



CAMBRIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
 July 14, 2020

1. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

2. The Governing Board of Trustees did not convene for Closed Session. Items 2.1 and 2.2 were removed from the Closed Session agenda.
- 2.1 Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Superintendent (Govt Code 54957)
 - 2.2 Personnel, Unrepresented Management, Supervisory and Confidential Employees (Govt Code 54957)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Randy Scofield, President
 Mr. Doron Aronson, Vice President
 Mrs. Janet Borrison, Clerk
 Mr. Jarod Middleton, Member
 Mrs. Carol Presunka, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Carrie Andrews, Superintendent
 Ms. Carlena Grandey, Admin. Asst. to Superintendent
 Mr. Mujtaba Rauf, Director of Information Technology
 Mr. Linh Nguyen, Asst. Supt., Educational Services
 Ms. Kristi Schwiebert, Asst. Supt., Personnel Services
 Ms. Penny Timboe, Chief Financial Officer

3. REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER

Regular Session

The president called the regular meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees order by Teleconference through WebEx at 7:00 p.m.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mrs. Presunka, the Board adopted the July 14, 2020, Special Board Meeting agenda. Motion **CARRIED** 5-0

ACTION

Aronson-Yes
 Borrison-Yes
 Middleton-Yes
 Presunka-Yes
 Scofield-Yes

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public at this time.

7. INFORMATION AND STUDY ITEMS

Information/Study

7.1 Bond Measure Community Survey Results:

Bond Measure

Dr. Tim McLarney, True North President, presented the results of the Bond Measure Feasibly Survey. He reviewed the purpose, how it was conducted, methodology of the study and reviewed questions that were asked of participants and potential next steps. In conclusion, Dr. McLarney stated that the improving the quality of education is the most important issue facing our community and with initial reasonability the Bond Measure would have strong support of passing in the Cambrian School District on the November 2020 election.

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On a motion by Mr. Aronson, seconded by Mrs. Borrison, the Board approved to move forward with a Bond Measure for the 2020 election. Motion **CARRIED** 5-0

ACTION

Aronson-Yes
Borrison-Yes
Presunka-Yes
Middleton-Yes
Scofield-Yes

- 7.2 Resolution 20-21-01: Bond Measure and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order: Resolution 20-21-01, calls for a Bond Measure election to establish specifications of the election order, and requests consolidation with other elections occurring on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The County of Santa Clara would conduct the election.

No action taken. The Bond resolution will be brought back to the Board on August 6 for final reading.

- 7.3 Resolution 20-21-02: Participation in Self-Insured Schools of California: Ms. Penny Timboe, Chief Financial Officer, presented Resolution 20-21-02. The resolution authorizes the Cambrian School District Board of Trustees to provide health and welfare benefits for the benefit of its officers, employees, retired employees, and retired members of the Board of Trustees. (CA Gov. Code § 53200)

Res. 20-21-02

The Cambrian School District has determined that it is in this District's best interest to combine with other public education agencies, Self-Insured School of California III, for procuring more affordable health and welfare benefits insurance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Angela Kochiyama, Cambrian Employee and spokesperson for the Health and Benefits Committee pledged the committee's full support to enroll in SISC for our district's health insurance. She thanked Ms. Kristi Schwiebert, Ms. Penny Timboe, and the Health and Benefits committee for their dedication to explore a more affordable health care option for District Employees. Mrs. Kochiyama highlighted the committee's goal and the main ideas learned over the course of the committee's time together. The Committee recommends going with a bigger company to add additional services, benefits, and less change for the District.

On a motion by Mr. Jarod Middleton, seconded by Mr. Aronson, the Board approved Resolution 20- 21-01: Participation in Self-Insured Schools of California, allowing the Cambrian School District to participate in a different health and welfare benefits insurance group. Motion **CARRIED** 5-0

ACTION

Aronson-Yes
Borrison-Yes
Presunka-Yes
Middleton-Yes
Scofield-Yes

- 7.4 Reopening Committee Recommendation: Reopening of Schools for the 2020-21 School Year: Dr. Carrie Andrews presented the reopening plan for the fall 2020-21 school year. The Cambrian School District Reopening Committee met nine times over the past few months, reviewing data, developing potential schedules, and adjusting to the ever-changing release of information. Dr. Andrews highlighted the District's top priority of the health, safety, and care for students, teachers and staff. Based on the changes within Santa Clara County, the committee concluded that best option at this time was to the start the 2020-21 school year with distance learning. Once the county and state deem it safe to attend school in-person, Cambrian will begin a phased-in approach following all state and county Public Health Department guidelines.

Reopening of Schools

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

7.4 Public Comments

A Cambrian Parent asked the Board why they did not hold the board meeting in person, if they think it is safe enough to reopen the schools.

Leigh Henderson, Cambrian Parent, encouraged communication directly from teachers such as, information regarding; video calls, homework, rubrics, and expectations for each grade level.

A Cambrian Parent asked if there was a COVID-19 school relief fund to donate to. They would like to donate and support basic school needs (like teacher salaries and building maintenance) due to the budget shortfalls.

Fallon Dominguez, Cambrian Parent, encourages the district to continue with virtual schooling for the safety of families, students, and teachers. He asked why make people risk their safety when we live in Silicon Valley and have the technology to stay in remote learning.

Kaye Lathe, Cambrian Parent, stated the while online learning is no substitute for an in-person, caring teacher experience, it does not seem safe or wise for Cambrian teachers, staff or students to reopen at this time.

Jenna Korver, Concerned Citizen, shared that the district would be better off not reopening schools in fall. If the schools reopen it would its staff, teachers, students, and parents at greater risk to spread and contract this virus.

Aurora Neri, asked the Board not force the reopen of schools

Dave Rolodeau, Cambrian Community Member, asked the Board many pertinent situational questions. Some examples of the 15 questions were:

- If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19, are they required to quarantine for 2-3 weeks?
- What if a student in your kid's class tests positive or what if your kid tests positive?
- Does every other student and teacher they have been around have to be quarantine?
- What is this stress doing to our teachers? How does it affect their health and well-being?
- How does it affect their ability to teach? How does it affect the quality of education they are able to provide?

Helen Dawkins, Cambrian Parent, inquired about children with Individual Education Plans and if special consideration would be given to those students who struggle with distance learning. She also asked if children with additional needs be able to return to in-person teaching ahead of the general school population

Moema Fernandes, Cambrian Parent, shared that their son had a very difficult time adjusting to distance learning when schools closed physically in March. She is concerned that her son will not be able to follow the curriculum because he is easily distracted. Mrs. Fernandes inquired if the District could additional support for those families and students who struggle with the virtual learning format.

Shozo Shimazaki, Cambrian Parent, shared her reasons for the district to remain with full remote learning for the 2020-21 school year. She expressed that one lost life will make it not worth it, especially since the loss of life will have been avoidable.

Mesut Eraslan, Cambrian Parent, stressed that it is too dangerous to send his son to school while virus cases are increasing in the state. He encouraged the Board to follow the Los Angeles and San Diego school districts and only have online learning in the fall.

Perla Naranjo and Carolyn Giusti, Concerned Citizens, reminded the Board that we are in a pandemic with a deadly virus and the school system should continue with virtual school for the safety of all.

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7.4 Public Comments Cont.

Beth Erickson, Cambrian Parent, shared questions about beginning the school year in a distance-learning model. Since in the spring, the teachers turned on a dime to provide education in a crisis for our children and she is hoping that teaching plan will be more complete for the fall. Mrs. Erickson thanked the reopening committee for their hard work. Some questions she asked were:

- Will there be significant live instruction and class interaction throughout the day similar to what the children get while in school?
- Will school principals be holding parent meetings before school starts (by grade level, potentially) so we can understand what school will look like and, thus, prepare our kids?

Alex Smirnov, Cambrian Parent, expressed his concern with the impact of distance learning on younger kids. He is worried about their emotional wellbeing from being isolated from their friends and that they may fall behind academically. Mr. Smirnov encouraged the Board to bring students back sooner rather than later.

Wendi Kao, Cambrian Parent, stated that parents are more comfortable with children learning from home since the COVID-19 situation is getting harder.

Susan Connolly, Cambrian Parent, encouraged teachers to meet with their students in person if they are comfortable with it. She expressed that giving the students an opportunity to meet the teacher in person safely would set the school year off on the right foot.

A Cambrian Employee asked the Board, how can ask teachers to come into a classroom when a Board meeting cannot be in person.

Patty Van Campenhout, Cambrian Parent, requested the Board not to approve and rethink the Price Middle School's Phase Two plan. She stated that the schedule is crazy for everyone to follow and her incoming 6th grader would have to worry about seven different google classrooms to navigate.

Raul Vargas, Cambrian Parent, conveyed that distance learning is not a substitute for in class learning and the negative impacts will affect all children for years to come.

Kathryn Hendess, Cambrian Parent and Cambrian Employee, declared her concern about the Hybrid schedule for Price Middle School. The proposed schedule is too confusing for students in the middle of a pandemic, which is stressful enough. Mrs. Hendess suggested that the Price teachers meet to figure out a better schedule.

A Cambrian Employee stated their concerns for returning to school when deemed safe. They expressed their apprehension with the cleaning schedules and if a student came to school sick. They wholeheartedly agree that the best place for students is in class with a highly qualified teacher...but not during a pandemic.

Tony Flemmer, Cambrian Parent, expressed his fear for his son's education this coming school year. His son struggled with distance learning from the start and declared his disappointment with the extended school year distant learning experience. He asked how the District could make frequent use of the word "equity" when, he feels that distance learning effectively denies his son his right to education under the California Constitution. He strongly encouraged the Board to prioritize the needs of special day students.

A Cambrian Parent acknowledged that distance learning was an emotional train wreck for her family. Despite the fact that no amount of remote learning will replace what they could and would learn in person, she respectfully asked the Board to choose 100% distant learning. Since there are so many unknowns, we must provide children with the best online learning scenario possible.

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7.4 Public Comments Cont.

Gina Basuino, Cambrian Parent, shared her families experience with distance learning. Her youngest did fantastic while her oldest child had an extremely difficult time. She expressed her belief that teachers should be teaching live classes. Students should be called on during instruction and ask questions immediately after something is presented. She also encouraged for PE classes an option for families so students could at least see each other while maintaining safe distancing.

Nadine Siguenza, Cambrian Employee, expressed that the proposed hybrid class schedule for Price Middle School, is in no way student nor teacher friendly. She feels that if we cannot return to the normal teaching schedule, then it is imperative for Price to figure out a six period day model comparable to Steindorf Middle School's model.

Kerri Lauck, Cambrian Employee, pointed out that on page 7, in the Recovery and Reopening of Schools document published, June 2020, by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, encourages districts to develop a plan to support students and staff in the event a staff member dies from COVID-19. Mrs. Lauck asked the Board to think long and hard about having us return in person knowing that at least 15 Cambrian teachers have situations or conflicts with returning in person.

Julie Johnston, Cambrian Employee, conveyed that the 7-period rotation hybrid schedule for Price is very hard to follow. She encouraged the success of our students by simplifying everything we do for our students and their families.

Mike Jacoby, Cambrian Parent, Community Member, Tax Payer, and Concerned Citizen, expressed a few questions for the Board to consider. Some of his questions were.

- Are there any plans for the district to hire a dedicated distance-learning expert? If not - why not?
- Will the district offer a synchronous distance-learning environment?
- Is the district expecting the students to clean and disinfect their classrooms?
- Will students and staff be trained in the proper use and application of disinfectants

Stacey Bibo and Sarah Sullivan, Cambrian Employees, expressed their concern about the Price 7 period schedule. The proposed options for Price will not meet the needs of students need consistency in order to thrive in both academics and social/emotional learning. They encouraged the Board to opt of a six period day, which would be more beneficial for students, teachers, and parents.

Tina Lam, Cambrian Parent, listed the benefits of sending kids back to school as seen, in countries who have deemed it safe, if all necessary precautions are in place. She voiced the need to get kids back to school and move forward with rational decision-making.

Alison Helmke, Cambrian Parent, articulated that COVID-19 is not under control and putting students in schools with in-person is irresponsible and unsafe. She asked the Board to provide Cambrian School District students and staff a distance learning environment in which lives will be safe.

Melissa Ojczyk, Cambrian Parent, thanked all those involved in the reopening task force, and congratulated them on a good job. Although she would like nothing more than to have, her children return to the everyday routine of a classroom environment, it is just not possible without compromising the health and safety of many in our community. She shared a few questions regarding the proposed model:

- How is the district supporting teachers who have school age, or younger children in the district?
- Is the district offering any care support for families who cannot be in the home with their children during school hours (eg essential workers)?
- What is the reason behind an AM/PM model rather than a Day in person/Day DL model?

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7.4 Public Comments Cont.

Maggie Ostrowski, Cambrian Parent, strongly encouraged the Board to consider some type combination of on-campus and remote learning with real time sessions. She strongly urged the Board to hire a distance-learning expert to implement remote learning tools to keep students engaged through real-time (remote or on-campus) learning

Marisol Serrato, Cambrian Parent, expressed her concerned with kindergarten and first grade students solely taught online. She advocated for need to have in person school for kindergarten and first grade students to receive a proper education.

Renata Feld, Fammatre Teacher, thanked the reopening committee for all of their hard work over the last several weeks and shared a few questions and comments like below:

- It is unclear if our district will be requiring students to wear masks once they return to school.
- What are the metrics used to determine if distance learning should continue after September 11?
- Is our district doing anything to update our ventilation or bringing in air purifiers to assist outdated equipment?

Lora Copeland, Cambrian Parent, asked for clarification with the Elementary Schools Full Distance Learning Model and if an example can be given of what it may look like.

Jennifer Fore, Price Teacher and District Parent, expressed her extreme concern about the hybrid schedule for Price. Each day looks completely different adding to the many challenges and confusion for students, parents, and teachers too. Mrs. Fore encouraged a six period day for Price focusing on CORE academic minutes for a better rapport with students, which is crucial for social emotional support.

A Cambrian Parent voiced their support with starting the school year in full distance learning. They solicited the Board for more flexible learning options for families and asked for more information for parents before requiring them to make a yearlong commitment.

Ray Tanaka, Cambrian Parent, asked for the criteria and metrics used to determine whether we stay in Phase 1 or move towards Phase 2 after the first 3.5 weeks. They also expressed their concerns with the guidelines, which, does not require physical distancing amongst students or masks worn inside the classroom for elementary school students.

Teresa Calvert, Cambrian Parent, thanked the reopening committee for keeping the safety of our teachers, students and administrative staff a priority. She advocated continuing with distance learning until we can guarantee it is safe for everyone to return. Mrs. Calvert asked the district to provide families the option to continue remotely if the phased approach moves forward while cases of Covid-19 are still prevalent.

Jill Walter, Cambrian Parent, expressed her appreciation for all the time and effort poured into the reopening recommendations. She shared many questions like below regarding the reopening plan.

- How many students is in a "Small Grouping"?
- What about music and PE? Will the teachers have pre-recorded lessons? Will there be live time with them?
- As parents will be playing a large role in educating children, will there be lesson plans at the start of each week?
- As a parent who is considering home schooling through a charter public school with a proven track record, it is difficult for me to keep my children in Cambrian without knowing specific details of how distance learning will work.

Mrs. Walter also shared her frustration that the one agenda item which is the main focus of most Cambrian parents was not the first item on the agenda.

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7.4 Public Comments Cont.

Drew Phillips, Cambrian Parent, asked for the percentage of time K-5 children will have active classroom instruction and define "Flex Time" and "Instruction by Small Groupings" mean. They also shared that the half days and Wednesday schedules of full Distance Learning do not work for 80% of the people with full time employment. They felt that the proposed plan is forcing successful families to abandon the public school system.

Tisha St. John, Cambrian employee and parent, shared her concern about the proposed Price schedules. She encouraged the Board to streamline the schedule and offer more instructional minutes with a 6-period day. Mrs. St. John feels that a 6-period day would benefit our students, parents, and teachers.

Kamaljit Sangha, Price Teacher, emphasized that studies have shown it is better to teach students less and in depth verse teaching many concepts at the surface level. Since students have to adjust to new routines and schedules, a rotating schedule just adds another layer of complication for them. Mrs. Sangha encourages a 6-period day for Price.

A Cambrian Parent and Cambrian Teacher, voiced concerns about the reopening recommend guidelines. Moving to a Hybrid Model too soon will put our youngest students at the highest-risk and exposing families with multiage students to multiple cohorts. They asked the Board to make a decision in the best interest of our children and teacher's health and safety, and not guided by political or financial pressure.

A Cambrian Parent encouraged the Board to use the in-person learning model to give families what they need and therefore attracting more outside families. With numerous studies concluding that, children learn better in the classroom, they asked the Board to stop acting like sheep and not cave to pressure of the teacher's union, instead base decisions on facts.

Thom Stephens, Cambrian Employee, applauded the re-opening committee on their decision to open with a distant learning model. Mr. Stephens expressed his concerns with the three-week window in which the District reassess the situation. Science tells us that the COVID virus is virulent and that such a shortsighted period is careless. He asked the District to consider reassess the situation at the end of the first semester. Mr. Stephens shared that we would have more solid data on how the virus behaves and would allow staff to develop a more robust distant learning program. He also stated his uneasiness with the thoroughness and regularity of disinfection throughout the schools.

Marjorie McGonigal, Cambrian Parent, asked if the district is going to support teachers with successfully learning tools to teach virtually. She also inquired on how the district will ensure teachers are actually meeting with their classes for the full amount of time.

A Cambrian Parent applauded the careful thoughts and time taken on reopening schools. They encourage continued consideration of going back to school only when deemed safe by health experts.

Angela Kochiyama, Cambrian Parent, voiced her concerns regarding the Price hybrid model and support needs of our students and families. She appreciates that we still have time to come up with a better model to support students.

On a motion by Mrs. Presunka, seconded by Mr. Middleton, the Board approved a phased-in approach for the starting the 2020-21 school year. Motion **CARRIED** 5-0

ACTION

Aronson-Yes
Borrison-Yes
Presunka-Yes
Middleton-Yes
Scofield-Yes

8. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

There being no further business, the July 14, 2020, special meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees was adjourned at 11:25 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Middleton, and seconded, by Mr. Aronson. Motion **CARRIED** 5-0

Aronson-Yes
Borrison-Yes
Middleton-Yes
Presunka-Yes
Scofield-Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Andrews, Ph.D.
Secretary to the Governing Board

Approved and ordered entered into the proceedings of the Cambrian School District on September 3, 2020.

Governing Board of Trustees