because of a growing interest I have in the meals we are serving our children at school. We know how vital it is to instill healthy habits at a young age and I would love to see WJUSD challenge themselves to do more.

I have two children in the school district who attend Tafoya Elementary. We came to Tafoya last year during distance learning, only spending the last two months on campus for the hybrid model. I do not know what your school breakfast and lunch program look like in a typical year. After onsite school, my son attended the Woodland Community Center distance learning program and received a school lunch there. Often what I heard back from him was that although they were provided vegetables, sometimes they were unappealing such as raw broccoli. While the intention is great, I don't know that many kids will eat raw broccoli. He would then proceed to tell me about the days "treat" and how he ate multiple servings of the muffins, pop tarts, snack bars, and drank multiple chocolate milks. My daughter was attending the Catalyst Kids program on site at Tafoya and had the same experience. While I try to teach "everything in moderation" in my household, kids can't resist extra junk food when the opportunity presents itself. I think there needs to be some adjustments made to how we distribute the "treats" to ensure kids are getting the right nutritional elements at school.

I would love to see the menu options and the source of our meals change. There are delicious ways to prepare healthy foods. I am most intrigued by the work that is being done by Conscious Kitchen (<https://www.consciouskitchen.org/>) in Marin City and Contra Costa County Unified School District. We live in a county that runs on agriculture and we neighbor an amazing University in Davis. We have the opportunity to have an amazing, freshly grown, organic school lunch here in Woodland. Partnering with organizations such as Yolo Farm to Fork (<https://www.yolofarmtofork.org/growing-lunch>), Conscious Kitchen, and UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/new-project-help-small-farms-and-school-lunch-programs>) we could have a huge impact. I would love to see the defunct garden at Tafoya come back to life with excited students enjoying the literal fruits of their labor!

Thank you for your time, Corinne McCoy

My name is Scott Decker; I have a comment for item H. Public Comment to the Board. I apologize for being unable to attend in person. I'm coaching youth basketball at the YMCA this evening.

I have three questions regarding the assignment of kindergarten spots at Spring Lake Elementary,

Question 1. If a student who was not first on the waitlist was offered a kindergarten spot at Spring Lake, would the board characterize the process as random and unbiased?

Question 2. If a student was granted an exception from the standard lottery and waitlist process and offered a kindergarten spot at Spring Lake, would the board characterize the process as random and unbiased?

Question 3. If the process of assigning kindergarten spots at Spring Lake was not random and unbiased, as required by Education Code 35160.5, will the board instruct staff to void the results and assign the spots fairly?

Sincerely, SMD

WJUSD School Board,

I understand that the Human Resources department is asking you to consider continuing the \$220/day pay rate for dedicated substitute teachers this year. I am writing to ask that you also consider providing an even higher pay rate for those of us who will be doing long-term assignments. Typically, substitute teachers who are on long-term assignments (those assignments that last 22 or more consecutive days) are paid at a rate of \$50-\$70 above the pay of substitutes working day-to-day assignments. This pay increase for long-term assignments is due to the fact that those assignments require a significant increase in workload and time for the substitute teacher, such as lesson planning, grading, parent meetings, staff meetings, collaborating with other teachers etc. Long-term jobs are offered to substitutes who have shown a strong work ethic and have already demonstrated that they are dedicated to the WJUSD. I feel that paying dedicated day-to-day substitutes the same pay as long-term substitutes devalues the work of the long-term substitute teacher. While I am not asking that you consider paying long-term substitutes \$50 or even \$70 more than dedicated day-to-day substitutes, I am asking that you consider something more than the \$220 that HR is asking for the day-to-day substitutes.

Respectfully, Jay Fleming
Substitute Teacher for WJUSD

Board President

Board Clerk